

2024
APRIL 16



USDA SPRING DATA USERS' MEETING

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center



2024 USDA Data Users Meeting
April 16, 2024
University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611

AGENDA

Central Time

- 12:30pm **Registration**
- 1:00pm **Welcome and Overview**
Lance Honig, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- 1:10pm **Agency Reviews**
Foreign Agricultural Service - Patrick Packnett 2
World Agricultural Outlook Board - Mark Jekanowski..... 8
National Agricultural Statistics Service - Troy Joshua 11
Economic Research Service - Kelly Maguire..... 16
Farm Service Agency - Tim Gravlin..... 24
Agricultural Marketing Service - Michael Sheats 44
U.S. Census Bureau - Joseph DeCampo..... 52
- 2:15pm **Open Forum - Questions and comments from participants**
- 2:55pm **Break**
- 3:15pm **Open Forum Continues**
- 4:15pm **Concluding Comments**
- 4:30pm **End**

We are pleased to have representatives from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Energy Information Administration (EIA) available for questions during the Open Forum.

Update on Information and Data Products Available from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service April 2024

Export Sales Reporting

Authorized under Section 602 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, the Export Sales Reporting (ESR) Program requires exporters of reportable U.S. commodities to report each week all their export sales, regardless of the quantity, to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). There are 40 commodities currently covered under the program to include wheat, wheat products, barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, rye, soybeans, soybean cake and meal, soybean oil, flaxseed, linseed oil, cotton, sunflower seed oil, cottonseed, cottonseed cake and meal, cottonseed oil, rice, cattle hides and skins, wet blues, beef, and pork. Users can access the ESR System at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html>. In addition to being available online through the ESR webpage and the ESR Query System, weekly and daily reports are available through e-mail via GovDelivery to all users who sign up. To receive ESR daily reports via e-mail, register at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>

After the failure to launch the Export Sales Reporting and Maintenance System (ESRMS) 2.0, USDA is proposing a name change to the electronic export sales weekly reporting system. With the redesign of the system, data reporting and the query system will be available through the same application platform unlike in the legacy ESRMS. This change was made primarily to improve system security and accessibility. The data query can be accessed directly, such as it is now, and for data entry, registration and a log-in are required. Pending approval from the Office of Management and Budget, the new system will be called the Export Sales Reporting and Query System (ESRQS).

FAS is maintaining the aggregated reporting approach and not moving to contract-based reporting. Key to the upgrade of ESRMS is automation of existing data entry forms used by program participants. Currently all data entry is done manually. The new system will allow for automatic uploads using Excel spreadsheets, automate calculations in the data entry screens, and build additional automated data entry fields into the electronic forms.

FAS aims to launch ESRQS in late 2025.

For additional information, contact the Export Sales Reporting team at esr@usda.gov.

Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN)

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) provides timely reports on foreign markets through the Global Agriculture Information Network (GAIN). The reports contain intelligence and analysis on agriculture markets, production, foreign government policies, and trade. In 2023, 93 FAS offices published 2,091 GAIN reports, covering 124 markets. Reports published in 2022 were downloaded approximately 1.25 million times in 2023.

The topics covered by GAIN reports and their format evolve over time. Reporting requirements are reviewed annually to ensure that reporting aligns with developments in global agricultural production and trade. The most significant changes this year were to the format and reporting dates for the Exporter Guide, Food Processing Ingredient, Retail Food, and Hotel Restaurant Institutional (HRI) reports.

The GAIN database contains reports dating back to 1996 from 98 offices covering 177 markets. Users can access these from the GAIN homepage: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>.

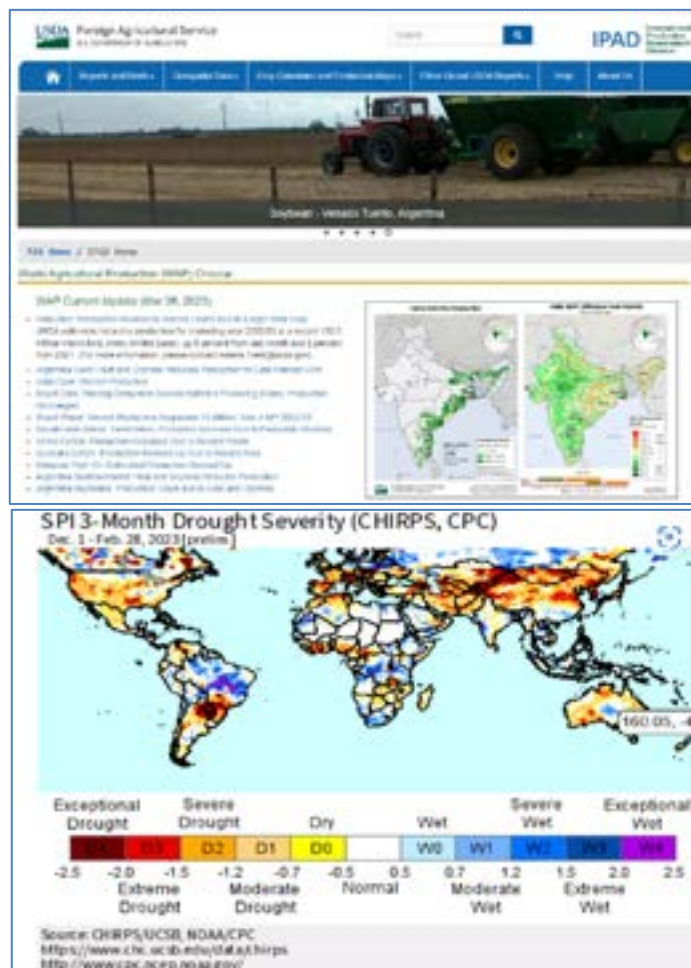
For questions about the GAIN search engine, please contact 1-GAINAppSupport@fas.usda.gov.

To receive GAIN reports via email, register at:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>.

Production Estimates

FAS maintains a website that is a dynamic global crop production portal with key information including World Agricultural Production (WAP) briefs, Commodity Intelligence Reports (CIR), and Drought and Flood Monitoring highlights (Figure 1, <https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

Figure 1. FAS home page for global crop production



The FAS website for global crop production also hosts an application called Crop Explorer that displays global precipitation, average temperature, maximum/minimum temperature, evapotranspiration, soil

moisture, snow cover, and NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) vegetation conditions during the growing season. Crop Explorer also monitors SPI (Standardized Precipitation Index) Drought Severity in five-day time steps to quickly identify dry spells and the severity of droughts that may reduce crop yields during the growing season.

The Crop Explorer website was upgraded to monitor the latest crop conditions and seasonal rainfall received for specific crops grown within primary production states. The upgraded Crop Explorer monitors twelve specific crops with related web apps called Corn Explorer, Soybean Explorer, Wheat Explorer, Cotton Explorer, etc. For example, the dashboard view for Soybean Explorer shows soybean production maps at sub-national (state or province) levels, cumulative rainfall, and NDVI crop conditions for all major soybean producing countries (Figure 2).

For more information, please contact Curt Reynolds at curt.reynolds@usda.gov.

Figure 2. Commodity Explorers and Dashboard View of Soybean Explorer



Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System (GADAS)

GADAS is a powerful web-based, geospatial application that empowers users to assess crop conditions in near real-time. Users can review detailed data – such as precipitation, temperature, vegetation index anomalies, soil moisture, and more – with spatially disaggregated agricultural data to assess crop conditions and perform agricultural area impact analysis. GADAS has more than 1,000 data layers that

can be interactively visualized or downloaded as charts or maps. GADAS can be accessed directly at (<https://geo.fas.usda.gov/GADAS/index.html>) or through (<https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

GADAS is also designed to provide hourly updates of natural disasters (cyclone tracking, drought evolution, flooding impacts) as well as tools for rapid pre- and post-disaster agricultural assessments. The data sets can be viewed together with user uploaded data and geo-processing tools to enhance analysis, label the maps, and collaborate with colleagues. These datasets in GADAS make analysis easier because the work associated with obtaining the data, managing the geospatial products, and sharing them are all contained in a single environment. GADAS is a ready-to-use application for international analysis that improves collaboration between teams in FAS working around the world.

For questions, please contact Lisa Colson at lisa.colson@usda.gov.

Figure 3. GADAS home page



Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD) Online

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) PSD Online provides reports and the option for custom queries for data on production, supply, and distribution of those agricultural commodities and commodity aggregates published in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate (WASDE) Report, and for the United States and key producing and consuming countries and aggregated regions, going back to 1960.

The international portion of the data is updated with input from agricultural attachés stationed at U.S. embassies around the world, FAS commodity analysts, and country and commodity analysts with the Economic Research Service (ERS). The U.S. domestic component is updated with input from analysts in FAS, ERS, the National Agricultural Statistical Service, and the Farm Service Agency. Interagency work on the database is carried out under the aegis of the World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB).

The official USDA supply and distribution data is published monthly in: WAOB, WASDE; in the foreign agricultural commodity circular series issued by FAS; and in the regional situation and outlook reports and monthly commodity newsletters of ERS.

Users can access PSD online at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/home>.

For questions, please contact us at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/contact>.

Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS)

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) includes U.S. agricultural, fishery, and forestry trade statistics dating back to 1967, through the inception of the harmonized coding system in 1989 to present. U.S. trade data are updated monthly according to the U.S. Census Bureau's reporting system. Users can access the GATS homepage at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>.

For questions, please contact Jason Carver (Jason.Carver@usda.gov) or Alex Beckman (Alexander.Beckman@usda.gov).

FAS Data Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) data API portal provides users the ability to obtain programmatic access to publicly available agricultural commodity data from the Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS), Production, Supply & Distribution (PSD), and Export Sales Report (ESR) databases.

The FAS Open Data Services can be found at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/opendataweb/home>.

For technical questions, please contact the FAS Web Admin Team at FASWebAdminTeam@usda.gov.

FAS – U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook

The 2023 Agricultural Export Yearbook will be published on the FAS website in late April 2024. The yearbook provides a statistical summary of U.S. agricultural commodity exports to the world and the United States' primary trading partners. The 2023 Yearbook will be available at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data>.

All U.S. export data found within the Yearbook are collected and published by the U.S. Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Foreign country export data are sourced from the reporting countries' national statistical agencies as reported through Trade Data Monitor (TDM). The 2023 U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook consists of two sections: 1) commodity exports, and 2) country of destination exports. The Yearbook utilizes FAS product groups as defined in the Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) using the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) at the ten-digit level and aggregated into classifications that include the primary commodity and its derivatives. FAS has titled these product groups as "BICO (HS-10)". BICO is an FAS designation that stands for Bulk, Intermediate & Consumer Oriented goods.

The 13 Yearbook product groups or commodity aggregations are based on the United States' largest export categories. The country Yearbook pages include the United States' top seventeen export destinations. Each commodity and country page includes a list of drivers that influenced exports, market conditions affecting supply and demand, and policy and market access issues that impact the United States' ability to export.

Agricultural Tariff Tracker

To help exporters obtain information about tariff reductions resulting from free trade agreements (FTAs), FAS launched the Agricultural Tariff Tracker in 2013. The Ag Tariff Tracker has tariff, tariff rate quota (TRQ), and safeguard information for the United States' existing free trade agreements with 11 FTA partners. The last update was in 2019, when the terms of the U.S.– Japan Trade agreement were added to the Ag Tariff Tracker.

This tool is available at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/agtariifftracker/Home/Search> on the Trade Policy/Trade Agreements topic page of the FAS website: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-agreements>. For questions, please contact Jason Carver (Jason.Carver@usda.gov).



Office of the Chief Economist

U.S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

World Agricultural Outlook Board

Questions about World Agricultural Outlook Board programs may be directed to Mark Jekanowski Chairman, WAOB, Mail Stop 3812, South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-3812; Mark.Jekanowski@usda.gov

The World Agricultural Outlook Board's (WAOB) primary mission is to provide reliable and objective economic forecasts for farmers and other participants in the food and fiber system. Functions include coordinating USDA forecasts of domestic and international agriculture; providing economic analysis related to global commodity markets; monitoring markets and agricultural weather; and disseminating relevant commodity market information.

Mark Jekanowski, WAOB Chairman, oversees the creation of the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report and chairs the Program Committee for USDA's annual Agricultural Outlook Forum. Former positions include Deputy Director for the commodity outlook program at USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), Chief of the Crops Branch at ERS, and Senior Vice President at Informa Economics.

WAOB senior economists chair the Department's Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICECs) and clear all USDA commodity outlook reports to ensure consistency with official USDA estimates. The ICECs develop supply and demand estimates for the United States over 100 individual countries. Four USDA agencies are represented on the committees: Economic Research Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Farm Service Agency, and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Report Usage: Each year, WAOB issues 12 monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* reports; and publishes 52 weekly *Weather and Crop Bulletin* reports. On average, the WASDE is accessed by over 100,000 users worldwide each month. It is one of USDA's Principal Federal Economic Indicators and directly impacts commodity markets. The WASDE report is available at: <https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde>

USDA Baseline: WAOB oversees the annual publication of the inter-agency *USDA Agricultural Long-term Projections*. The *Long-term Projections* report provides a conditional long run scenario about what would be expected to happen to the global agricultural economy under a continuation of current farm legislation and other specific assumptions. These reports are an important source of strategic planning information used in formulating the President's budget and for decision-making by agricultural producers, agribusiness leaders, and policy officials. The latest edition of the report and data tables (Projections to 2033) can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity-markets/baseline>.

Agricultural Weather Monitoring and Assessments: WAOB's staff of meteorologists generate timely weather and crop assessments in support of the monthly *Crop Production* and *WASDE* reports issued by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and WAOB, respectively. The meteorologists also provide weekly updates of crop weather to USDA Radio

and often appear on local and national radio and television broadcasts. As recognized experts within the Department, they are often asked to brief Capitol Hill staff, review legislation, and contribute expertise to various USDA publications. They also routinely meet with foreign delegations and domestic groups regarding the process of using weather and climate products to produce agricultural weather assessments and yield forecasts.

WAOB meteorologists publish the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin (WWCB)*, which provides the public with weekly assessments of global agricultural weather. Data and products are supplied to the *WWCB* by NASS and NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, through a formal agreement establishing the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility. The *WWCB* averaged over 10,000 downloads per week in FY23 from the USDA site, and additional downloads from the Cornell site. On a rotating basis, WAOB meteorologists prepare the weekly *U.S. Drought Monitor* and the monthly *North American Drought Monitor*. WAOB continues to engage our international counterparts and lends support to activities led by the World Meteorological Organization and Global Water Partnership. WAOB weather products can be found at: <https://www.usda.gov/oce/weather-drought-monitor>

Mark Brusberg, Chief Meteorologist, chairs USDA's Combined Drought and Water Management Team, a venue for agencies within the Department to share information and coordinate responses on projects and programs involving drought and water resources. He is USDA's main point of contact for, drought-related activities involving the Department and other Federal Partners, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Mr. Brusberg serves on the Executive Council of the NOAA-led National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and leads several projects related to the work done by NIDIS and other drought-oriented groups on behalf of the Department.

USDA's 100th Agricultural Outlook Forum, themed "Cultivating the Future," took place on February 15-16, 2024, in Arlington, Virginia. The forum was held in person, with all sessions live-streamed.

The Agricultural Outlook Forum (AOF) is USDA's largest and longest-running annual gathering. It routinely draws a large and diverse group of attendees including producers, processors, policymakers, government officials, and non-governmental organizations to discuss current and emerging issues. This year, the event attracted over 1,400 in-person participants, along with more than 5,000 virtual attendees from the U.S. and around the world.

At the Forum's opening session, USDA's Chief Economist presented initial forecasts for the U.S. agricultural economy, commodity markets, and foreign trade for the new marketing year. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack delivered a keynote address emphasizing USDA's progress in creating a model to support agricultural producers of all sizes.

The second-day plenary session focused on trade, featuring virtual remarks from Secretary of State Antony Blinken and an in-person speech by U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai. Secretary Vilsack led a discussion with Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay L. Carlson and Ambassador to Vietnam Marc E. Knapper to explore opportunities for U.S. agricultural exports in the global marketplace.

The Forum program included over 120 expert speakers addressing topics such as commodity

outlooks, climate-smart agriculture, innovative farming practices, and indigenous food practices. For more information about the Forum or to access sessions' recordings, visit the [event website](#).

INTERAGENCY COMMODITY ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

Note: The World Agricultural Outlook Board reviews and approves the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. The Board's analysts chair the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICECs) that prepare the monthly report.

Wheat: Mark Simone, ICEC Chair, WAOB, mark.simone@usda.gov
Andrew Sowell, ERS; Amy Gaito, FAS; Bruce McWilliams, FPAC

Rice: Mark Simone, ICEC Chair, WAOB, mark.simone@usda.gov
Nathan Childs, ERS; Rachel Trego, FAS; Kent Lanclos, FPAC.

Feed Grains: Michael Jewison, ICEC Chair, WAOB, michael.jewison2@usda.gov
Aaron Ates, ERS; Kevin Min, FAS; Jacob Vuillemin, FPAC.

Oilseeds: Joanna Hitchner, ICEC Chair, WAOB, joanna.hitchner@usda.gov Maria Bukowski, ERS; Agata Kingsbury, FAS; Gustavo Ferreira, FPAC.

Cotton: Stephen MacDonald, ICEC Chair, WAOB, stephen.macdonald3@usda.gov
Leslie Meyer, ERS; Graham Soley, FAS; Kent Lanclos, FPAC.

Sugar: Stephen Haley, ICEC Chair, WAOB, stephen.haley2@usda.gov
Vida Abadam, ERS; Souleymane Diaby, FAS; Barbara Fecso, FPAC.

Meat Animals: Shayle Shagam, ICEC Chair, WAOB, shayle.shagam@usda.gov
Sherry Wise, AMS; Mildred Haley, ERS; John Brower, FAS; Georgi Gabrielyan, FPAC.

Poultry: Shayle Shagam, ICEC Chair, WAOB, shayle.shagam@usda.gov
Peyton Ferrier, AMS; Grace Grossen, ERS; Claire Mezoughem, FAS; Georgi Gabrielyan, FPAC.

Dairy: Shayle Shagam, ICEC Chair, WAOB, shayle.shagam@usda.gov
Carolyn Liebrand, AMS; Angel Teran, ERS; Jeffery Dwyer, FAS; Georgi Gabrielyan, FPAC.

The 2024 WASDE report release dates are: Jan. 12, Feb. 8, March 8, April 11, May 10, June 12, July 12, Aug. 12, Sept. 12, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 10

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

STATISTICS DIVISION

What's New and What's Changing?

NASS Mission Statement:

To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture

CROPS

NASS completed a thorough review of its annual estimating program in late 2023. The primary purpose is to ensure that the NASS annual estimating program targets commodities and states most relevant based on the latest available information. Although the full results can be found at https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Program_Review/index.php, the following items highlight some of the most notable changes.

- **Dry Edible Peas**
 - NASS will remove wrinkled seed peas and Austrian winters peas from the dry edible peas estimates. This change will make NASS estimates more consistent with industry standards.
- **Potatoes**
 - NASS will no longer publish percentage estimates of potatoes by type.
 - NASS will no longer publish potato certified seed estimates.
 - NASS will no longer publish potato stock estimates for the Klamath Basin in the *Potato Stocks* report.
 - NASS will no longer publish processing breakouts for Malheur County and “other than Malheur County” in the *Potato Stocks* report.
 - NASS will no longer publish the monthly dehydrated estimate in the *Potato Stocks* report. NASS will continue to publish the annual dehydrated total in the annual *Potatoes* report.
 - NASS will no longer publish regional breakouts in the annual *Potatoes* report.
- **Dry Edible Beans**
 - NASS will no longer publish planted class estimates in the *August Crop Production* report. NASS will continue class to publish end of season class estimates for acreage, yield, and production in the *Crop Production Annual Summary* report.
 - NASS will no longer publish class estimates for small white, baby lima, and large lima. These classes will be collected and published in the “other class” total.
 - NASS will begin publishing class estimates for white kidney, which was previously included in the “other class” total.
- **All Crops**
 - Some states representing a limited proportion of the production/value of various crops were eliminated from the annual estimating program. Comparatively, states were added to the estimation programs for crops in instances where the state’s production/value now accounts for a significant portion of the US total.

As is done following each Census of Agriculture, NASS reviewed estimates for the previous 5 crop seasons (2018-2022). Final estimates for these years were (or will be) published to Quick Stats on the following dates and will never be revised again.

- January 3, 2024: *Citrus Fruits; Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts; and Vegetables*
- January 9, 2024: *Field Crops; Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes; Rice Stocks; and Stocks of Grain, Oilseeds and Hay*
- February 16, 2024: *Crop Values*
- February 23, 2024: *Corn (Grain and Silage), Sorghum and Soybean County Estimates*
- March 8, 2024: *Rice County Estimates*
- March 15, 2024: *Barley, Oats and Wheat County Estimates*
- May 10, 2024: *Cotton County Estimates*

Due to budget constraints

- NASS will no longer publish small grain and row crop county estimates beginning with the 2024 crop year.
- The cotton objective yield survey has been discontinued.

LIVESTOCK

NASS completed a thorough review of its annual estimating program in early 2024. The primary purpose is to ensure that the NASS annual estimating program targets commodities and states most relevant based on the latest available information. Although the full results can be found at https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Program_Review/index.php, the following items highlight some of the most notable changes.

- Hogs & Pigs
 - NASS will reduce the number of individually published states from 50 to 16. The 34 non-published states will be included in an “other states” total.
- Cattle
 - NASS will reduce the number of individually published states from 50 to 31 for all estimates except cattle & calves inventory, all cows inventory, and calf crop.
- Cattle on Feed
 - NASS will move Minnesota from a published to non-published state in the monthly *Cattle on Feed* report. Minnesota will be included in the “other states” total.
- Milk Production
 - NASS will reduce the number of individually published states for the quarterly *Milk Production* from 50 to 33. The 17 non-published states will be included in an “other states” total.
- Goats
 - NASS will reduce the number of individually published states for Goats – Meat from 28 to 26. Nebraska will move from non-published to published. The 3 non-published states will be included in an “other states” total.
 - NASS will increase the number of individually published states for Goats – Milk from 29 to 30. Nevada will be the additional state.

- Broilers
 - NASS will move Florida & Louisiana from published to non-published states in the weekly *Broiler Hatchery* report. They will be included in the “other states” total.
- Chicken & Eggs
 - NASS will move Maryland, South Dakota, & Virginia from published to non-published states in the monthly *Chicken and Eggs* report. They will be included in the “other states” total.
 - NASS will move Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, South Dakota, Virginia, and West Virginia from published to non-published states in the annual *Chicken and Eggs* report. They will be included in the “other states” total.
- Trout
 - NASS will publish 12 states individually in the *Trout* report.
- Honey
 - NASS will reduce the number of individually published states for the *Honey* report from 39 to 20. The 30 non-published states will be included in an “other states” total.
- Mink
 - NASS will no longer publish mink pelts produced and females bred to produce kits by state.
 - NASS will no longer publish state level data by color class.

As is done following each Census of Agriculture, NASS reviewed estimates for the previous 5 years (2018-2022). Final estimates for these years were (or will be) published to Quick Stats on the following dates and will never be revised again.

- January 11, 2024: *Hogs and Pigs*
- February 2, 2024: *Milk Cows & Production and Sheep and Goats*
- March 5, 2024: *Chicken and Eggs*
- April 8, 2024: *Honey*
- April 29, 2024: *Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income; Milk Production, Disposition, and Income; and Poultry Production and Value*

Due to budget constraints

- NASS will not collect data nor publish the July *Cattle* report.
- NASS will no longer publish livestock county estimates beginning in 2024.

Environmental, Economics and Demographics

Key reports were (or will be) released and are described below:

- On November 22, 2023, the *Farm Labor* data were released. Coefficients of variation associated with the model-based estimates were also published.
- On February 16, 2024, the *Farms and Land in Farms* data were released. The June Agricultural Survey was used to compute indications of farm numbers and acres of land in farms.

