

MIKE THOMPSON

5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2721 NAPA VALLEY CORPORATE DRIVE
NAPA, CA 94558
(707) 226-9898
420 VIRGINIA STREET, SUITE 1C
VALLEJO, CA 94590
(707) 645-1888
2300 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE A100
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403
(707) 542-7182
CAPITOL OFFICE:
406 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3311
WEB: <http://mikethompson.house.gov>

May 17, 2022

Dear Friend:

Good news! Yesterday, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that my legislation to provide direct payments to growers who had crop losses due to natural disasters in 2020 or 2021 is being implemented. USDA will immediately begin Phase 1 of the program which will now be referred to as the **Emergency Relief Program** (previously known as the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus or WHIP+).

Phase 1 includes all crops for which Federal Crop Insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage was available and a crop insurance indemnity or NAP payment was received. USDA has stated that Phase 2, which includes all other growers, will be administered later this summer. If you are unsure which phase you are in, please contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

For Phase 1 growers, USDA will send you a prefilled application form. There will be separate forms for each year of losses. You will need to review the forms to ensure all the information is accurate, sign, and return it to your local FSA office in person or by fax or email. USDA expects to send out these pre-filled applications by the end of May. You will not receive your payment if you do not return your form to the FSA office.

Phase 1 producers must also have the following forms on file with FSA:

- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable)
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.

I am told that most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, if you are uncertain or want to confirm, you should contact your local FSA office.

Importantly, my legislation raised the cap on payments for specialty crops, including winegrapes. In addition to the forms listed above, you may also need to submit the following forms to qualify for this increased payment limitation or payment rate.

- Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs.

- Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, for the applicable program year.

Finally, I am working with USDA to organize a webinar so that growers in our community can hear about the Emergency Relief Program directly from USDA and ask any questions before applying. I will notify you as soon as this is scheduled.

Please know that I will continue to do all in my power to ensure that every grower in our community gets the payments they are owed. As always, please contact my office if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress