



USDA ANNOUNCES CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2.0

September 18, 2020

Dear CA Blueberry Industry Members:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today that it is implementing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP) for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Producers can begin to apply for CFAP 2 on September 21st through December 11th.

CFAP 2 payments will provide eligible producers with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb some of the increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 outbreak. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based on stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers.

Additional commodities are eligible in CFAP 2 that were not included in the first round of the program. CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of payment calculations:

- Sales Commodities, including specialty crops, tobacco, and aquaculture, use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales.
- Price trigger commodities, including row crops, livestock, and dairy, are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline from January through July.
- Flat-rate row crops that do not meet the 5-percent price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre.

The Commission is pleased to announce that blueberries have been included in CFAP 2. A complete list of eligible commodities, payment rates and calculations can be found on www.farmers.gov/cfap.

Producers can apply for assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages with the team at the FSA county office. More information can be found at www.farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Finally, USDA will be hosting a producer webinar regarding CFAP 2 on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 12 PM PST. You can register for this webinar here:

https://globalmeetwebinar.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1372084&tp_key=8efafcdd45

If you have any further questions regarding this recent announcement, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission office.