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Committee on Agriculture

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**AD HOC REPORT ON COVID-19 MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES
IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Listed below are some of the major actions taken by the United States of America in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic as of 24 July 2020. This list is illustrative and not exhaustive.
2. The United States notes that this *ad hoc* report is not a substitute for normal transparency obligations. The United States will notify all relevant domestic support measures in the relevant notifications for the relevant years.
3. Since the onset of the pandemic in the United States, USDA has maintained a COVID-19 webpage that is regularly updated with all activities USDA is undertaking to respond to the pandemic. Visit <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus> for the most up to date information.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AD HOC REPORT ON COVID-19 MEASURES

| Measure | Agency | Short Description | Website | Legal Reference for Actions |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) | USDA Farm Service Agency | The CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline over a specified time or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions and face additional significant market costs. | https://www.farmers.gov/cfap | Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act |
| USDA Farmers to Families Food Box | USDA Agricultural Marketing Service | USDA partners with national, regional and local suppliers, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, to purchase up to USD 3 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products. Suppliers will package these products into family-sized boxes, then transport them to food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need | https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/farmers-to-families-food-box | Families First Coronavirus Response Act |
| Crop Insurance | USDA Risk Management Agency | USDA is working with Approved Insurance Providers to provide additional flexibilities in response to COVID-19, including but not limited to enabling electronic reporting and transactions, extending dates and deadlines for various reports, providing additional time and deferring interest on premium and other payments. | https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus | existing authorities |
| Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) | USDA Farm Service Agency | MALs now mature at 12 months rather than nine months and this flexibility is available for nonrecourse loan commodities. | https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/usda-announces-loan-maturity-for-marketing-assistance-loans-now-extended-to-12-months | CARES Act |

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| USDA Farm Loans | USDA Farm Service Agency | USDA is providing additional flexibilities to provide producers with credit options in response to the coronavirus pandemic. USDA is relaxing the loan making process, extending deadlines, making disaster set-aside provisions (normally used in wake of natural disasters) available to direct loan borrowers who have been impacted by the pandemic. | https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus | existing authorities |
| Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) | USDA Food and Nutrition Service | USDA has allowed flexibilities to reduce the need for face-to-face contact for SNAP. For example, USDA is allowing states to conduct SNAP quality control interviews by telephone instead of in person. USDA has also offered states an optional 45-day extension on certain quality control case reviews. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act provide USDA a contingency reserve should SNAP exceed budget estimates. | https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus/food-assistance | Families First Coronavirus Response Act, CARES Act, and 7 CFR 272.3(c) |
| Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) | USDA Food and Nutrition Service | USDA has been expeditiously approving state requests to allow for additional substitution options if availability of certain WIC-prescribed foods is limited. USDA is also minimizing face-to-face interaction in WIC by reducing required visits to the clinic through a variety of waivers, temporarily waiving in-person requirements for enrolling/reenrolling for WIC and picking up WIC benefits, and allowing deferment of certain medical tests. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act provide USDA additional funding. | https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus/food-assistance | Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act |
| Food Distribution | USDA Food and Nutrition Service | Under the Presidential Declaration of a National Emergency, USDA may approve state and Tribal Nation requests for Disaster Household Distribution. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act provide USDA additional funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, a food distribution program. | https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus/food-assistance | Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act |

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|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Coronavirus Pandemic EBT | USDA Food and Nutrition Service | The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve state agency plans for temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Children who would receive free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russel National School Lunch Act if not for the school closure are eligible under this provision. State agencies may submit plans in any case in which a school is closed for at least five consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session. | https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt | Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 |
| Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) | Small Business Administration (SBA) | The PPP is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses, including agricultural businesses, to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. | https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program | CARES Act, Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 |
| Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance (EIDL) | Small Business Administration (SBA) | Eligible small business owners may apply for an EIDL Advance, which is an advance designed to provide economic relief to businesses, including agricultural businesses, that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. This loan advance will not have to be repaid. | https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loan-emergency-advance | CARES Act, Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act |