

MARKET FACILITATION PROGRAM

On July 25, 2019, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced details for the 2019 support package to assist farmers in response to trade damage from retaliatory tariffs. The relief strategy continues the three programs established in 2018: The Market Facilitation Program (MFP), the Food Purchase and Distribution Program, and the Trade Promotion Program.

IMPORTANT CHANGE!!

In June, H.R. 2157, the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019* was signed into law by President Trump, requiring a change to the first round of MFP assistance provided in 2018. Producers previously deemed ineligible for MFP in 2018 because they had an average AGI level higher than \$900,000 may now be eligible for 2018 benefits. Those producers must be able to verify 75 percent or more of their average AGI was derived from farming to qualify for the program.

***Please work with your local FSA office representative to determine if you are eligible.
FSA office contact information is attached.***

2019 Program Application

MFP payments will be made to producers of **almonds**, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

Payments for nuts: \$146 per acre.

Sign Up: Local Farm Service Agencies (FSA)
Monday, July 29 through Friday, December 6, 2019.

Payment: MFP payments will be made in up to three tranches. USDA will begin making first tranche payments (50%) in mid-to-late August. The second and third tranche will be made as determined by CCC, if warranted.

Limits: MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no person or legal entity can receive more than \$500,000.

Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, **or** 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 must have been derived from farming and ranching.

2018 Re-Application

The Commodity Credit Corporation is reopening the 2018 MFP program application process for those producers affected by the 2018 statutory mandate restricting the AGI. **That application period will run concurrently with the 2019 application period.** All other provisions of the 2018 MFP apply to those newly eligible producers.

Payments for almonds: \$0.03 per pound.

Sign Up: Local Farm Service Agencies (FSA)
Monday, July 29 through Friday, December 6, 2019.

Payment: MFP payments will be made based on edible meat pounds.

Limits: MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for specialty crop producers (almonds and sweet cherries).

Applicants who were unable to participate due to AGI calculation, must be able to show that 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 must have been derived from farming and ranching. Form CCC-942 must be filed by effective producers and also signed by an Attorney or CPA.

What is needed to file an Application?

MFP applications are available online at www.farmers.gov/MFP. Applications can also be completed at a local FSA office or submitted electronically either by scanning, emailing, or faxing.

We recommend that you contact your local county office and **make an appointment** to go in and sign-up as they anticipate a large number of producers will be affected. A list of offices is attached.

The application is straightforward. Each eligible producer applies for MFP participation once by completing a “Market Facilitation Program 2019” (MFP 2019) application (form CCC-913). Payments will not be issued until a producer certifies his ownership share interest of the crop as specified on the “Report of Acreage” (form FSA-578) filed with FSA for each farm that is subject of the request for payment under MFP.

For specialty crops, the payment will be calculated by multiplying the state per acre payment rate (\$146) by the producer’s reported share interest in the specialty crop as reported to FSA on a FSA-578, or according to the applicable crop insurance policy. For almonds, only acreage which has reached its fourth growing season in 2019 will be eligible for MFP. State per acre payment rates by specific commodity will be posted to FSA’s website, www.fsa.usda.gov.

If requested, the producer must provide supporting documentation as determined by CCC to support the reported acreage reported on form FSA-578 or as reported to the producer’s crop insurance provider.

2019 payments will be provided in up to three payments. The first payment will be up to 50 percent of the total calculated payment. CCC will determine if further payments are warranted. If they do, the second payment will be up to 75 percent of the total calculated payment less the amount received in the first payment. The second payment period will begin in November 2019. Should the third and final payment be deemed warranted, it will be for the remaining amount of the total calculated payment unless otherwise adjusted by CCC and that payment period will begin in January 2020.

Applications must be submitted no later than December 6, 2019.

What if I have more questions?

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Almond Board: Toni Arellano
tarellano@almondboard.com
(209) 343-3220

Almond Alliance: Ashley Hollis
staff@almondalliance.org
(209) 300-7140

Local FSA Office: www.farmers.gov/

Guidelines for Application Process

To save time, please make an appointment at your local FSA office. Office locations and contact information is attached.

