

Vermont Farm Service Agency Farm Loan & Program Results and New Programs

Wendy Wilton, FSA State Executive Director
VT House Agriculture Committee 2-6-26

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/vermont>



USDA Vermont FSA Service Centers **FSA**



Vermont Farm Service Agency Farm Loan 2025

FSA Farm Loans

\$112 Million in current & proposed loans:

Direct Loan caseload: \$45 Million

Guaranteed Loan caseload: \$66 Million

Direct Loans pending (new): \$848,780

Loans to Beginning Farmers: \$1.58 Million

Current Direct lending rate is 4.625% for operating loans, 5.625% for ownership loans—favorable rates compared to other credit sources

Emergency Loans, 3.75%, *drought trigger*

Delinquency rate (\$) for Direct loans: 2.2%,

Delinquency rate (\$) for Guaranteed Loans, 0.4%

Vermont Farm Service Agency Farm Program Results 2025 & 2026 to date

**\$42.7 million to date for 2023 & 2024
flood and 2025 drought disaster
payments:**

ECAP: \$3.9 million (flooding, excess moisture affecting crop loss, planting)

ECP: \$2.1 million for flooding, 2025 drought in application phase

EFRP: \$22,073

ELAP: \$60,207 (includes honeybees and water hauling)

LFP: \$169,729

LIP: \$33,184 (livestock loss, flood)

NAP: \$774,028

Supplemental Disaster Programs 2024:

SDRP: \$3.7 million (to date)

ELRP: \$32 million (to date)

Vermont Farm Service Agency New Farm Programs 2026

New FSA Programs

Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA)

\$11 B for row crops. Feb 2026 payment if crop reported by 12/19/25, rates set per acre

\$1 billion for specialty crops, forthcoming.

American Relief Act of 2025, \$30 Billion total funding

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/disaster-assistance-programs>

- ELRP, Emergency Livestock Relief Program for Flooding, expected \$40 million+
- SDRP, Supplemental Disaster Relief Program, loss of revenue or quality of crops, Two phases, sign up deadline April 30, 2026, \$3.7 Million, so far
- Small States Block Grants (VT) working with VAAFM



Vermont Farm Service Agency Farm Program Changes 2026

OBBA Program changes expected ARC-PLC:

VT: \$1.5 million payments for 2025 crop year

Changes for 2026:

- Increase in reference prices
- 30 million base acres added nationally
- Increased payment limit

DMC:

VT: 2023 \$29.2 million, 2024 \$800k, 2025 not yet completed.

Changes for 2026:

- Tier 1: increase to 6 million# from 5 million#
- Establish new production history

Also, Tax changes to improve succession planning



Vermont Farm Service Agency USDA Secretary Priorities

Farmers First:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmers-first-small-family-farms-policy-agenda.pdf>

9 USDA Policy Goals including the following:

- Support for small family farms, 86% of all US farms
- Farm transition tax treatment
- Special focus on new and beginning famers
- Reform to H-2A & H-2B
- Streamline processes for programs and approvals
- Easier applications, online access