

Dear Native Agriculturalists,

I hope this message finds you in good health and good spirits. I'm writing to tell you about a major COVID-19 relief program and ask that you share it widely with Native farmers and ranchers in your network.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#) (CFAP) is offering \$16 billion in direct payments to agricultural producers who suffered losses due to COVID-19. Details have begun to emerge, and we will keep as many people as possible posted on these details.

We are being told that the first step a producer should take to benefit from these payments is to call their local, or nearest, Farm Service Agency (FSA) to set up a meeting. Your local agents in those offices want to get preliminary information from you about your operation, and help you fill out necessary forms. Others you trust who work to help Native communities in agriculture can also assist. Be sure and reach out to your regional technical assistance specialist at the [Intertribal Agriculture Council](#).

The local FSA staff for your location will ask for the following information:

- Contact info
- Personal info, including your Tax Identification Number
- Farming operating structure
- Adjusted Gross Income to ensure eligibility
- Direct deposit information to enable payment processing

NOTE: Do not send personal identification or financial information to anyone without first initiating a phone call with a USDA agent, such as your local FSA agent. USDA agents will NOT contact you first. You must initiate contact. If others start to contact you "on behalf of USDA", or FSA, please exercise due diligence to make sure they have your best interests in mind. This is a free service, and no one should charge you to be helped to access these resources. There are many sources for helpful information.

Once sign-ups have started, the following forms will need to be turned in. Review these forms with a local FSA agent, and try to fill out as much as you can. If you are an existing user of USDA programs, this information is likely already on file at the local USDA Service Center.

USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Forms

[CCC-901](#) Identifies members of farm or ranch operation.

[CCC-941](#) Reports the average adjusted gross income.

[CCC-942](#) Reports income from farming, ranching, and forestry.

[AD-1026](#) Ensures compliance with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation.

[AD-2047](#) Basic customer contact information.

[SF-3881](#) Banking information so USDA can make payments via direct deposit.

For more information on this program and where to find the nearest FSA office, as well as links to the forms listed above, please visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>. You can find your local FSA office at the very bottom of that page with a simple search of your State and County.

Please reach out to your friends and neighbors who are also agricultural producers. Please reach out to folks you trust to assist you if you have questions. Please also get prepared today. If you are an intermediary organization and you work with native producers, please make sure you broadcast this information as widely as possible.

The time to prepare for applying is now.

Chokma'shki (Thank You),
JANIE SIMMS HIPP (CHICKASAW)



CEO
Native American Agriculture Fund



To learn more, visit
NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org

