



As of today, all Iowa [pork processing plants](#) are operating. Estimates are that plant operations averaged across the country are at about 75% capacity. The uptick in processing doesn't erase the bottleneck that has occurred on farms. If you need information or resources about [euthanasia and disposal options](#), please use the Iowa [Resource Coordination Center](#).

Applications for USDA's Direct Assistance Open Tuesday, May 26

The details of USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ([CFAP](#)) have been released. In total, it will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to farmers and ranchers impacted by the novel coronavirus pandemic. In addition to direct support, CFAP also allocates \$3 billion for purchases of meat and other commodities for food banks and pantries.

Beginning Tuesday, May 26, local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will accept applications from farmers who have losses because of COVID-19. If you have worked with FSA in the recent past, they likely have all the information they need and you can submit your CFAP application.

- [Livestock eligible](#) for direct payment include hogs. The total payment will be calculated using the sum of the producer's number of livestock sold between January 15 and April 15, 2020, multiplied by the [payment rates per head](#), and the highest inventory number of livestock between April 16 and May 14, 2020, multiplied by the payment rate per head.
- There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 [per person or entity](#) for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits where members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farm. Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) [limitation of \\$900,000](#) unless at least [75% or more of their income](#) is derived from farming. Producers must also [be in compliance](#) with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions if applicable.
- Information on other commodities can also be found at the [USDA site](#)

To ensure the availability of funding throughout the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.

If you have not worked with FSA before, [contact your local office](#) to discuss what information you need to submit. This will include your [basic contact information](#), as well as compliance with other FSA requirements noted above. In addition, they will need [direct deposit information](#).

NPPC Encourages Support in Senate for Livestock Provisions in Heroes Act

The National Pork Producers Association is asking members of the U.S. Senate to adopt the HEROES Act passed by the House last week. Specifically, it is asking senators to adopt provisions that will provide USDA funding to farmers for compensation of euthanasia and disposal of hogs as a result of COVID-19 disruption of the food supply chain. In addition, NPPC is seeking the removal of payment caps for this aid; and funding for mental health support of farmers impacted by these actions. Farmers can [reach out to ask the U.S Senate](#) to take this action.

Iowa's two U.S. Senators Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst have already expressed support for these provisions and IPPA encourages Iowa farmers to encourage them to continue their support.

Resilience in Tough Decisions and Difficult Actions

You aren't in the pig business to euthanize and dispose of large batches of pigs or market hogs. But, you can't operate with over-crowded barns for extended period either. If you have to euthanize large groups of animals, it's important to [find someone](#) who can provide you guidance and ideas about [working through that trauma](#). A recorded webinar from the Iowa Pork Industry Center provides [practical approaches to use](#).

As bad as this situation is, now is not the time for actions that make permanent solutions to a temporary problem. This just can't be stressed enough. And, even if you think you're handling the stress well, be aware that it can still show up 4 to 6 months from now. And, if this situation isn't impacting you at this time, we encourage you to listen to and talk with those being impacted. Again, the [webinar provides advice](#) for those in that role, too.

Iowa Pork Producers Set Tentative Date for Committee Day

IPPA has tentatively set July 31 as this year's Committee Day. Although typically held in mid-June, it was re-scheduled due to novel coronavirus concerns. The location will be at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny if the July 31 date holds.

Here are related websites for more information:

[IPPA's COVID-19 Information](#)
[National Pork Board efforts](#)

[Iowa Department of Agriculture's COVID-19 site](#)
[USDA's COVID-19 webpage](#)

[State of Iowa Comprehensive COVID-19 Information](#)
[CDC's website](#)

About IPPA News for Members

This is an exclusive e-newsletter for members of the Iowa Pork Producers Association. We encourage you to share this information with other members in your county. If you are not an IPPA member and this has been forwarded to you, please send your e-mail address to dricheson@iowapork.org and we will be happy to send this directly to your inbox.



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