

Navigating Farm Support Programs During COVID-19

Paul Mitchell, Professor of Agriculture and Applied Economics, Extension State Specialist, and Director of the Renk Agribusiness Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison & Joy Kirkpatrick, Center for Dairy Profitability, UW-Madison and Division of Extension

The coronavirus pandemic and COVID-19 have significantly disrupted our society and economy, with profound effects on agriculture that have yet to be fully understood. Commodity prices have collapsed, farmers are dumping milk, meat packing plants have closed and farmers markets are shut down. In response, the federal government has passed multiple new laws and changed rules to help the economy and agriculture recover. This array of new programs and possibilities layered on top of existing programs can be confusing and difficult to understand. Hence, we have developed this document to help farmers and those working with them to navigate the programs and options to identify the those that are likely to be the best choices for them to use depending on their situation. The situation is fluid, as state and federal agencies and their private partners are rushing to develop administrative rules based on laws that were passed a few weeks ago. This document will try to stay up to date on these changes as they occur. The table below lists various issues or problems a farm may be having and the column on the right lists the program to explore that is meant to help. The next page has a list of the programs and resources. The focus is on new federal programs that can help farmers. Because many of the issues are financial in nature, communicating with lenders is an important part of the process not in the table. If you have a farm issue that is not in the table and you think Extension may be able to help, contact your Extension county agriculture agent.

Farm Problem	Programs to Explore
We are a farm struggling to pay our W2 employees, make mortgage payments, and pay other bills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paycheck Protection Program Economic Injury Disaster Loan
We have a partnership or LLC and we are having trouble paying ourselves our regular salaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paycheck Protection Program Economic Injury Disaster Loan
We are a family farm (Sole proprietor) with no employees, struggling to make mortgage payments and pay other bills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paycheck Protection Program
We normally hire 1099 employees, but no longer can afford them, what program can they use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paycheck Protection Program
We have been struggling to pay out payroll taxes for our employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee Retention Credit Payroll Tax Deferral
We have been struggling to get our farm work done because some of us have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are ill with symptoms, or we have been caring for our children due to school/day-care closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
My income has fallen due to low milk prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dairy Margin Coverage Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program Wisconsin Farm Support Program
My income has fallen due to low beef and livestock prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program Wisconsin Farm Support Program
My income has fallen due to low crop prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program Wisconsin Farm Support Program
We are struggling to pay the new mandatory paid sick leave for employees diagnosed with COVID-19 or who are caring for members in their household who are ill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families First Coronavirus Recovery Act
COVID-19 has shut down my farmers markets, produce auctions, and direct sales customers and I have nowhere to sell my produce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Farmers to Families Food Box

Program descriptions and links continue on the following page 3.