

Grants for Farms | Resources

CARES Act & USDA/FSA Programs

SBA Paycheck Protection Program — *EXTENDED TO AUGUST 8*

[Application](#) | [How-To Instructions](#)

Economic Injury Disaster Loan

[Application online](#) | [How-To Instructions](#)

USDA/FSA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

Call FSA to have them start your application. For eligible products, estimates, or to manually apply, see <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>. Iowa State put out a [step-by-step overview](#) about the application process, if you want to review it or pass it along to other producers.

This [program overview](#) explains the second component of the program -- a more complicated support/purchasing pipeline for commodities called the [Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#).

USDA/FSA Wildfires and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+)

Call FSA to have them start your application—you may be waitlisted until they get CFAP applications submitted. Covers crop loss and crop quality loss due to drought and “excess moisture” events, including dairy. Does not cover livestock. See [details here](#) and search [eligible counties/production years](#).

New customers (as in, not on file with FSA to date) seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

[General CARES program comparison chart](#)

Grant Program Links

USDA Value-Added Producer Grant

[Information and overview](#)

[Annual review of requirements and instructions](#)

USDA Small Business Innovation Research Program

[Overview and eligibility](#)

AGRI (MN) Value-Added Grant

[Overview and previous Request for Proposals \(application guidelines\)](#)

Rural Energy for America (REAP) Audit

[Overview and sign-up](#) with Winneshiek Energy District

[REAP for Individual Farms/Rural Businesses](#)

[Minnesota Farm Grants](#) Specific to Commodity or Practice

COVID-19 Grants from MN Dept of Agriculture

NEW: [Farm to School Rapid Response Grant for Schools](#) and [Farm to School Rapid Response Grant for Food Vendors](#) provide financial assistance to help schools begin, diversity and expand purchasing from Minnesota producers and improve market access to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEW: [The Safe on the Farm Direct Marketing Cost Share Program](#) provides financial assistance to Minnesota U-Pick Operations, On-Farm Markets, and Community Support Agriculture (CSA) Farms to purchase supplies and equipment to prepare for safe sales during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[The Safe at the Farmers Market Cost Share Program](#) provides financial assistance to Minnesota farmers markets to purchase equipment and supplies to keep markets, vendors, and customers safe and operational during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[The AGRI Rapid Response Mini-Grant for Livestock Processing](#) helps processors and certain producers respond to market issues caused by COVID-19.

MDA Contact: Helen Schnoes | 651-201-6184 | Helen.Schnoes@state.mn.us

Smaller MN-based Grants for Marketing, etc

[Entrepreneurs First Technical Assistance Grants](#) (up to \$2,500)

[Driftless Grown Individual Assistance Grants](#) (up to \$250)

[MDA New Markets Cost Share Program](#)

Tools for Preparing an Application

SCORE.org

[Financial report templates and more](#)

SBA Business Planning Resources

[Business plan and lean start-up templates](#)

SBDC Business Plan Template

[\(Really ugly\) Downloadable Business Plan Template](#)

Support and Assistance

USDA Rural Development

[Office locator](#)

America's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)

[Iowa](#)

[Minnesota](#)

COVID-19 Business Hotline

Business owners may call (563) 588-3350 between 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email at sbhelpline@nicc.edu.

Community & Economic Development Associates (CEDA)

Business planning and counseling services. Visit

<https://www.cedausa.com/agricultural-resources/> or contact Courtney Bergey Swanson at courtney.bergey@cedausa.com

Economic Development Offices

[Winneshiek County, Iowa](#)

[Allamakee County, Iowa](#)

[Houston County, Minnesota](#)

[Fillmore County, Minnesota](#)

[SCORE.org](#)

Free business mentoring, topical webinars, business document templates, and online courses.