

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>

January 9, 2023

Dear Friend:

Good news! Yesterday, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that my legislation to provide direct payments to growers with crop losses due to natural disasters in 2020 or 2021 is continuing to be implemented. USDA will soon begin Phase 2 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 included 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. **Phase 2 includes all other growers.**

Enrollment for Phase 2 begins January 23, 2023. In the meantime, I encourage producers to gather the supporting documentation needed to apply, including the information used to create the IRS Schedule F, as well as a copy of the FSA-1099G for the selected benchmark and disaster years. Please read [this fact sheet](#) from USDA for more information on documentation. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact your local FSA office.

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.

In addition to the forms listed above, I encourage underserved producers to register their status with FSA, using Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*, as certain existing permanent and ad-hoc disaster programs provide increased benefits or reduced fees and premiums. You can find more information about these programs [here](#) or at your local FSA office.

Finally, I am working with USDA to organize a webinar so that Phase 2 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress