



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

June 3, 2021

## Pandemic Cover Crop Program

As part of COVID-19 relief packages, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers (PAP) initiative.

One program from the PAP initiative was announced June 1, 2021, titled the Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP). The PCCP will provide a premium benefit to agricultural producers who have coverage under most crop insurance policies if they planted cover crops during this crop year. The premium support is \$5 per acre, but no more than the full premium owed. All cover crops reportable to USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) are eligible and include cereals and other grasses, legumes, brassicas and other non-legume broadleaves, and mixtures of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time.

To participate in this program a producer must file a [Report of Acreage form \(FSA-578\)](#) for cover crops with USDA's FSA by **June 15, 2021**, which is different from the normal acreage reporting date. The normal acreage reporting deadline with FSA has not changed, but to receive the premium benefit, producers must file by **June 15**. The cover crop fields reported on the Report of Acreage form must match what the producer reported to their insurance company for crop insurance policies. To file the form, producers must contact and make an appointment with their local FSA service center, which can be found [here](#).

As part of filing the Report of Acreage, producers will need to provide:

- Cover crop type or variety;
- Number of acres of the cover crop;
- Map with approximate boundaries for the cover crop;
- Planting date(s);
- Planting pattern, when applicable;
- Producer shares; and
- Irrigation practice(s).

PCCP is available for most insurance policies, but there are a few exceptions related to policies that already provide the benefit through underlying coverage or that are not compatible with acreage reporting.

PCCP is **not** available for:

- Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP);
- Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO);
- Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index (HIP-WI);
- Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO);
- Stacked Income Protection (STAX)\* (if an underlying policy); and
- Margin Protection (MP)\* (if an underlying policy).

\*STAX and MP policies are only eligible for PCCP when insured as a standalone policy.

The amount under PCCP will not be paid directly to participants. Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and Approved Insurance Providers will account for the amount when calculating the total premium due to the producer. All terms and conditions specified in the crop insurance policy will remain unchanged, regardless of PCCP amounts.

If you wish to participate in the PCCP, contact your local FSA office before the application deadline of **June 15, 2021**.

### **Additional Information**

Visit [www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops](http://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops) for more information on PCCP, including eligible insurance policies and how to file the Report of Acreage form.

To view the PCCP Frequently Asked Question website visit, [www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops/pccp-faq](http://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops/pccp-faq).

For additional updates from Kentucky Farm Bureau and resources related to COVID-19 you may visit: [www.kyfb.com/federation/covid-19-resources/](http://www.kyfb.com/federation/covid-19-resources/).