



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

June 18, 2021

Pandemic Assistance for Producers

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced earlier this week that additional assistance would be distributed to producers that may have not been included in previous Coronavirus Food Assistance Program initiatives.

In March, USDA announced \$6 billion in available funds through Pandemic Assistance for Producers to support several new programs or to modify existing efforts. The following programming is planned for implementation within 60 days, which will continue to be focused on filling gaps in previous rounds of assistance.

Secretary Vilsack announced this round of payments would include support to timber harvesters, biofuels, dairy farmers and processors, livestock farmers and contract growers of poultry, assistance for organic cost share, and grants for personal protection equipment (PPE).

Details for the programs are still forthcoming, but USDA provided that the following payments would be made available for small and medium sized producers that need support most, including:

- \$200 million: Small, family-owned timber harvesting and hauling businesses.
- \$700 million: Biofuels producers.
- Support for dairy farmers and processors:
 - \$400 million: The new Dairy Donation Program to address food insecurity and mitigate food waste and loss.
 - Additional pandemic payments targeted to dairy farmers that have demonstrated losses that have not been covered by previous pandemic assistance.
 - Approximately \$580 million: Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for small and medium farms.
- Assistance for poultry and livestock producers left out of previous rounds of pandemic assistance:

- Contract growers of poultry.
- Livestock and poultry producers forced to euthanize animals during the pandemic (March 1, 2020 through December 26, 2020).
- Up to \$20 million: Additional organic cost share assistance, including for producers who are transitioning to organic.
- \$700 million: Pandemic Response and Safety Grants for PPE and other protective measures to help specialty crop growers, meat packers and processors, seafood industry workers, among others.

USDA should release more details on these programs within 60 days of the announcement, which was made on June 15.

Additional Information

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