- On April 30, 2024, the monthly *Agricultural Prices* report will be released using an updated annual benchmark methodology for all monthly prices paid indexes. The annual average of administrative data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Energy Information Administration (EIA) is used as a component of the index formula.
- On May 10, 2024, *Field Crop Chemical Usage* data will be released. Originating in 1990, the NASS Chemical Use data series is USDA’s official source of statistics about on-farm chemical use, fertilizer use and pest management practices.
- On July 17, 2024, *Fruit Chemical Usage* data will be released.
- The *Cash Rents* county level data will be released on August 23, 2024. NASS was directed through the “Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008” and amended by the “Agricultural Act of 2014” to collect cash rents data for use by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in program administration. Bayesian small area models are used for county level rented acre totals and rental rates.

As is done following each Census of Agriculture, NASS reviewed estimates for the previous 5 years (2018-2022). Final estimates for these years were published to Quick Stats on the following dates and will never be revised again.

- February 13, 2024: *Farms & Land in Farms*
- April 4: *Land Values*

Census of Agriculture Program

The Census of Agriculture (COA) was released on February 13, 2024. The briefing streamed on [NASS’s YouTube channel](#) at 12:00 p.m. ET on February 14, 2024. Many additional data products are scheduled for release in 2024.

On July 18, 2024, the Puerto Rico Census of Agriculture will be released. In Puerto Rico, the 2022 Census of Agriculture was taken in accordance with a Cooperative Agreement signed by NASS, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, and the University of Puerto Rico Extension Service. It is the Island's 19th Census of Agriculture, with the first being taken in 1910.

Two Special Studies are underway for fiscal year 2024. The Irrigation and Water Management Survey (IWMS) and the Census of Aquaculture.

- The IWMS is an integral part of the Census of Agriculture and is conducted every five years under the authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-113) where participation is mandatory. The primary purpose of IWMS is to provide a wide range of irrigation–related data covering water usage, irrigation practices, irrigation by type, irrigation by crop, expenses, sources of information, purchase of energy for pumping water by power source, and use of recycled or reclaimed water. Data collection began in February 2024 with a release scheduled for November 14, 2024. The IWMS data series goes back to 1979. It was last released in November 2018.
- The Census of Aquaculture is also conducted under the authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 and participation is mandatory. The primary purpose of the Census of Aquaculture is to provide inventory, production, value of sales and sales outlets, and distribution of fish not sold. The Census of Aquaculture will provide comprehensive data at

the State and National level for aquaculture products such as shellfish, egg production, food or sport fish, baitfish, ornamentals, crustaceans, mollusks, catfish, crawfish, koi, minnows, oysters, perch, soft-shell crabs, trout, and turtles. Data collection began in December 2023 with the release scheduled for December 16, 2024.

Modernization

NASS is committed to high standards of customer service and making it easy for farmers, ranchers, and data users to interact with us. NASS is modernizing their online systems to improve the customer experience around reporting data and accessing NASS official federal agricultural data and reports. We are making accurate data available on schedule in ways that customers like yourself have told us they want.

NASS has continued its ongoing efforts to modernize its customer interfaces, making responding to surveys and accessing NASS data and reports *faster, friendlier, and easier*. This modernization effort also allows NASS to work more efficiently. Modernization is focused in two main areas, Data Collection and Data Dissemination.

Data Collection

NASS recently released the new Respondent Portal and all new data collections now flow through this modern entry point. Immediate benefits of the portal are:

- Streamlined authentication process provides a convenient, central point to respond to all NASS surveys.
- Creating and using a user account allows respondents to see past survey responses.

Incremental development and improvements over the next few years will further meet customer expectations, such as:

- Improve performance and speed of the portal and offer additional options for reporting data to NASS including an upload feature.
- Providing a customized digital experience designed around the user's needs and behaviors. Farmers and ranchers will be able to build and save custom homepages to compare their data with other (national, state, county) data.
- Integration with USDA's Farmers.gov website, allowing farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses to expand their access to multiple USDA agencies' information to make decisions for their operation that are fact based and data driven.

Data Dissemination

Due to the current budget environment, progress on migrating ASB reports to a new release format has been slowed. NASS is exploring options to keep the project moving forward.

Economic Research Service

The mission of USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) is to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making.



***Providing Research, Data & Expert Analysis to Support
Evidence-Based Policymaking***



Economic Research Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

www.ers.usda.gov

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To ensure the quality of its research reports and satisfy governmentwide standards, ERS requires that all research reports with substantively new material be reviewed by qualified technical research peers. This technical peer review process, coordinated by ERS' Peer Review Coordinating Council, allows experts who possess the technical background, perspective, and expertise to provide an objective and meaningful assessment of the output's substantive content and clarity of communication during the publication's review.

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High-Quality, Objective Economic Research

ERS research programs provide timely, independent, and objective information about the U.S. agricultural economy, its resources, and its links to the general economy and food markets. Our research integrates market information and economic theory to inform decision makers in the Government, the U.S. Congress, agribusinesses, farm and industry groups, the media, and the general public.

Our research covers a range of economic and policy topics, including:

Commodity Markets & Outlook

Timely, in-depth analyses and information important to understanding and anticipating developments in agricultural commodity markets. The Outlook program covers the major field crops (feedgrains, oilseeds, wheat, rice, cotton, and sugar), livestock and products, specialty crops (fruits, nuts, vegetables, and pulses), and agricultural trade.

Farm & Rural Economy

Farm sector performance and farm households' well-being; farm size and concentration; investments in rural communities and drivers of rural economic performance; and demographic change and its impact on rural communities.

Global Markets & Trade

Major markets and competitors; economic impacts of existing and potential exports and imports, trade barriers, and existing/potential trade agreements.

Resources & Environment

Economic impacts of conservation programs, efficacy of policies designed to protect the environment, and the use of technology to enhance agricultural

Food & Nutrition

Economic research and analysis on policy-relevant issues related to the food sector (food safety, food prices, and markets); consumer behavior related to food choices (food consumption, diet quality, and nutrition); and food and nutrition assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, National School Lunch Program).

Timely Data on the Agricultural Economy and Commodity Markets

ERS creates more than **65 data products** covering the agricultural economy, commodities, and food markets. Collectively, ERS data products were accessed **4 million times** in fiscal year 2023.

Our work on data products includes transforming raw survey data to make the information accessible to users, as well as developing new datasets based on economic models or through the compilation of data from diverse sources.

ERS releases four types of data products:

- **Survey Data** such as the Agricultural Resource Management Survey, which is a primary source of information on the financial conditions, production practices, and resource use of U.S. farm businesses.
- **Model-Based Results**, including estimates from our economic models, such as the Food Dollar series, which measures annual expenditures by U.S. consumers on domestically produced food; and the Agricultural Trade Multipliers, which estimate the amount of economic activity and jobs generated by agricultural exports.
- **Economic Indicators and Summary Statistics** compiled from an array of official sources. Examples include Farm Income estimates, Cost of Production estimates, and detailed data on commodity supply/use and U.S. agricultural trade.
- **Charts and Visualizations**, including Charts of Note released daily, Tableau visualizations, and an extensive inventory of chart galleries that display key trends and relationships across market variables.

Modernization of Data Delivery

To expand the reach of our data products, ERS is continuously innovating to develop data dissemination tools and channels that meet the changing needs and expectations of our users. Ongoing efforts include:

1

Developing Structured and Automated Databases to facilitate open and centralized access to a broad range of data.

2

Expanding Use of Application Programming Interfaces to allow users and developers to design new ways to access and present data.

3

Developing a New Data Dissemination Web Platform that will serve as a one-stop shop for our most used data, including commodity market data.

4

Leveraging Tableau and Other Visualization Software to present data in a modern, user-friendly format.

Food Price Environment: Interactive Visualization



Recent Publications by the Economic Research Service

ERS releases periodic outlook reports covering developments in commodity markets, including seven monthly releases on field crops and livestock/dairy/poultry, two biannual reports covering specialty crops, and quarterly U.S. Agricultural Trade Outlook reports.

Other ERS outlooks, economic research reports and economic informational bulletins include:



How China's African Swine Fever Outbreaks Affected Global Pork Markets

After moving from Europe to China in 2018, the African swine fever (ASF) virus spread throughout China in less than a year after the country's first outbreaks were reported, dramatically reducing China's pork supplies. This report investigates the impacts on China's pork market that resulted from the virus and how China's increased demand for imported pork affected markets for pork-exporting countries.



World Agricultural Production, Resource Use, and Productivity, 1961–2020

World agriculture has undergone significant transformation over the past six decades. Over this period, most regions of the world transitioned from a natural resource-dependent to a productivity-led growth path, made possible by the development and adoption of new technologies and farming practices. This report documents those changes, providing insights into shifting patterns of agricultural production and resource use world-wide.



International Food Security Assessment, 2023–2033

Millions of people around the world lack access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. Several factors affect the prevalence of food security including food availability (agricultural production and market conditions), access to food (economic and physical), stability (price and income shocks), and utilization (food safety and nutritional knowledge). This report focuses on the availability and access dimensions of food security. Using a demand-driven model that integrates income, food prices, and food supply, the International Food Security Assessment analysis helps USDA and its stakeholders assess food security for 83 countries in 5 regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, the Former Soviet Union, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.



The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Background, Trends, and Economic Issues, 2024 Edition

The 2024 edition of the report explains how WIC works, discusses program trends, and summarizes research findings on key economic outcomes and policy issues facing the program. This report also outlines temporary changes to WIC in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the infant formula supply chain disruptions that occurred in 2022.



Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade: February 2024

This report presents and discusses USDA's February 2024 quarterly USDA forecasts for agricultural trade in the United States for fiscal year 2024.



The Stacking Impact and Financial-Climate Risk of the Livestock Forage Disaster Program

USDA operates a range of programs designed to help mitigate the costs imposed by drought on livestock producers. This report focuses on one of these programs, the USDA, Farm Service Agency's Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), which provides payments to livestock producers impacted by drought or wildfire.



The Nature of the Rural-Urban Mortality Gap

The 2019 age-adjusted natural-cause mortality (NCM) rate for the prime working-age population (aged 25–54) was 43 percent higher in rural (nonmetropolitan) areas than in urban (metropolitan) areas. This is a shift from 25 years ago when NCM rates in urban and rural areas were similar for this age group. As a first step to understanding the increasing gap between rural and urban NCM rates, this report examines natural (disease-related) deaths for prime working-age adults in rural and urban areas between 1999 and 2019 using data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Examples of Data Products by the Economic Research Service

Primary–Survey Data

- ARMS Farm Financial and Crop Production Practices, which are developed jointly with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Model Results Estimates

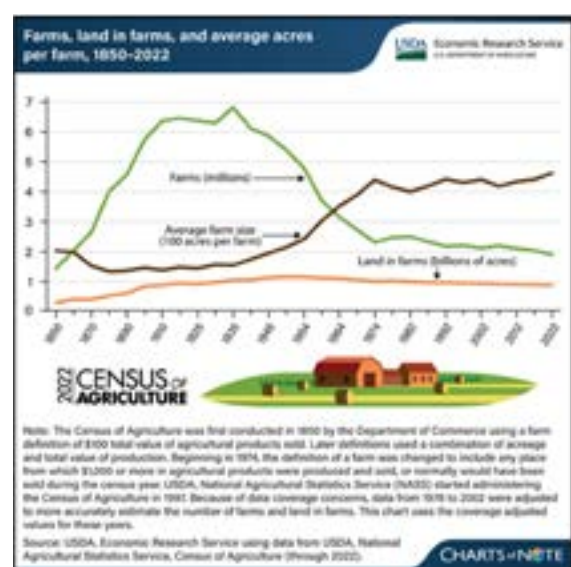
- Food Dollar
- Agricultural Trade Multipliers
- International Baseline Data
- Season-Average Price Forecasts

Summary Statistics

- Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S.
- U.S. Bioenergy Statistics
- Feed Grains Database
- Livestock & Meat Domestic Data

Charts and Visualizations

- Charts of Note → Now available via mobile app
- Cross-Commodity Visualization



What's New at FSA

October 2023 – April 2024

USDA's Conservation Reserve Program Pays More Than \$1.77 Billion to America's Producers in Support of Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture

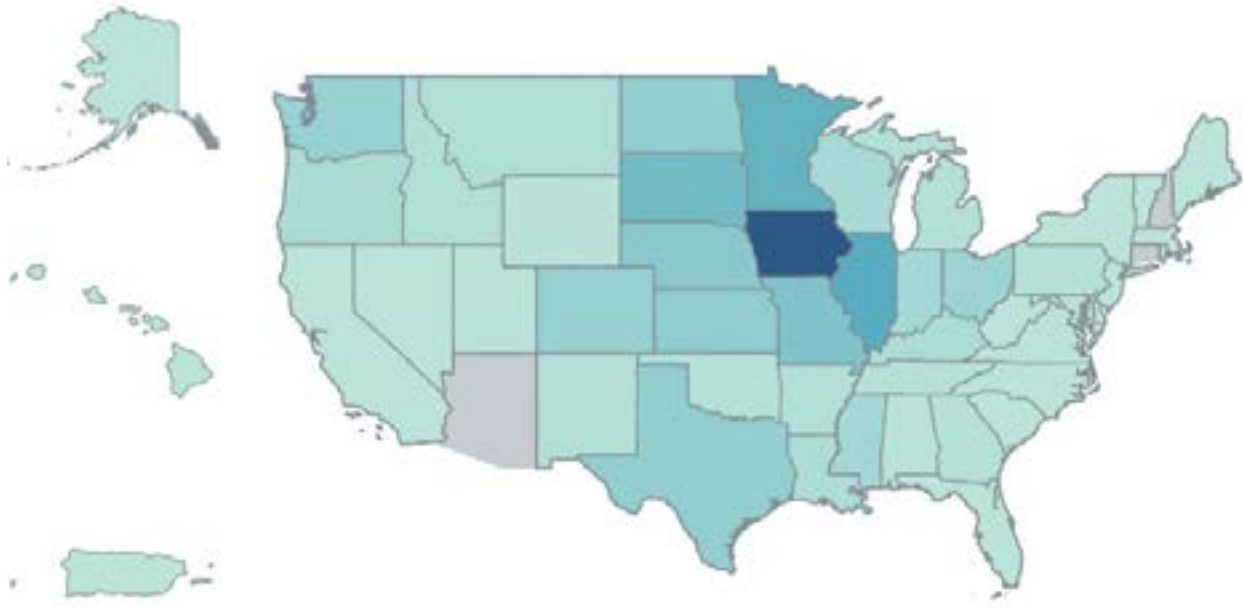
Agricultural producers and landowners have chosen conservation on more than 23 million acres of private land nationwide.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16, 2023 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued more than \$1.77 billion this year to agricultural producers and landowners through its Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a critical piece of the Department's efforts to support climate-smart agriculture and forestry on working lands. Right now, CRP's more than 667,000 participants received payments from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) for their voluntary conservation efforts on more than 23 million acres of private land. Since 2021, CRP has grown by 21 percent in terms of acres enrolled, testament to the Biden-Harris administration's program improvement efforts.

"Through the addition of tools to sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and better quantify these efforts, while also bringing into the fold more Tribes and underserved producers, we've made the Conservation Reserve Program better for our nation's natural resources and for our agricultural producers and landowners," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "These producers and landowners voluntarily place their land under contract and, in the spirit of stewardship, agree to establish and maintain prescribed conservation practices for the life of contract. We're grateful to all CRP participants who are making a tremendous difference by proactively addressing climate change and conserving natural resources now and for future generations."

Top five states for CRP participant payments:

- Iowa, \$402,508,900
- Illinois, \$172,723,800
- Minnesota, \$150,773,400
- South Dakota, \$129,545,200
- Missouri, \$99,849,600



Improvements to CRP

Since 2021, FSA has made improvements to the program:

- **Introducing a new climate-smart practice incentive** for CRP general and continuous signups designed to reward participants who implement conservation practices that increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Enabling additional soil rental rate adjustments** or rate flexibilities, including a possible increase in rates where appropriate.
- **Increasing payments for practice incentives** from 20 percent to 50 percent. This incentive, in addition to cost share payments, for continuous CRP practices is based on establishment cost.
- **Increasing payments for water quality practices rates** from 10 percent to 20 percent for certain water quality benefiting practices available through the CRP continuous signup, such as grassed waterways, riparian buffers and filter strips.
- **Establishing a Grassland CRP minimum rental rate** benefitting more than 1,000 counties with rates currently below the \$13 minimum.

Additionally, FSA made significant improvements to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) that reduce barriers by making the program more accessible to a broader cross-section of agricultural producers and new conservation partners. These program improvements include the flexibility for

partners to provide matching funds in the form of cash, in-kind contributions, or technical assistance and the ability for FSA to invest in additional, full-time staff devoted to working directly with our CREP partners and program specialists in FSA's state offices.

Since 2021, FSA has also entered into the first-ever Tribal Nations CREP agreements in partnership with the Cheyenne River, Rosebud and Oglala Sioux Tribes. In 2022, USDA also entered into the Big Sioux River Watershed CREP agreement with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks to assist farmers, ranchers and agricultural landowners to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance wildlife habitat, and create public hunting and fishing access. These CREP agreements reflect priorities and goals of USDA to broaden the scope and reach of its voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs to engage underserved producers.

FSA's conservation programs had a strong showing in 2023. FSA partnered with producers and landowners to enroll 3.9 million CRP this year –including 927,000 enrolled acres through General CRP, 2.3 million acres enrolled in Grassland CRP and 694,000 acres enrolled in Continuous CRP. These results underscore the continued importance of CRP as a tool to help producers invest in the long-term health, sustainability, and profitability of their land and natural resources.

USDA to Provide More Than \$3 Billion to Commodity and Specialty Crop Producers Impacted by 2022 Natural Disasters

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27, 2023 - The U. S Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide more than \$3 billion to commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2022. Eligible impacted producers can apply for financial assistance through the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\) 2022](#). The program will help offset the financial impacts of crop yield and value losses from qualifying disasters occurring in 2022.

“2022 was another year of weather-related challenges — for some, the third consecutive year or more in a row. The financial impact to a family farm or ranch in one year is significant but the cumulative impact of multiple years can be devastating,” said USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “In our continued commitment to improving our delivery of emergency relief assistance, we have further refined our Emergency Relief Program 2022 delivery process. Instead of two separate program phases, we will now run two tracks concurrently increasing our efficiencies in application and payment processing while ensuring equitable program delivery. We also

listened to important input from producers and stakeholders and have enhanced ERP 2022 provisions to ensure shallow loss impacts on revenue are considered.”

Background

On Dec. 29, 2022, President Biden signed into law the *Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328)* that provides about \$3.7 billion in financial assistance for agricultural producers impacted by eligible natural disasters that occurred in calendar year 2022.

ERP 2022 covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to qualifying, calendar year 2022 natural disaster events including wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought and related conditions.

ERP 2022 program benefits will be delivered to eligible producers through a two-track process. FSA intends to make both tracks available to producers at the same time. This two-track approach enables USDA to:

- Streamline the application process.
- Reduce the paperwork burden on producers.
- Proactively include provisions for underserved producers who have not been well served by past emergency relief efforts.
- Encourage producer participation in existing risk management programs to mitigate the impacts of future severe weather events.

It's important to note that disaster-impacted producers may be eligible for ERP 2022 assistance under one or both tracks. To avoid duplicative benefits, if a producer applies for both tracks, the Track 2 payment calculation will take into account any payments received through Track 1.

ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 1

ERP 2022 Track 1 leverages existing federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the basis for calculating payments for eligible crop producers who received indemnities through these risk management programs.

Although FSA is sending pre-filled ERP 2022 Track 1 application forms to producers who have crop insurance and NAP data already on file with USDA, producers indemnified for losses resulting from 2022 natural disasters do not have to wait to receive the application before requesting ERP 2022 assistance.

Effective Oct. 31, 2023, producers can apply for ERP 2022 benefits whether they have received the pre-filled application or not. Receipt of a pre-filled application is not confirmation that a producer is eligible to receive an ERP 2022 Track 1 payment.

USDA estimates that ERP Track 1 benefits will reach more than 206,000 producers who received indemnities for losses covered by federal crop insurance and more than 4,500 producers who obtained NAP coverage for the 2022 crop year.

ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 2

Track 2 is a revenue-based certification program designed to assist eligible producers who suffered an eligible decrease in revenue resulting from 2022 calendar year disaster events when compared with revenue in a benchmark year using revenue information that is readily available from most tax records. In cases where revenue does not reasonably reflect a normal year's revenue, Track 2 provides an alternative method for establishing revenue. Likewise, Track 2 affords producers of crops that are used within an operation and do not generate revenue from the sale of the crop a method for establishing revenue for the purpose of applying for ERP 2022 benefits. Producers are not required to submit tax records to FSA unless requested by the County Committee if required for an FSA compliance spot check.

Although not required when applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, applicants might find the following documents useful to the process:

- Schedule F (Form 1040)
- *Profit or Loss from Farming* or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Track 2 targets gaps in emergency relief assistance for eligible producers whose eligible losses were not covered by crop insurance or NAP including revenue losses too small (shallow loss) to be covered by crop insurance.

Producers interested in applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, should contact their local FSA county office. Additional reference resources can be found on FSA's [emergency relief website](#).

Additional Required Forms

For both ERP 2022 tracks, all producers must have certain required forms on file with FSA within 60 days of the ERP 2022 deadline. Producers can apply for ERP 2022 starting Oct. 31, 2023. The application deadline has not yet been

determined and will be announced at a later date. If not already on file, producers can update, complete and submit required forms to FSA at any time.

Required forms:

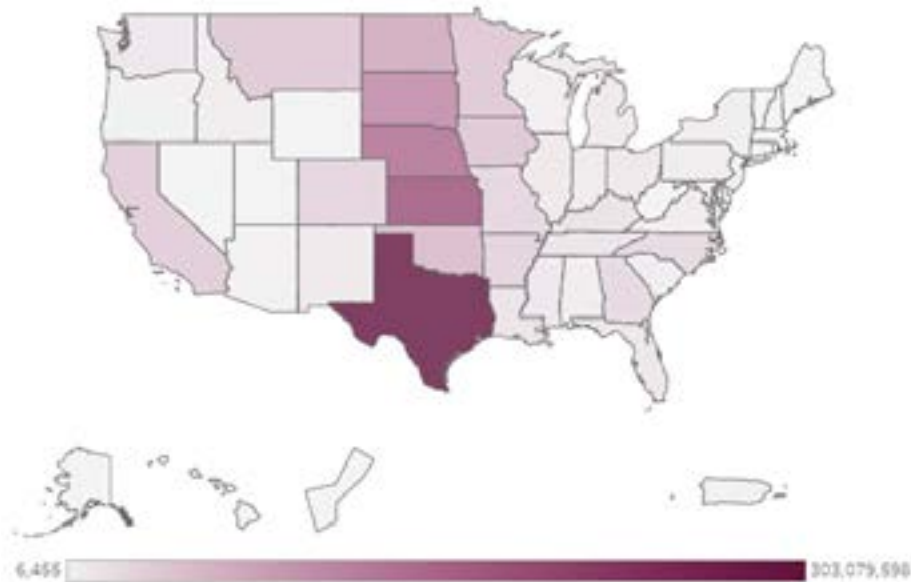
- Form AD-2047, *Customer Data Worksheet*.
- Form CCC-902, *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC-901, *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, *Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs* (if applicable).
- Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*, if applicable, for the 2022 program year.
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm the status of their forms can contact their local FSA county office.

Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers who receive ERP 2022 payments must purchase crop insurance, or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available, in the next two available crop years as determined by the Secretary. Purchased coverage must be at the 60/100 coverage level or higher for insured crops or at the catastrophic coverage level or higher for NAP crops.

More than \$1.4B to date has been disbursed in ERP 2022 funds.



USDA to Begin Issuing Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program Payments

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 2023 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that it will begin issuing more than \$223 million in Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) payments. These payments help producers who suffered a decrease in allowable gross revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2020 calendar year.

Eligible PARP applicants must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a 15% or greater decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to a baseline year. PARP benefits help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses. PARP was designed to help deliver financial assistance to a broader set of producers, including underserved communities, small and medium sized producers, and farmers and producers of livestock and less traditional crops.

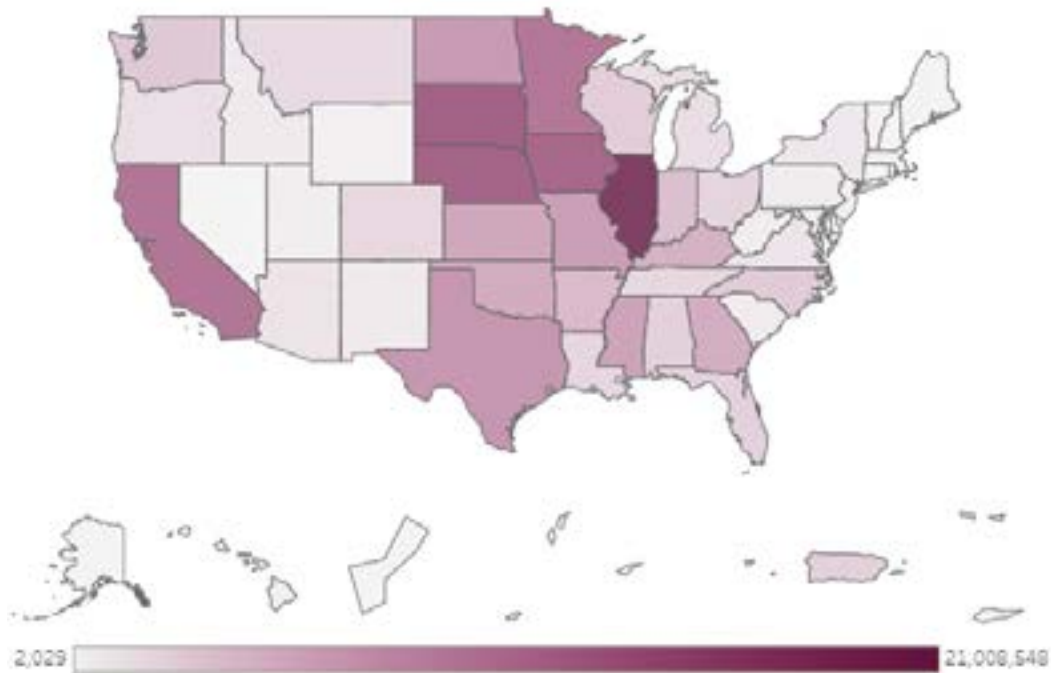
“USDA realizes the importance of PARP payments, especially since they are benefitting producers who may not have received assistance through other USDA pandemic assistance programs,” said Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “PARP implementation marks the delivery of the final program in the suite of pandemic assistance programs provided by FSA

and is also one of the first times that FSA has delivered a program focused on decreases in revenue. The number of applications we received for PARP assistance shows there is producer need for and interest in programs that consider other indicators of disaster impacts on their business, like decreases in revenue.”

The PARP application period closed July 14, 2023. More than 38,500 PARP applications triggered payments totaling nearly \$7 billion, meaning PARP program participation exceeds available funding. Therefore, consistent with PARP regulations, to ensure equitable funding distribution to all eligible producers, a 9.5% payment factor has been applied to all payments. These PARP payments are in addition to the \$31.9 billion in pandemic assistance that USDA has already provided to eligible producers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 1 and 2 as well as the FSA programs in the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

“It is important to remember that, as part of filling gaps in equitable service to all pandemic-impacted producers, we were able to increase the number of specialty crop and underserved producers benefiting from pandemic assistance and bring new producers to FSA through our Service Center doors,” said Ducheneaux. “The demand for PARP assistance greatly exceeds available funding resources. We left no stone unturned in our efforts to find additional funding. We worked to assist as many producers in need of help as possible in designing PARP, which requires the current decision to heavily factor payments consistent with program regulations.”

More than \$195M to date has been disbursed in PARP funds.



USDA to Issue \$306 Million in Final Payments to Producers Impacted by 2020 and 2021 Natural Disasters

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, 2024 - The U. S Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing final [Emergency Relief Program](#) (ERP) payments totaling approximately \$306 million to eligible commodity and specialty crop producers who incurred losses due to natural disasters in 2020 and 2021. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin issuing these additional payments to eligible producers this week.

“In the natural disaster recovery process, every little bit of available assistance helps offset the financial toll that these catastrophic events have taken on agricultural producers, their families, and their operations,” said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “With remaining funds after initial factoring, USDA was able to put additional money back in the hands of the producers as we strive for the most fair and equitable distribution of available funds to as many producers as possible.”

Recipients of the additional payment are limited to those producers who received ERP Phase One payments from FSA that were calculated based on crop insurance indemnities. Initially, ERP Phase One payments to producers

who were indemnified through Federal crop insurance, were subject to a 75% payment factor. FSA has since determined that adequate funding exists to provide an additional 3.5% ERP Phase One payment to producers who had crop insurance increasing the overall payment factor to 78.5%. These additional ERP Phase One payments are subject to FSA payment limitation provisions as outlined in the [ERP Phase One fact sheet](#).

Because ERP Phase One payments to producers of noninsured crops covered by FSA NAP policies were originally paid at 100%, there will be no additional payments issued to these producers for 2020 and 2021 losses.

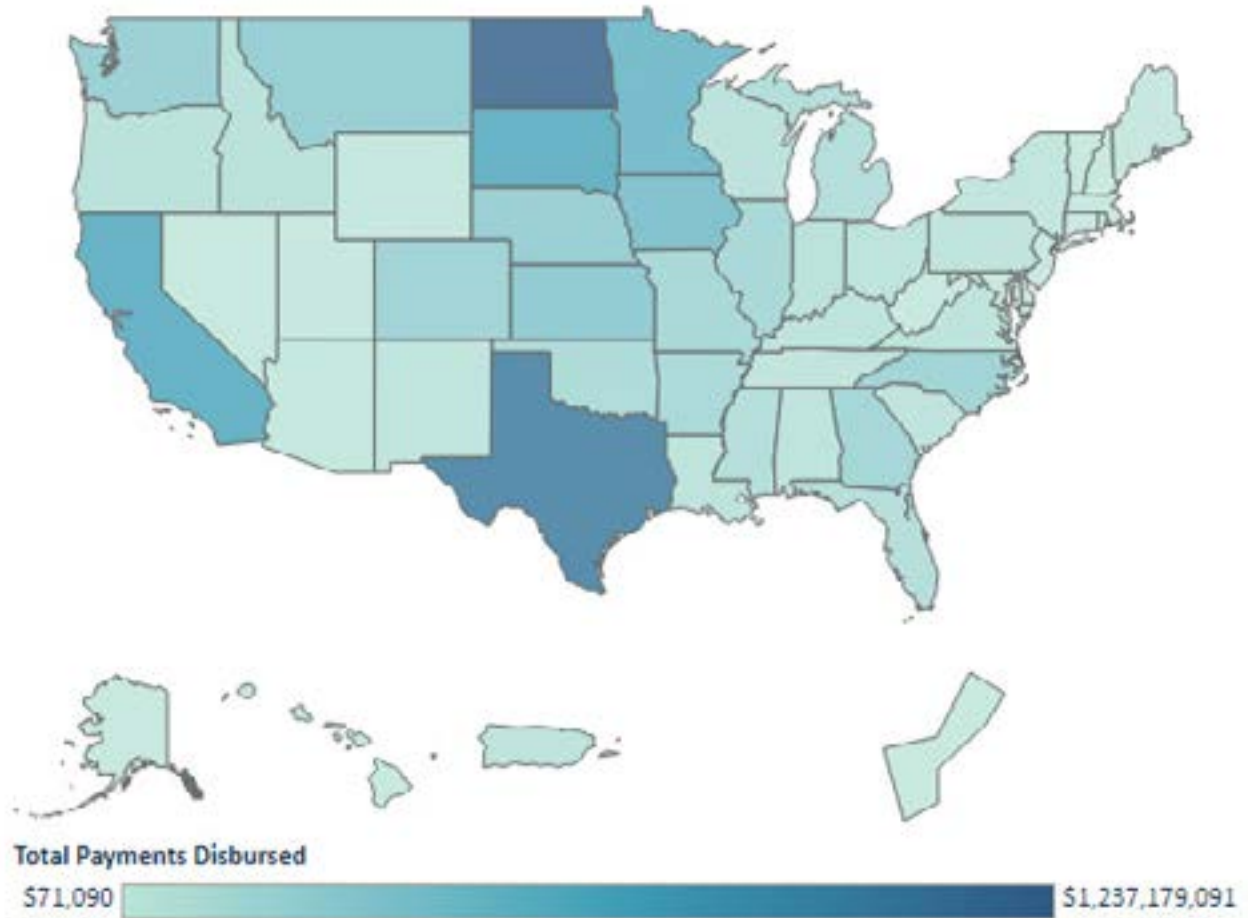
The *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, 2021* (P.L. 117-43) provided \$10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021. In 2022, FSA implemented ERP Phase One, which delivered \$7.5 billion in payments to commodity and specialty crop producers. For Phase One, ERP used a streamlined process with pre-filled application forms, leveraging crop insurance indemnities or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments on file with USDA.

Separately, through the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) Congress allocated approximately \$3.2 billion in funding to cover necessary expenses related to losses of revenue, quality or production losses of crops. Enrollment is ongoing for ERP 2022, which covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to qualifying, calendar year 2022 natural disaster events including wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought and related conditions.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.

More than \$8.6B to date has been disbursed in ERP funds

USDA ERP Public Dashboard: [ERP Dashboard \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/erp)



Dairy Producers Can Enroll for 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage Beginning Feb. 28

Payments to Begin Early March

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23, 2024— Starting next Wednesday, dairy producers will be able to enroll for 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), an important safety net program offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides producers with price support to help offset milk and feed price differences. This year’s DMC signup begins Feb. 28, 2024, and ends April 29, 2024. For those who sign up for 2024 DMC coverage, payments may begin as soon as March 4, 2024, for any payments that triggered in January 2024.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has revised the regulations for DMC to allow eligible dairy operations to make a one-time adjustment to established production history. This adjustment will be accomplished by combining previously established supplemental production history with DMC production history for those dairy operations that participated in Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage during a prior coverage year. DMC has also been authorized through calendar year 2024. Congress passed a 2018 Farm Bill extension requiring these regulatory changes to the program.

"FSA is announcing the sign up for 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage. We encourage producers to enroll in this important safety net program. In reviewing 2023 margins and the more than \$1.2 billion in Dairy Margin Coverage payments issued to producers, Dairy Margin Coverage is proven to be a program to reduce risk for our dairy producers," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "If 2023 taught us anything, it's that we honestly have no idea what will happen in the market in any given year. Producers who took advantage of this affordable risk management tool for the 2023 program year, were able to mitigate some financial impacts on their operations. At \$0.15 per hundredweight for \$9.50 coverage, risk protection through Dairy Margin Coverage is a relatively inexpensive investment in a true sense of security and peace of mind."

DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. In 2023, Dairy Margin Coverage payments triggered in 11 months including two months, June and July, where the margin fell below the catastrophic level of \$4.00 per hundredweight, a first for Dairy Margin Coverage or its predecessor Margin Protection Program.

2024 DMC Coverage and Premium Fees

FSA has revised DMC regulations to extend coverage for calendar year 2024, which is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2024, and to provide an adjustment to the production history for dairy operations with less than 5 million pounds of production. In previous years, smaller dairy operations could establish a supplemental production history and receive Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage. For 2024, dairy producers can establish one adjusted base production history through DMC for each participating dairy operation to better reflect the operation's current production.

For 2024 DMC enrollment, dairy operations that established supplemental production history through Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for coverage years 2021 through 2023, will combine the supplemental production history with established production history for one adjusted base production history.

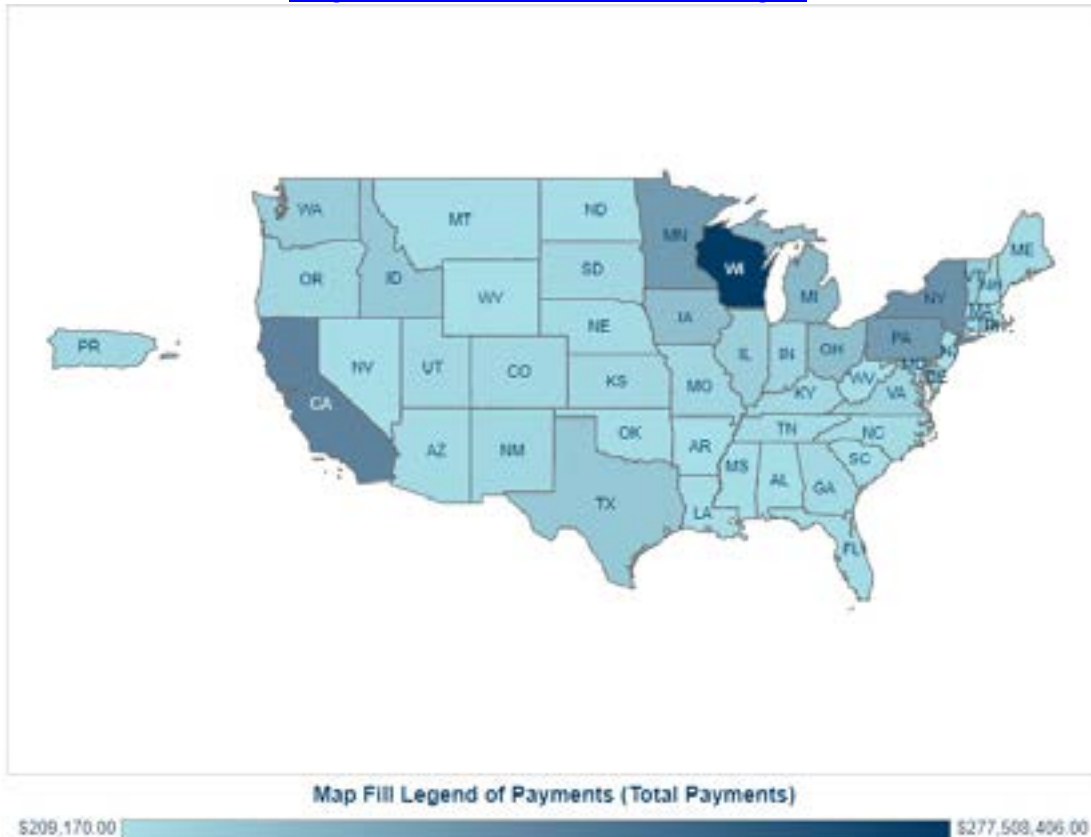
For dairy operations enrolled in 2023 DMC under a multi-year lock-in contract, lock-in eligibility will be extended until Dec. 31, 2024. In addition, dairy operations enrolled in multi-year lock-in contracts are eligible for the discounted DMC premium rate during the 2024 coverage year. To confirm 2024 DMC lock-in coverage or opt out in favor of an annual contract for 2024, dairy operations having lock-in contracts must enroll during the 2024 DMC enrollment period.

DMC offers different levels of coverage, even an option that is free to producers, minus a \$100 administrative fee. The administrative fee is waived for dairy producers who are considered limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged or a military veteran. To determine the appropriate level of DMC coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can use the [online dairy decision tool](#).

DMC Payments

DMC payments are calculated using updated feed and premium hay costs, making the program more reflective of actual dairy producer expenses. These updated feed calculations use 100% premium alfalfa hay.

DMC Public Dashboard: [Program Enrollment Information \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov)



USDA Provides \$208 Million to Help Prevent Guaranteed Borrower Foreclosures and to Assist Emergency Loan Borrowers

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it is providing approximately \$208 million in automatic financial assistance for qualifying farm and emergency loan borrowers. This announcement is made possible by \$3.1 billion in assistance for distressed farm loan borrowers provided in Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act, an important part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda.

To help prevent foreclosures, USDA will cover approximately \$80 million in delinquencies for an estimated 210 borrowers whose qualifying guaranteed loans were flagged for liquidation as of Nov. 30, 2023. USDA will also provide approximately \$128 million for an estimated 1,120 borrowers with currently outstanding direct Emergency Loans as of Nov. 30, 2023. Any distressed borrowers who qualify for this assistance and are currently in bankruptcy will be addressed using the same case-by-case review process announced in October 2022 for complex cases.

“At USDA, we are working hard every day to keep farmers on their farms. With the Inflation Reduction Act, we’ve begun charting a very different course than the one taken during the farm financial crisis in the 1980s,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “We continue to work on credit reforms centered around this better approach and I encourage our lenders and borrowers alike to work with our local offices and our cooperators to capitalize on all available flexibilities in these important programs prior to foreclosing or liquidating farms.”

Since the Inflation Reduction Act was signed by President Biden in August 2022, USDA’s Farm Service Agency has provided approximately \$1.7 billion in immediate assistance to more than 30,000 distressed borrowers as part of an ongoing effort to keep borrowers farming and ranching, remove obstacles that currently prevent many borrowers from returning to their land, and improve the way that FSA approaches borrowing and loan servicing in the long-term. More options to prevent avoidable guaranteed loan foreclosures are currently being developed.

For any qualifying guaranteed borrowers that also qualified for previous Inflation Reduction Act assistance announced in [October 2022](#) or [August 2023](#), payments may be adjusted to account for that assistance.

Individual Requests for Distressed Farmers Seeking Assistance

In addition to the assistance announced today, FSA continues to accept individual distressed borrower assistance requests from direct loan borrowers who missed a recent installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment on a qualifying direct farm loan due to cash flow issues, or those distressed borrowers who took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their qualifying direct loans. More information on eligibility criteria for this assistance may be found on the [Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Distressed Borrowers page](#).

Borrowers can submit requests in person at their local FSA office or by sending in a direct request using the [extraordinary measures](#) or [cash flow-based assistance](#) portals found on [farmers.gov](#). All requests for extraordinary measures or cash flow-based assistance must be received by Dec. 31, 2023.

Important Tax Information

Like the other USDA Inflation Reduction Act assistance, payments provided to borrowers and payments to be applied to FSA farm loan accounts will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. Borrowers will receive a 1099 form from FSA. Please note that payments over \$600 are subject to federal and state income taxes and will be reflected on the annual 1099 form. Borrowers are encouraged to consult a tax professional with all tax-related questions regarding any Inflation Reduction Act assistance received. USDA also has tax-related resources at [farmers.gov/taxes](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.

USDA Now Accepting Applications for Farm Loans Online

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has launched an online application for Direct Loan customers. More than 26,000

customers who submit a Direct Loan application each year can now use an online, interactive, guided application that is paperless and provides helpful features including an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet and build a farm operating plan. This tool is part of a broader effort by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to streamline its processes, improve customer service, and expand credit access.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is working hard to make it easier for farmers and ranchers to get the loans they need to keep growing food, fiber, and fuel for our country," said Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small. "Online services are commonplace in commercial lending, and with USDA Farm Service Agency's new online loan application feature, it is now easier for producers to get the financing they need to start, expand, or maintain their farming and ranching operations."

The online farm loan application replicates the support an applicant would receive when completing a loan application in person with an FSA Farm Loan Officer, while continuing to provide customers with one-on-one assistance as needed. This tool and other process improvements allow farmers and ranchers to submit complete loan applications and reduce the number of incomplete and withdrawn applications.

Through a personalized dashboard, borrowers can track the progress of their loan application. It can be accessed on farmers.gov or by completing FSA's Loan Assistance Tool at farmers.gov/loan-assistance-tool. To use the online loan application tool, producers must establish a USDA customer account and a [USDA Level 2 eAuthentication \("eAuth"\) account or a Login.gov account](#). For the initial stage, the online application tool is only available for producers who will be, or are currently, operating their farm as an individual. FSA is expanding the tools availability to married couples applying jointly and other legal entities in 2024.

Farm Loan Improvement Efforts

FSA has a significant initiative underway to streamline and automate Farm Loan Program customer-facing business processes. For the over 26,000 producers who submit a Direct Loan application to FSA annually, and its 85,000 Direct Loan borrowers, FSA has made improvements this year, including:

- A [simplified direct loan paper application](#), reduced from 29 pages to 13 pages.
- The [Loan Assistance Tool on farmers.gov](#) that provides customers with an interactive online, step-by-step guide to identifying the Direct Loan

products that may be a fit for their business needs and to understanding the application process.

More Information

FSA continues to accept and review individual requests for assistance from qualifying borrowers who took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their direct FSA loans or those who were unable to make a recent installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment for installments through January 15, 2024. All requests for assistance must be received by Dec. 31, 2023. For more information, or to submit a request for assistance, producers can contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance.

The Inflation Reduction Act, a historic, once-in-a-generation investment and opportunity for agricultural communities, provided \$3.1 billion for USDA to provide relief for distressed borrowers with certain FSA direct and guaranteed loans and to expedite assistance for those whose agricultural operations are at financial risk. Since October 2022, USDA has provided approximately \$1.6 billion in assistance to more than 27,000 distressed direct and guaranteed FSA loan borrowers.

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Since the launch on December 2, 2024, 99 direct loan making applications have been submitted in 33 states as of April 3, 2024.

Note: The online application tool is currently only available for producers who will be, or are, operating their farm as an individual. FSA is expanding the tools availability to married couples applying jointly and other legal entities in 2024.

Application Fast Track Pilot Program

Notification of the Application Fast Track Pilot Program (AFT) was published in the Federal Register on August 3, 2023 (FR Doc. 2023-16489).

AFT provides an accelerated underwriting process using financial data to benchmark and identify applicants least likely to default. The expedited underwriting provided through AFT will result in significant time savings anticipated to benefit the entire FLP portfolio, as staff redistribute time and resources toward other priorities, including additional attention to applicants most in need of technical assistance.

There were 166 Service Centers originally identified as pilot program offices that began implementing the pilot on August 7, 2023. The pilot program was expanded to all Service Centers nationwide in January 2024 and will continue through September 30, 2024.

Across the 166 offices included in the first phase of the pilot (August 7, 2023 – December 31, 2023):

- *454 obligated loans were processed under AFT*
- *23 percent of obligations were processed under AFT*
- *Applications using AFT were processed about 6 days faster on average.*

Farmers, Ranchers Now Can Make USDA Farm Loan Payments Online

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today that most farm loan borrowers will be able to make payments to their direct loans online through the Pay My Loan feature on farmers.gov in early February. Pay My Loan is part of a broader effort by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to streamline its processes, especially for producers who may have limited time during the planting or harvest seasons to visit a local FSA office; modernize and improve customer service; provide additional customer self-service tools; and expand credit access to assist more producers.

"Farmers and ranchers have responded to some difficult challenges over the last few years and their time is a precious commodity," said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small. "Having the option to conduct business online is essential, and the Pay My Loan feature allows customers to take care of business seamlessly. The online payment feature is just one of many ways the

Farm Service Agency is modernizing its Farm Loan Programs and enhancing the customer experience for this incredibly hardworking group.”

On average, local USDA Service Centers process more than 225,000 farm loan payments each year. Pay My Loan gives most borrowers an online repayment option and relieves them from needing to call, mail, or visit a Service Center to pay their loan installment. Farm loan payments can now be made at the borrower’s convenience, on their schedule and outside of FSA office hours.

Pay My Loan also provides time savings for FSA’s farm loan employees by minimizing manual payment processing activities. This new service for producers means that farm loan employees will have more time to focus on reviewing and processing new loans or servicing requests.

The Pay My Loan feature can be accessed at farmers.gov/loans. To use the payment feature, producers must establish a USDA customer account and a USDA Level 2 eAuthentication (“eAuth”) account or a Login.gov account. This initial release only allows individuals with loans to make online payments. For now, borrowers with jointly payable checks will need to continue to make loan payments through their local office.

FSA has a significant initiative underway to streamline and automate the Farm Loan Program customer-facing business process. For the over 26,000 producers who submit a direct loan application annually, FSA has made various improvements including:

The Online Loan Application, an interactive, guided application that is paperless and provides helpful features including an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet, and build a farm operating plan.

The Loan Assistance Tool that provides customers with an interactive online, step-by-step guide to identifying the direct loan products that may be a fit for their business needs and to understanding the application process.

A simplified direct loan paper application, which reduced loan applications by more than half, from 29 pages to 13 pages.

More Information

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and

producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

As of April 3, 2024, FSA has received 407 payments from 298 producers totaling more than \$3.3 million since the January 29, 2024 announcement.

*The mission of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
is to facilitate the competitive and efficient marketing of agricultural products.*

USDA DATA USERS' SPRING MEETING 2024

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops and provides the agriculture industry with valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country.

Nearly 4,000 AMS professionals work every day to support the country's diverse agricultural operations, which range from individual farmers to international businesses and employ 1 in 12 people. AMS services and its millions of dollars in annual grant investments also create opportunities by supporting economic development in small towns and rural communities that stand as the backbone of American values.

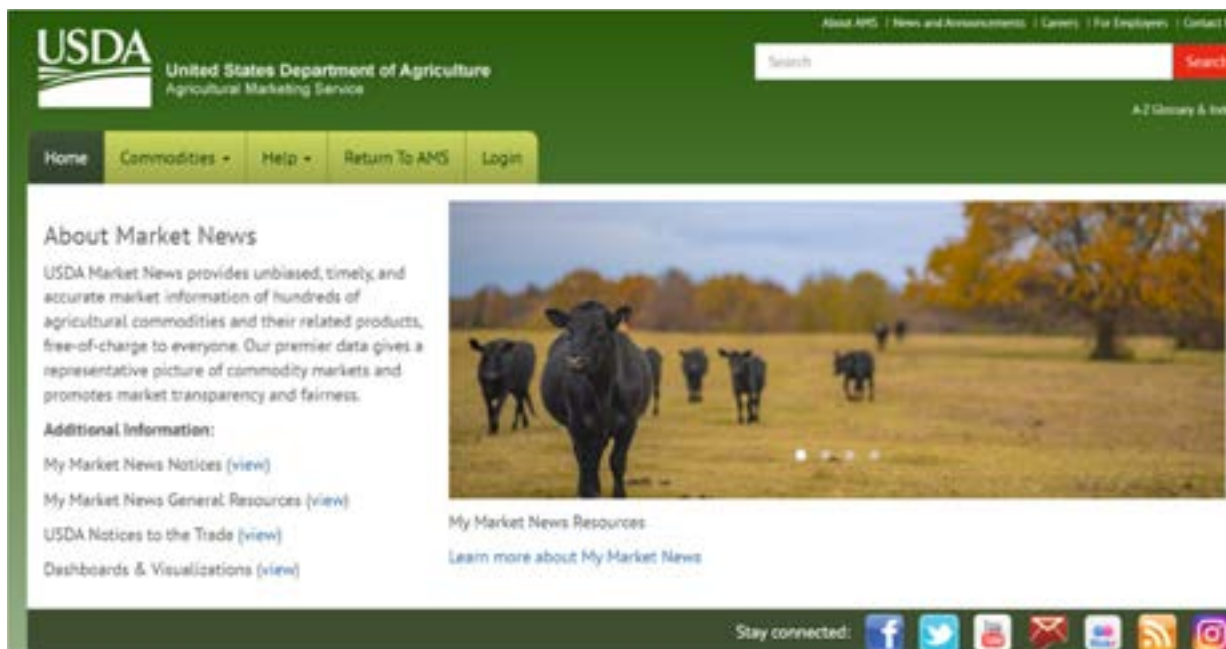
Much of the agency's support for agriculture is provided through commodity-specific efforts, such as its Dairy; Specialty Crops; Livestock and Poultry; and Cotton and Tobacco Programs. AMS also oversees the National Organic; Science and Technology; and Transportation and Marketing Programs. AMS provides regulatory oversight for over 20 research and promotion programs and enforces other Federal regulations such as the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA), and the Seed Act.

CURRENT ISSUES OF INTEREST

Data Offerings

AMS Market News continues to provide free, unbiased price and sales information to assist in the marketing and distribution of farm commodities. Key wholesale, retail and shipping data gives farmers, producers, and other agricultural businesses the information they need to evaluate market conditions, make purchasing and selling decisions, and evaluate transportation costs.

AMS Market News continues to update and improve their electronic data offerings through the AMS, My Market News and Datamart websites (<https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/> , <https://mpr.datamart.ams.usda.gov/>). Through these websites, users can access commodity specific data on over 1,500 reports that are updated daily, weekly, monthly, and annually to provide up-to-the-minute information that assists producers, consumers, and other businesses in making informed marketing and production decisions. AMS Market News is a valuable resource for anyone who is involved in the agricultural industry. It provides unbiased, comprehensive, and timely information that can help users to make informed decisions.



Additionally, AMS Market News provides two separate Application Programming Interfaces (API), where customers can now access data from over 1,045 unique commodity data sets. The APIs allows users to automatically download data in custom formats. After a one-time setup, the API will continue to deliver the requested information to the user in the established format without further action. Other updates that have been implemented on the site over the past year include the functionality that allows users to identify corrected data sets both by report and through the [My Market News API](#) and [Livestock Mandatory Reporting \(LMR\) API](#).

For users who lack the time and resources to work with large data sets, AMS is developing an alternative through the Tableau visual analytics platform to provide users with enhanced insight through dynamic and intuitive interaction with data. These tools are proving to be popular as they provide producers with the ability to access and analyze, in detail, current market data – placing them on a more equal footing with large volume data users with whom they compete in the marketplace (*for more information on current availability, see the Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Reporting section below*).

In June 2023, AMS introduced version 3.0 of the USDA Market News Mobile Application with free iOS and Android versions available to download through the Apple and Google Play stores. The app gives users instant access to nearly 1,500 reports covering conventional and organic livestock, poultry, grain, dairy, cotton, and specialty crop market reports. The app lets users search for current and historical reports by location, State, or commodity. Version 3.0 of the app provides additional tools that allow users identify reports containing international, retail, and organic data. The update also simplifies the search process for the state and commodity search screens, making newly released reports more visible to users. To date, the app has been downloaded 22k times with report views measuring over half a million unique views. Future releases of the app are being planned.

Federal-State Cooperation

AMS Market News has Federal-State Cooperative Agreements with 30 states for commodity market reporting activities. Beginning in FY 2023, these agreements were converted into the USDA ezFedGrants (eFG) Grants and Agreements System. The eFG system is used for processing Federal financial assistance transactions and provides significant efficiencies to all users managing grant and agreement portfolios. AMS worked closely with its state partners to ensure a successful transition to the new system. These cooperative working relationships enable resources at the Federal and State levels to be leveraged to expand the breadth, depth, and dissemination of market reporting to the benefit of the industry and information users. State reporters cover livestock auction and grain elevator markets, and other local reporting activities, such as farmers markets, that would otherwise be costly and more difficult to cover using Federal resources alone.

Organic Market Reporting

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Act) re-authorized \$5 million to USDA to conduct organic production and market data initiatives including the collection and reporting of data on the production and marketing of organic agricultural products. The Act requires USDA to collect and distribute pricing information for organic agricultural products; develop and implement surveys on organic production, handling, and distribution; and conduct analysis on the data for publication in reports.

Under the Organic Data Initiative (ODI), AMS conducts several activities to enhance the collection and distribution of its data on organic production and marketing. Key among these is the collection and distribution of market information for organic agricultural products. For specialty crops, AMS publishes market data for over 240 organic commodities for three primary market sectors – shipping point or point of entry (for imports), wholesale, and retail. Reporting of organic commodities at shipping point includes tracking the volume of movement, which consists of domestic shipments or crossings from Mexico/imports from other countries. For livestock, poultry, and grain commodities, AMS publishes information for organic grains and feedstuffs; poultry and eggs; and includes organic poultry litter, one of the best organic fertilizers available to support organic crop production, in its production costs report series. For dairy, AMS publishes information for a range of key organic dairy products both direct to consumers and at retail outlets across the country. Finally, for cotton, AMS publishes an annual report on organic cotton and cottonseed. All these reports can be accessed from the AMS Market News website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/organic>.

In FY 2023, AMS continued to expand its outreach and educational efforts to the organic sector to promote the availability and usage of the existing market information and resources, identify new data needs, and build stronger relationships with stakeholders. Collection of organic data from additional markets and market types has been expanded as part of the ODI effort. AMS was able to participate in outreach at dozens of industry conferences and events, and partnered with multiple state institutions to both increase organic data as well as to conduct gap analyses of organic data needs.

Market Information Organization of the Americas/International Collaboration

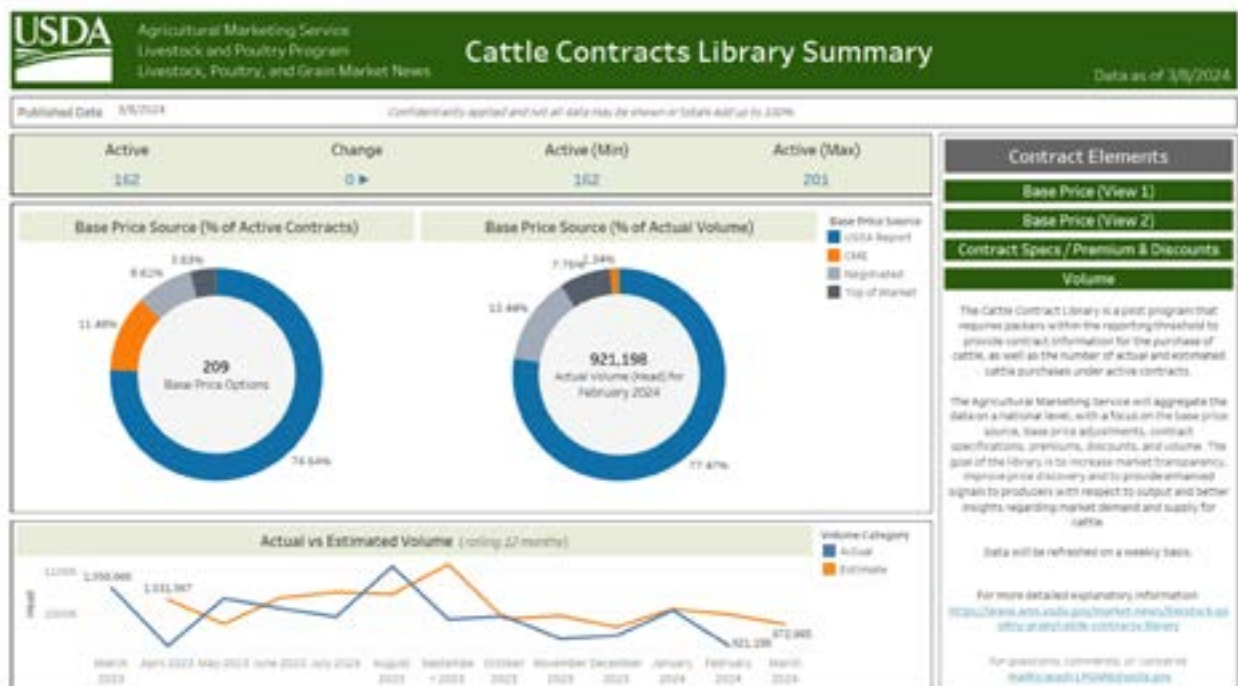
AMS Market News serves as the chair of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), a cooperation network of institutions from 33 countries that operate like Market News. These institutions track and report major markets within their nations to ensure the availability of reliable information for their agro-industrial complex, relevant ministries, and government agencies. MIOA works to harmonize efforts, identify, and share best practices, and support trade and economic development through the availability of critical market data.

Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Reporting

Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News (LPGMN), a division of the Livestock and Poultry Program (LP), continues to focus much of its efforts on improving our customers' experience by providing greater access to LPGMN data through more modern tools. The statutory authority for the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Program (LMR) was extended through September 30, 2024, in the Consolidate Appropriations Act, 2024.

