

Pa Veteran Farming Network Conference Attendees,

It was truly an honor to attend your conference last week to discuss how USDA program participation could benefit your operations. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about your individual operations located throughout the Commonwealth. It was amazing to experience the group's passion for agriculture as you all prepare to take on your next mission... feeding your fellow Americans.

I wanted to provide you with a reference document in order to introduce some of our more popular programs to you. This by no means is a complete list but will give you a starting point to see if any programs are of interest to your individual operation. Be sure to check out www.farmers.gov for all the latest information concerning USDA programs.

Beginning Farmer Information

Great resource for new and beginning farmers.

<https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers>

Farm Loan Programs

Great resource for information pertaining to all types of USDA loans.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

Storage and Handling Equipment Program

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

Consider this low interest loan program to purchase storage or handling equipment for your operation.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/>

Crop Loan Programs

Marketing Assistance Loan Program (MAL)

Pledge stored commodities as security to provide capital in the form of low interest loans.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/commodity-loans/index>

Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)

Payments obtained when producers forgo loans on eligible commodities (ex. wool).

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/loan-deficiency/index>

Conservation Programs

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Protect environmentally sensitive land on your farm through sound conservation planning which will enhance sustainability.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement/index>

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

One of the oldest private land conservation programs in the United States today.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/>

Commodity Programs

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)

Direct payments based off historical base acres tied to crop revenue falling below crop guarantee.

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc_program/index

Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

Direct payments based off historical base acres tied to effective price falling below reference price for crop.

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc_program/index

Dairy Program

Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC)

Allows dairy producers to elect coverage levels for margin between all-milk price and average feed price

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/dairy-margin-coverage-program/index>

Livestock Programs

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)

Financial assistance for eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm raised fish in response to disease or weather related events.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index>

Livestock Forage Loss Program (LFP)

Compensates for grazing losses incurred due to extended drought conditions.

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/livestock_forage_program_lfp-fact_sheet.pdf

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Compensates for animal deaths in excess of normal mortality due to eligible loss conditions.

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/livestock_indemnity_program_lip-fact_sheet.pdf

Disaster Programs

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Provides assistance to producers of non-insurable crops against crop losses and natural disasters.

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/noninsured_crop_disaster_assistance_program-nap-fact_sheet.pdf

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Assistance for tree growers in response to natural disaster events.

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/tree_assistance_program-tap-fact_sheet.pdf

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Provides assistance to farmers in order to restore farmland after natural disaster events.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation/index>

Organic Program

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

Provides up to 50% cost share assistance for annual organic certification fees.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index>

Remember that each one of these should be considered “a tool in your toolbox” when it comes to participating with the USDA Farm Service Agency. Developing a working relationship with your local county office is essential to effective program participation at any level. Feel free to reach out to me at any point for assistance along the way. Together we will take the pieces from your operation to establish the framework required to become sustainable agricultural operation.

Once again... thank you for your service as we certainly look forward to the opportunity now to serve you.

Thanks,

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