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**COVID-19 Impacts on Arkansas’ Agricultural and Rural Economies**

**UPDATE:**

**Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Payments in Arkansas**

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Created through the Coronavirus Assistance, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) and coordinated by the USDA Farm Service Agency, the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) direct payments are designed to provide relief to eligible farmers and ranchers facing financial losses due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through CFAP, USDA is making available $16 billion in financial assistance to farmers.

Over $86 million in direct payments have been approved for Arkansas farmers and ranchers through CFAP as of Monday, July 13 according to USDA reporting. Payments to livestock producers comprise nearly 75 percent of the approved CFAP payments for Arkansas. Non-specialty crops account for 23 percent of the total to date. Non-specialty crops eligible for CFAP payments include malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat. Rice and soft red winter wheat were excluded from the CFAP program.

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| **Table 1. Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Payments, Arkansas (as of July 13, 2020)** | | | |
|  | **Payments** | **Payments**  **(percent of Total)** | **Applications** |
| Non-specialty | $19,609,342 | 23 percent | 2,782 |
| Specialty | $1,278,707 | 1 percent | 43 |
| Livestock | $64,668,341 | 75 percent | 11,058 |
| Dairy | $807,587 | 1 percent | 38 |
| **Total** | **$86,363,977** |  | **13,921** |
| Source: USDA, Farm Service Agency. | | | |

Table 2 below provides a comparison of cumulative CFAP payments to U.S and Arkansas producers. USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has already approved over $5.8 billion in payments to U.S. producers who have applied for the program. FSA began taking applications May 26, and the agency has received 409,423 applications for this program. Arkansas’ share of CFAP payments is relatively small at 1.5 percent of the total. Iowa, for example, leads all states in payments for both non-specialty crops (17.8 percent) and livestock (10.3 percent). California leads in specialty crop payments (44 percent). Wisconsin is the top recipient of dairy payments (21 percent).

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| **Table 2. Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Payments, U.S. and Arkansas (as of July 13, 2020).** | | | | |
| **Commodity** | **U.S. Payments ($)** | **Arkansas Payments ($)** | **Arkansas percent of U.S. Total** | **Arkansas Ranking** |
| Non-specialty | $1,541,886,148 | $19,609,342 | 1.3 percent | 18 |
| Specialty | $158,483,152 | $1,278,707 | 0.8 percent | 14 |
| Livestock | $2,973,638,485 | $64,668,341 | 2.2 percent | 13 |
| Dairy | $1,198,508,454 | $807,587 | 0.1 percent | 45 |
| **Total** | **$5,872,516,239** | **$86,363,977** | **1.5 percent** | **22** |
| Source: USDA, Farm Service Agency. | | | | |

Eligible farmers and ranchers may apply for CFAP direct payments through county USDA Farm Service Agency offices until August 28, 2020. More information on the CFAP program and the application process may be found at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap). CFAP payment data will be updated and released by the USDA each Monday at 1 p.m. central time at [CFAP Payment Report](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CFAP-PaymentReportData-06152020.pdf).

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