In 2024, LPGMN is continuing to transition its market reports to the MARS/ My Market News system with shell eggs and egg products; retail beef, pork, lamb, chicken, turkey, and eggs; hay; organic feed grains; and sod scheduled to be added to the system.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117-103, March 15, 2022) directed AMS to establish a Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program (CCL) to increase market transparency for cattle producers. The CCL provides transparency into both commonalities and key differences in contracts, as well as the context for those terms through the provision of relevant volume numbers. It became publicly accessible on January 31, 2023, and, on October 4, 2023, AMS announced that the CCL would continue in its present form. The CCL is updated on a weekly



basis and provides information on contracts between packers and cattle producers for the purchase of fed cattle. The CCL provides increased market transparency to aid cattle producers in making informed marketing and business decisions.

Unlike traditional Market News reports that are provided in a static, text or pdf format, the CCL is based on the Tableau visual analytics platform, used widely across USDA to provide users with enhanced insight through dynamic and intuitive interaction with data. The CCL is the first AMS Market News report provided in this dynamic format and represents the future of LPGMN data delivery. (https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/Cattle_Contract_Library)

The shift to public dynamic user data interaction in LP began in July 2021 with the launch of the Meat Grading Dashboard (https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/lp_meat_grading_dashboard) that provides users access to up to 10 years of quality grade and volume information for beef, lamb and veal collected through the USDA Meat Grading Service. In July 2023 LPGMN released the Livestock Auction Dashboard that provides users with dynamic access to livestock auction market information for cattle, sheep, and goats in an intuitive and user-friendly format that allows for more in-depth analysis of past and present market conditions. (https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/livestock_auction_dashboard)



LPGMN is continuing to develop and enhance its growing suite of interactive data visualization tools for future public release. These tools are proving to be popular as they provide producers with the ability to access and analyze, in detail, current market data – placing them on a more equal footing with large volume data users with whom they compete in the marketplace. The insight provided to producers through these dynamic data visualizations fosters a fairer and more competitive marketplace for all participants – the very purpose for which Market News was created.

Cotton and Tobacco Market News Reporting

Cotton and Tobacco Market News (CTMN) is working to add the Cotton Prices report series and associated data to the Market Analysis and Reporting Services and the My Market News Platform. As part of this process, the qualities of cotton quoted will be updated to reflect changes in the qualities of cotton produced and actively traded and the formal report layouts will be unified. For more information on this change contact CTMN at CottonMN@usda.gov.

CTMN has added historical cotton price data files to the internet. Upland data can be found at <https://apps.ams.usda.gov/Cotton/HistoricalUplandPrices/> and American Pima data can be found at <https://apps.ams.usda.gov/Cotton/HistoricaPimaPrices/>. The current market year data will be updated in early August.

During the 20232-2023 cotton crop year, CTMN made changes to the Spot Cotton Quotations and the associated reports (Daily Spot Cotton Quotations and the Cotton Price Statistics). This change required a change in the regulations associated with the Cotton Futures Act. The rule was cleared for Redefining Bona Fide Cotton Spot Markets and was publicly displayed on July 31, 2023, and published on August 1, 2023. Cotton from Kansas and Oklahoma is now included with cotton from West Texas for analysis and reporting. Two markets have been impacted and renamed: East Texas and South Texas, and West Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Dairy Market News Reporting

Dairy Market News (DMN) continues to enhance My Market News, improving access to information and data for the dairy industry. In the first quarter of FY24, Dairy Market News transitioned market reports from txt to pdf format. This change improved readability and provided consistent formatting for all Dairy Market News reports.

In January 2024, market commentary for the East and Central Dry Buttermilk market reports were consolidated into a single paragraph. Also in January 2024, market commentary for the East and Central Nonfat Dry Milk markets were consolidated into a single paragraph. These changes were implemented based on the East and Central regional market conditions becoming more consolidated over the last several years.

Enhancements to APIs at the My Market News landing pages are available, with updates made regularly to meet customer needs. API documentation is displayed on the homepage of each Dairy Market News report in the My Market News system. The Dairy Market News Report Master List, available in the General Resources section of My Market News, was updated in March 2024.

In conjunction with the Organic Data Initiative, additional farmers market reports are expected to be added to the Dairy Market News Local and Regional Food Marketing website in the near future.

Reports of mandatory dairy product survey prices and Federal order statistics are published by the Dairy Market Information Branch (MIB) on the My Market News website, the AMS website,

and Cornell’s USDA Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (ESMIS). The underlying data for these reports are available in Datamart and the associated API, both part of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting system. Sample API workbooks are also available on the My Market News website.

Specialty Crops Market News Reporting

In 2024, Specialty Crops Market News (SCMN) continues the transition to MARS/ My Market News with the successful launch of the Terminal market level in January 2024. Shipping Point, and Movement market levels will be the next to make the transition with Shipping Point becoming available in May of 2024 and Movement becoming available by December of 2024. For each market level, the full dataset including historical data will be available via API once transition to the new system is complete. SCMN continues to add new packages, origins, and varieties to its market reports as they emerged in the marketplace, or in response to industry requests to report new products or enhance existing products. Overall, SCMN tracks over 785 unique specialty crop commodities at three market levels (retail, wholesale, and shipping point) plus the movement, which consists of domestic shipments, crossings from Mexico, and import volumes.

Agricultural Transportation Open Data Visualization Platform – AgTransport

The AgTransport platform ([Open Ag Transport Data \(usda.gov\)](https://openagtransport.usda.gov/)) offers farmers, commodity analysts, elevator operators, shippers, and other stakeholders’ access to USDA data that can help them make timely market decisions about moving agricultural products across the country and around the world. This free, open data platform contains numerous datasets and dashboards about the four modes—rail, truck, barge, and ocean vessel (both bulk and container)—used to transport agricultural products.

AgTransport facilitates easy analytics. Users can gain personalized insight through interactive charts, and they can generate and save their own unique visualizations and data views that will be updated automatically over time. If they wish, users also can share their visualizations with others in the tool’s open data community. AgTransport makes data available in many different, open formats and automatically generates and maintains an Application Programming Interface (API) for each dataset.

Two new features have been added since last year to provide users with a true dashboard experience, helping them quickly gauge the relevant indicators and information impacting agricultural transportation. The “Transportation at a Glance” dashboard provides a “one-stop shop” of key volume, rate, and service metrics across all modes, showing how current trends compare against historical benchmarks. The “Transportation Updates and Regulatory News” section presents highlights of recent announcements and regulatory news that affect multimodal agricultural transportation. These highlights are presented by mode and cover the latest Federal, State, and trade association transportation reports and studies that may be of interest to agricultural shippers, brokers, carriers, receivers, academics, and consultants.

Other features on the platform include:

- Grain Transportation Cost Indicators and Global Competitiveness Dashboard with data on Brazil, Mexico, and Japan
- Interactive Rail Dashboard with expanded Data, Maps, and Analysis, featuring 18 years of Surface Transportation Board Public Waybill data in an easy-to-use, accessible format.
- Agricultural Rail Service Metrics Dashboard
- Barge Dashboard with additional rivers and locks added to the waterway Lock Performance Management Data
- Ocean Port Profiles Dashboard
- Bulk and Container Ocean Fleet Data
- Grain Trucking Indicators
- Refrigerated Truck Dashboard with Rates, Volumes, and Availability
- Dashboard for selected Grain Price and Basis Data
- Digitized Modal Share Analysis for Transportation of U.S. Grains
- Biofuels Dashboard, including Ethanol, Biodiesel, and DDGs





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information that tells the story of our changing economy. The Economic Indicators, Economic Census and our quarterly and annual economic surveys give Federal, state, and local governments, policy makers, and business and community leaders the information needed to make informed decisions that shape our economy.

Issues of Interest to Data Users

1. Accessing Data from the U.S. Census Bureau

- ***USA Trade Online***

USA Trade Online is a dynamic data tool that gives users access to current and cumulative U.S. export and import data. With multiple data sets and capabilities, USA Trade Online can assist different types of customers from a wide range of industries and fields. This tool offers data by Harmonized System, North America Industry Classification System (NAICS), and the Department of Agriculture code. This powerful software allows users to create customized reports and colorful charts detailing international trade data at different levels.

<https://usatrade.census.gov/index.php>

- ***Monthly Trade Data in the Census Data API***

The U.S. Census Bureau has detailed monthly international trade data in its [Application Programming Interface](#) (API). The Census Data API has international trade data from 2010 to present. The international trade statistics provide monthly and cumulative year-to-date export and import totals with multiple layers of detail. The statistics also include two datasets with U.S. exports and imports by Department of Agriculture code.

The Application Programming Interface provides researchers and developers free access to its demographic and economic data.

<https://census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/international-trade.html>

- ***Global Market Finder (GMF)***

The Global Market Finder is an interactive data visualization tool that paints a picture of the export market for a particular commodity. The user just needs to select the Schedule B code they are interested in and the tool will display all the countries that the U.S. exports to, shows value by method of transportation, and unit price. Users can drill down to specific countries and download the data that they have pulled.

<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/export-markets.html>

- ***Census Business Builder***

The Census Business Builder (CBB) is a suite of services that provide selected demographic and economic data from the Census Bureau tailored to specific types of users in a simple to access and use format. The CBB includes:

- o Demographic, socioeconomic, and housing data from the American Community Survey
- o Business data from the County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, and Survey of Business Owners
- o Trade data on total imports and exports, broken out by mode of transportation (Air & Vessel), for selected three- and four-digit agriculture, mining, and manufacturing NAICS codes at the national and state level.
- o Building Permits data at the county and place level

In addition, it provides Agriculture data from the Census of Agriculture (USDA).

<https://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html>

2. Principal Economic Indicators

The U.S. Census Bureau's Economic Indicators keep the world informed by providing the first official measures of the U.S. economy. Our Economic Indicator surveys provide monthly and quarterly data that are timely, reliable, and offer comprehensive measures of the U.S. economy. These surveys produce a variety of statistics covering construction, housing, international trade, retail trade, wholesale trade, services, and manufacturing. The survey data provide measures of economic activity that allow analysis of economic performance and inform business investment and policy decisions. The data can be accessed via the Economic Indicator Briefing Room and the Economic Indicator Database.

- Economic Indicator Briefing Room

The Economic Indicator Briefing Room web site provides access to the latest data, full release reports, historical data, and time series and trend charts. [census.gov/economic-indicators](https://www.census.gov/economic-indicators)

- Economic Indicator Database

Select an economic indicator and customize your data selection. Ability to download the data to a spreadsheet and create your own time series charts. [Business and Industry: Time Series / Trend Charts \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/business-and-industry/time-series/trend-charts)

- For questions regarding Economic Indicators, please contact:
Ms. Catherine Buffington, Chief, Economic Indicators Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-6010
Phone: (301)-763-1838
Email: Catherine.D.Buffington@census.gov

3. International Trade

Each month, the U.S. Census Bureau releases the *U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services* (FT900) report, which is one of the principal economic indicators for the United States. This report can be found along with other information on our website <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/index.html>

Webinars are archived at: <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/outreach/index.html>

- 15 CFR PART 30 — Foreign Trade Regulations
The Census Bureau is mandated by Title 13, Ch. 9, Sec. 301 to collect information from all persons who are exporting goods from or importing goods into the U.S. The legal authority that the Census Bureau uses to collect export information is guided by 15 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 30, the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR) [FTR_with_August_2023_FR_Incorporated_PUBLIC.pdf \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/regulations/15-cfr-part-30). The FTR contains the legal definitions and requirements for reporting Electronic Export Information (EEI) in the Automated Export System. After the EEI is collected, it is used as the primary source to create export statistics. For information on the FTR and filing requirements, please email emd.askregs@census.gov or use the International Trade Helpline number, 1-800-549-0595 and select option 3.

- Questionable data should be brought to our attention as soon as possible. Potential data errors caught early are easier to verify and improve the quality of data going forward. To request data verification, please contact Mr. Gregory Kondilas (gregory.kondilas@census.gov), Chief of our International Trade Indicator Micro Analysis Branch.

4. Other Economic Data from the U.S. Census Bureau

The Census Bureau produces economic data across the entire economy on a monthly, quarterly, yearly, and five-year basis, including industries related to agriculture. These industries can include:

- o NAICS 113 Forestry and Logging
- o NAICS 114 Fishing, Hunting and Trapping
- o NAICS 115 Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry
- o NAICS 311 Food Manufacturing
- o NAICS 4244 Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers
- o NAICS 4245 Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers
- o NAICS 445 Food and Beverage Stores