1. File Form CCC-913, the 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) Application. Since payments are based on acres, we recommend making an appointment with your local office to complete the application to make sure we have the correct acreage. Errors in acreage can delay payments.
2. File Form CCC-941 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000 or, 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 must have been derived from farming, ranching and forestry. Applicants plus members of entities, partners of general partnerships and joint ventures, and individuals must file the applicable forms. File Form CCC-942 if AGI is over \$900,000 to confirm that at least 75 percent of AGI comes from farming and ranching. This form must be signed by an Attorney or CPA.
3. File Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification (Includes Form AD-1026 Appendix). If no changes from 2018, you do not need to file a new form. Affiliates of your farming operation must also file this form.
4. File Form CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility in 2009 and Subsequent Years and the CCC-901 Members Information. Identifies members and shares of a legal entity. Requires legal names and social security numbers for all members, partners, etc.
5. File Form FSA-578 Crop Acreage Report. If not timely filed, a late file fee will be charged for each farm. Please bring your checkbook if applicable. This form is generated out of the county office.
6. File Form SF-3881 ACH Vendor Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form. Identifies the financial institution you wish to use for direct deposit of your MFP payment. Please bring a voided check.
7. Form AD-2047 Customer Data Worksheet Request for Business Partner Record Change. If FSA does not have your information filed, this form requests the legal name, address, contact information, social security numbers and/or employer ID number of all individuals, partners, and members of your farming operation.
8. Other Important Documents. If you have not visited a county office, or have not updated your records recently, please bring the following documents:
 - Land Ownership/Interest. Photocopy of recorded deed or County Assessor Tax Statement, Rental or Lease Agreement, for all land that you are claiming an interest.
 - Signature Authority. Documentation of who may sign on behalf of your organization, such as Articles of Incorporation, General and/or Limited Partnership Agreements, LLC Agreements, Estate or Trust documents for all entities involved.

Contacting your Local FSA Office

- **Butte**- Lisa Hays
Acting County Executive Director
Phone: 530-534-0112
150 Chuck Yeager Way STE D
Oroville, 95965
- **Colusa**-Denise Nannen
County Executive Director
Phone: 530-458-5131
100 Sunrise Blvd STE D
Colusa, 95932
- **Fresno**- Russ Friend
County Executive Director
Phone: 559-276-7494
4625 W Jennifer Ave STE 109
Fresno, 93722
- **Glenn**- Danielle LeRoux
County Executive Director
Phone: 530-934-4601
132 N Enright Ave
Willows, 95988
- **Kern**- Cynthia Robertson
County Executive Director
Phone: 661-336-0967
5080 California Ave, Suite 150
Bakersfield, 93309
- **Kings**- Kathy Sargent
County Executive Director
Phone: 559-585-8732
680 Campus Dr STE C
Hanford, 93230
- **Madera**- Mani Gill
County Executive Director
Phone: 559-674-4628
425 N Gateway Dr STE E
Madera, 93637
- **Merced**- Garrett Pedretti
County Executive Director
Phone: 209-205-4964
2926 G Street
Merced, 95340
- **San Joaquin**- Sara Bautista
Acting County Executive Director
Phone: 209-235-5250
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Stockton, 95206
- **Solano**- Jessica Garcia
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- **Stanislaus**- Maria Perez
County Executive Director
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3800 Cornucopia Way
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- **Sutter- Covered under Yuba Office**
- **Tehama**- Ruth Ford
County Executive Director
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- **Tulare**- Kaye Rydberg
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Phone: 559-734-8732
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- **Yolo**- Cynthia Gillette
County Executive Director
Phone: 530-662-2037
221 West Court Street STE 3-B
Woodland, 95695
- **Yuba**- Kathleen Bowman
Acting County Executive Director
Phone: 530-671-0850
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Yuba City, 95993