



## **Hoosier Agricultural Producers**

Hoosier farmers and ranchers are an essential part of our community providing a reliable supply of food to households across the nation during the COVID-19 outbreak.

### **The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)**

The passage of the CARES Act provides much needed relief to Hoosier farmers, especially those directly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

- The CARES Act provides \$9.5 billion to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support agricultural producers impacted by COVID-19, \$285 million for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Food Safety Inspection Service, and Agricultural Marketing Services and Rural Development Branch, and \$14 billion to the Commodity Credit Corporation, replenishing the funds to help assist farmers. More Information on the CCC and the financing and borrowing programs it provides can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/cc>.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture Services**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to delivering services to Hoosier farmers and ranchers during these difficult times, including Farm Loans, Crop Insurance, Conservation, Disaster Assistance and Safety Net Programs, and Conducting Business Online.

### **Farm Loans**

Hoosier farmers can continue to apply with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) for farm loans and get their current loans serviced.

- FSA is relaxing the loan-making process through extending the deadline for applicants to complete the application.
- FSA is extending deadlines for producers to respond to loan servicing actions and will temporarily suspend loan accelerations and foreclosures.
- FSA will consider guaranteed lender requests for temporary payment deferral consideration or temporary forbearance consideration.

### **Crop Insurance**

- Hoosier farmers can continue to work with their Approved Insurance Providers on policies, claims and agreements. Hoosiers should contact their crop insurance agent if questions arise. USDA has worked with insurance providers to provide flexibilities to farmers, including enabling farmers to send reports electronically, extending the date for production reports, and providing additional time and deferring interest on premium payments.

## **Conservation**

- Hoosier farmers can continue to apply for conservation programs and receive conservation planning assistance. We suggest contacting your local USDA Service Center to learn how to sign up. Each of the following program offers year-round continuous signup:

## **Conducting Business Online**

- USDA services are available online for Hoosier farmers through the [farmers.gov portal](#) and [Conservation Client Gateway](#).
- USDA Service Centers are open by phone appointment only. Hoosier farmers can find their Service Center's phone numbers at <https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator>.
- More information regarding USDA services for farmers can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus>.

Frequently Asked Questions to USDA can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>.

## **Immigration H-2A Visa**

- The labor needs of Hoosier farmers must be met to ensure that they can continue putting food on the table for families across the nation. While it is important that we maintain health safety standards, we must limit the disruption to the returning H-2A temporary agriculture workers who assist farmers in planting, cultivating, and harvesting crops.
- The USDA, the Department of Labor, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of State have been working diligently to limit the disruption in the H-2A workforce caused by COVID-19. Full information the H-2A program and the resources to use to assist during COVID-19 outbreak can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a>.
- To assist farmers, The State Department (State) has authorized consular officers to waive the visa interview requirement for first-time and returning H-2 applicants and expand the categories of H-2 visa applicants whose application can be adjudicated without an in-person interview. More information can be found at [here](#). Frequently Asked Questions and Answers regarding States processing of H-2 can be found [here](#).
- USDA and the Department of Labor have identified nearly 20,000 H-2A and H-2B certified positions that have expiring contracts in coming weeks. These workers could be available to transfer to a different employer's labor certification. Farmers may download a [PDF](#) or [Excel](#) of this information.

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