

USDA's Emergency Commodity Assistance Program Applications Open March 19

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that applications for agricultural economic disaster payments will open March 19 under the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP). This program provides crucial financial relief to farmers and agricultural producers affected by recent economic challenges.

Key Takeaways:

- **Application Period: March 19 – Aug. 15**

- **Application Process:**

- Eligible applicants will receive pre-filled applications by mail. Applications are likely to arrive in via USPS by March 21.
- Farmers do not need to wait for mailed applications and can visit their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office as soon as March 19 or access application materials and the payment calculator online at fsa.usda.gov/ecap.
- Completed applications must be submitted to an FSA office for processing. Click [here](#) to find your nearest FSA office.

- **Payment Timeline & Structure:**

- Once an application is received and approved by FSA, payments are expected to be issued within an average of three days.
- Initial ECAP payments will be prorated at 85% to ensure that total program payments do not exceed available funding. If additional funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.
- If funds remain from the \$10 billion allocated for ECAP after the Aug. 15 deadline, a second round of payments could be issued, but total payments cannot exceed the amount approved by Congress.

- **Full Funding Allocation:**

- The entire \$10 billion in funding will be distributed without sequestration or administrative fees, ensuring all resources go directly to supporting producers.

- **Eligible Commodities and Payment Rates (Click [here](#) for more information)**

- The commodities below are eligible for these per-acre payment rates. Note, these amounts are the 100% rate:

- Wheat – \$30.69

- Corn – \$42.91

- **Eligible oilseeds:**

- Canola – \$31.83

- Sorghum – \$42.52
- Barley – \$21.67
- Oats – \$77.66
- Upland cotton & extra-long staple cotton – \$84.74
- Long & medium grain rice – \$76.94
- Peanuts – \$75.51
- Soybeans – \$29.76
- Dry peas – \$16.02
- Lentils – \$19.30
- Small chickpeas – \$31.45
- Large chickpeas – \$24.02
- Crambe – \$19.08
- Flax – \$20.97
- Mustard – \$11.36
- Rapeseed – \$23.63
- Safflower – \$26.32
- Sesame – \$16.83
- Sunflower – \$27.23

For more details, visit fsa.usda.gov, or contact your local FSA office.



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