

Application Period Begins for Federal Funds to Farmers Impacted By Tariffs

(HAMILTON SQUARE, N.J.) – The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is alerting the state’s farmers that the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting applications on Sept. 4 for funds to help those producers negatively impacted by tariffs on U.S. agricultural products.

The USDA has been authorized to expend up to \$12 billion in various programs to help farmers cope with the impact of retaliatory tariffs.

One of the programs, the Market Facilitation Program, will provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers in the United States.

The Market Facilitation Program will provide payments through FSA to farmers in the following manner:

- ✓ Wheat – at 14 cents per bushel of production
- ✓ Sorghum – at 86 cents per bushel
- ✓ Soybeans – at \$1.65 per bushel
- ✓ Hogs – at \$8.00 per head
- ✓ Dairy – at 12 cents per hundredweight
- ✓ Corn – at 1 cent per bushel
- ✓ Cotton – at 6 cents per pound

Eligible applicants must have an ownership interest in the commodity, be actively engaged in farming (with the exception of hogs), have an average adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016, and meet other eligibility criteria. Applications will be available at FSA Service Centers starting Sept. 4 with the first payment period paying on 50-percent of the producer’s actual 2018 production. A second payment period may be authorized by the USDA if it is deemed warranted.

New Jersey farmers interested in applying for Market Facilitation Program funds should call their local FSA Service Center. New Jersey’s FSA Service Centers can be found [here](#).

In addition to the Market Facilitation Program, the USDA is undertaking two other efforts to help farmers impacted by the tariffs.

One is a Food Purchase and Distribution Program, to be administered by the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, that will buy up to \$1.2 billion in commodities and distribute them through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and child nutrition programs.

Additionally, the Foreign Agricultural Service’s Agricultural Trade Promotion Program will make \$200 million available to help develop foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products.

