

Donna Boggs

From: Ag Association Management Services, Inc <chris@agamsi.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 12:50 PM
To: Donna Boggs
Subject: AAMSI Update on COVID-19 Situation

May 21, 2020

[View as Webpage by Clicking Here](#)



SPECIAL **COVID-19 UPDATE**
FROM YOUR TEAM AT AAMSI



\$16 Billion in Direct Payments for American Farmers from USDA

Earlier this week, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to this direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA's [Farmers to Families Food Box](#) program is partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat and deliver boxes to Americans in need.

Additional information on these programs can be found [here](#). Industry groups are working to learn more about these opportunities. We will keep you updated

\$2.1 Billion Earmarked for Specialty Crops

As part of the above noted Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide up to \$2.1 billion in direct payments specifically for specialty crops producers. The payments will be based on losses where prices and market supply chains have been impacted and will help producers facing additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short-term oversupply for the 2020 marketing year as a result of COVID-19.

Producers that fall into one of the following categories may be eligible to receive a direct payment:

- **Sales with a price loss of 5% or more between January 15 and April 15, 2020.** Almonds, artichokes, beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, lemons, iceberg and Romaine lettuce, dry onions, peaches, pears, pecans, bell and other types of peppers, rhubarb, spinach, squash, strawberries and tomatoes are eligible.
- **Shipments that left the farm by April 15 and spoiled due to no market or for which no payment was received.** All specialty crops are eligible.
- **Shipments that have not left farm or mature crops that remained unharvested by April 15.** All specialty crops are eligible.

Beginning on May 26, 2020, producers of all eligible commodities may apply for assistance through their local USDA Farm Service Agency Service Center. Specialty crops producers are encouraged to complete the application forms ahead of the application date. Producers can locate their service center and find application forms and additional information at farmers.gov/cfap.

USDA will also make an additional \$873.3 million in Section 32 purchases of specialty crops products for distribution to food banks. The use of these additional Section 32 funds will be determined by industry requests, USDA agricultural market analysis and food bank needs. The latest purchase solicitations are available at www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda-terms/solicitations.

USDA, FDA Strengthen U.S. Food Supply Chain Protections During COVID-19 Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic response continues, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) to help prevent interruptions at FDA-regulated food facilities, including fruit and vegetable processing.

This is an important preparedness effort as we are approaching peak harvesting seasons, when many fruits and vegetables grown across the U.S. are sent to be frozen or canned. The MOU creates a process for the two agencies to make determinations about circumstances in which the USDA could exercise its authority under the Defense Production Act (DPA) with regard to certain domestic food resource facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold foods, as well as to those that grow or harvest food that fall within the FDA's jurisdiction.

While the FDA will continue to work with state and local regulators in a collaborative manner, further action under the DPA may be taken, should it be needed, to ensure the continuity of our food supply. Additional information on this MOU can be found [here](#).

CDC Report on COVID-19 in Meat Packing Facilities

Of interest is this [report](#) provided to us via the Produce Marketing Association. In this report, CDC provides a systematic assessment of the causes of 4,913 COVID-19 diagnoses in 115 meat or poultry processing facilities, where between 0.6% and 18.2% of workforce tested positive.

This CDC study identified the following as the likely causes:

- Structural and operational practices make it difficult to maintain a 6-foot distance while working, especially on production lines, and in nonproduction settings during breaks

- Pace and physical demands make adherence to face covering recommendations difficult
- Some sites did not adhere to the heightened cleaning and disinfection guidance
- Many workers live in crowded, multigenerational settings and share transportation
- Employees were incentivized to work while ill

County Ordinance Update for May 21

And then, finally, we have another update of the spreadsheet outlining specific ordinances by county. This update includes new information for several California counties as they continue to move through Phase 2 Re-opening. The full list is attached [here](#).

Alameda
Contra Costa
Fresno
Lake
Inyo
Kern
Kings
Madera
Mono
Mendocino
Napa
Riverside

Sacramento
San Benito
San Diego
San Francisco
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Stanislaus
Solano
Sonoma
Trinity
Ventura
Yolo

Ag Association Management Services, Inc. | 916.441.1064 | 1521 I Street | Sacramento, CA 95814

Ag Association Management Services, Inc | 1521 I Street, Sacramento, CA, CA 95814

[Unsubscribe donna@agamsi.com](mailto:donna@agamsi.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by chris@agamsi.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!