

Potential Financial Resources for Farmers

Updated 4/7/2020

Note: The below list contains a list of POTENTIAL programs to help farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small Business Administration

The regulations for Small Business Administration loans are still being developed. The following represents the information we know at this point. Please check back regularly for updates. Agriculture groups and associations across the country are working to find the most up-to-date information on these programs and is advocating for inclusion of agriculture.

- **Paycheck Protection Program** – Eligible businesses, including farms, with 500 or fewer employees can apply for fully-forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans from the SBA to continue to pay employees and cover some overhead costs during the pandemic. Sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed people are also eligible. Loan payments will be deferred for six months and no collateral or personal guarantees are required. Farm Bureau is advocating to ensure there are not further restrictions on the program that would limit agricultural participation. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis so it's critical that those who are interested begin the application process right away. Visit the link below to learn more. You can also contact the SBA field offices in Harrisburg at 717-782-3840, Philadelphia at 610-382-3062, and Pittsburgh at 412-395-6560. See: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>.
 - Article from AFBF: <https://www.fb.org/market-intel/update-ag-and-pppl>
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program** – Small businesses and non-profits that are facing losses due to COVID-19 can apply for low-interest loans to help cover their continued operating costs. Loans of up to \$2 million are available through the U.S. Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. Most production agriculture operations are not eligible for such loans but many related businesses are, such as restaurant and craft beverage businesses. Farm Bureau is advocating for more agricultural operations to be eligible. See: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>.
- **Free Webinars** – Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers has several free webinars scheduled to help businesses apply for SBA Emergency Loans. See: <https://pasbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events?>

USDA

Farm Service Agency

- USDA Farm Service Agency is relaxing its loan-making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need. See: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/fsa-makes-changes-to-farm-loan-disaster-conservation-and-safety-net-programs-to-make-it-easier-for-customers-to-conduct-business>

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- The CARES Act directed \$9.5 billion in funds for the Secretary of Agriculture to help producers (specialty agriculture, those producing for local food systems, livestock producers and dairy producers) who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA has not yet announced any details of what these programs may look like and when they will be available.

Risk Management Agency

- USDA Risk Management Agency is offering flexibility related to crop insurance, including enabling producers to send notifications and reports electronically, extending the date for production reports and providing additional time and deferring interest on premium and other payments. See: <https://rma.usda.gov/en/News-Room/Press/Press-Releases/2020-News/USDA-Adds-Flexibilities-for-Crop-Insurance-to-Support-Americas-Farmers-and-Ranchers>

State of PA

- *Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority* – The PIDA provides low-interest loans and lines of credit for eligible businesses that commit to creating and retaining full-time jobs and for the development of industrial parks and multi-tenant facilities. Loan applications are packaged and underwritten by a network of certified economic development organizations (CEDOs) that partner with PIDA to administer the program. See: <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/pennsylvania-industrial-development-authority-pida/>
- *Unemployment Compensation* - The state Office of Unemployment Compensation has important resources available for affected employers. <https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Employer-COVID19-FAQs.aspx>