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Arizona & California Edition

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Happy New Year from FARM Inc.

Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Payment Rates Announced

USDA has released payment rates for commodities eligible under the \$11 billion Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program, which covers most marketing loan-eligible row crops (similar to ECAP).

Key details:

- Payment rates by commodity are now available on the USDA website. You can view them [here](#).
- 2025 acreage reports must have been finalized with local FSA offices by December 19, 2025.
- USDA will send pre-filled applications to producers by mail or email.
- Producers should review and submit applications through local FSA offices or online.
- Payments are expected by February 28.**

Additional context:

- FBA is designed as a bridge to a strengthened farm safety net, including enhanced PLC and ARC programs and improved crop insurance premium support.
- Lawmakers have indicated that additional congressional aid may be needed, particularly for commodities not fully covered under FBA.
- USDA continues processing SDRP II loss claims, with expectations of further payment top-ups.
- Recent legislative efforts delivered the largest farm safety net improvements in over 20 years, along with ECAP '24 and disaster assistance for 2023–24 losses.

These measures provide important support for producers facing ongoing economic and weather challenges, while laying groundwork for longer-term stability in U.S. agriculture.

Here's to a year where your soil stays fertile, your crops stay healthy, and your spirit stays strong. May every challenge be met with courage, every setback with wisdom, and every harvest with gratitude. 🌱

PP +5 Eliminated for 2026

This was an important endorsement to crop insurance policies that allowed growers with eligible Prevented-Plant acres to receive an additional 5% indemnity. It has been taken away by RMA without any notice or opportunity for stakeholder input. This unpopular decision was met with widespread pushback by major commodity groups, growers, and agents. It is vitally important that you and organizations of which you are a part submit comments regarding the PP regulation expressing your strong opposition to the changes and identifying the harm these changes will wreak upon farm and ranch families across the country. Comments are due by January 27 and may be provided via the Federal eRulemaking Portal, accessible [here](#). You can view additional information or verbiage to use through this [link](#).

JUST A REMINDER

If you have not done so already, please remember to send us your yields for the 2025 spring crops. We will need this to get you a correct quote for the new crop year. Do not forget to let us know if your yields are off for any reason. The sooner the better!

Spring Crop Applications

The 2026 Spring applications for crop insurance are due February 28, 2026. We are currently measuring the cotton insurance price off the DEC 2026 Board (average close Jan 15th – Feb 14th). Be sure to let us know if you have been farming 10 years or less, you may be eligible for additional premium subsidy if the Beginning Farmer/Rancher is designated on your application. SCO and ECO should also be strongly considered on your application because premium is subsidized 80%. This can give you additional coverage up to 95%. Please reach out to your agent to discuss application changes.

If you would like to receive our newsletter by mail, or someone you know would like to receive our newsletters; please send us a message stating so to: farminc@cox.net

Important Dates to add to your Calendar

What the new year brings to you depends a great deal on what you bring to the new year.” – Vern McLellan

- Jan. 15th – Feb. 14th – Corn and cotton 2025 insurance initial price measured using 2026 DEC. board.
- January 15th – Acreage and production reporting date for citrus and apples.
- January 31st – Final plant date for wheat in following counties: Greenlee, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai, and Yuma. Final plant date for barley in following counties: Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, and Yuma. Final plant date for triticale in Yuma. Final date to sign up or make changes to pecan and chile pepper policies.
- January 31st – The 10th Annual FFA Blue & Gold Gala.
- February 10th – Final plant date for wheat in following counties: Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal.
- February 15th – Final plant date for wheat and barley in following counties: Cochise and Graham.
- Feb. 16th-18th – American Pistachio Growers annual meeting in Indian Wells, CA
- Feb. 17th-19th – SW Ag Summit in Yuma
- February 28th – Final date to sign up or make changes to spring policies including STAX, SCO & ECO.
- March 15th – Acreage reporting date for fall crops - wheat, barley (and triticale in Yuma Co), potatoes, and pistachios. Also, the production reporting deadline for pistachios.

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