

USDA Announces October 30 Deadline to Submit WHIP+ Applications

Friday, October 9, 2020

From USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced recently that **Friday, October 30, 2020** as the **deadline to submit applications** for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) for 2018 and 2019 losses. USDA did not originally specify a deadline when the program was announced.

Producers who have not yet applied for the WHIP+ program are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment prior to October 30.

FSA offices are authorized to maintain a register of producers unable to be accommodated prior to October 30, to ensure they maintain full eligibility.

WHIP+ compensates producers for losses due to hurricane, floods, snowstorms, tornadoes, typhoon, volcanic activity, drought, excessive moisture, and wildfires occurring in calendar years 2018 and 2019. Drought and excessive moisture were added as eligible losses for the program in March 2020. To date, FSA has received more than 133,000 applications for WHIP+ disaster assistance and paid out nearly \$1.4 billion in WHIP+ benefits.

Also, FSA has launched a new tool on the WHIP+ webpage (<https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus>) to help producers understand eligibility for the program and whether they had possible losses in 2018 and 2019. The tool also allows producers an opportunity to provide information for FSA staff to reach out to them.

FSA will announce soon the details for producers who experienced quality loss from 2018 and 2019 natural disaster events authorized in appropriations legislation. There will be a separate signup period for producers reporting quality loss.

For more information or application assistance, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus> or contact your local USDA Service Center.

Cotton Incorporated – “Cotton & Coffee”

Oct. 20, 2020 – “Getting Consumers to Care About Cotton” with Kim Kitchings, Senior Vice President of Consumer Marketing at Cotton Incorporated & Anne David, Director of Advertising at Cotton Incorporated

Nov. 10, 2020 - “Top Priorities of the Ag Research Department” – with Kater Hake, Vice President of Ag and Environmental Research at Cotton Incorporated

Dec. 1, 2020 - “The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol” with Jesse Daystar, Chief Sustainability Officer with Cotton Incorporated and Gary Adams, President and CEO of National Cotton Council
Contact Christi Short (cshort@cottonboard.org) or Shelley Heinrich (sheinrich@cottonboard.org)

Farm Stress: Help and Hope

<https://pcca.com/farm-stress-help-and-hope/>

USDA, USTR Seeks Experts for Agricultural Trade Advisory Committees

October 15, 2020

From USDA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15, 2020 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Office of the U.S. States Trade Representative (USTR) are accepting applications for new members to serve on seven agricultural trade advisory committees.

Members of the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) advise USDA and USTR on operating existing U.S. trade agreements, on negotiating new agreements, and on other trade policy matters. Members of six Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees (ATACs) provide technical advice and guidance on international trade issues that affect both domestic and foreign production in specific commodity sectors. The ATACs focus on trade in:

- Animals and animal products;
- Fruits and vegetables;
- Grains, feed, oilseeds, and planting seeds;
- Processed foods;
- Sweeteners and sweetener products; and
- Tobacco, cotton and peanuts.

To be considered for candidacy, applicants must have significant expertise in both agriculture and international trade matters. Committee members, who serve four-year terms, represent a cross-section of U.S. food and agricultural stakeholders. They must be U.S. citizens, qualify for a security clearance, and be willing to serve without compensation for time, travel, or expenses. The committees hold frequent conference calls and generally meet in Washington twice a year.

Application instructions are available at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/trade-advisory-committees-applying-membership>. Applications must be received by **5 p.m. ET on Nov. 13, 2020**. Any applications received after the deadline will be considered for future appointments as appropriate.

For more information, visit <https://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-advisory-committees> or email ATACs@fas.usda.gov.

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