

NYFEA UPDATE

June 5, 2020



NYFEA Update

In an effort to encourage members and friends to pursue information from fact-based sources, NYFEA is providing insight on a few key topics.



YOUNG FARMERS WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO USDA AID

Taken from *Politico: Morning Ag* as of June 3, 2020

Some young and beginning farmers feel excluded from the Agriculture Department's coronavirus assistance efforts, hamstrung by a complicated application process that does not accommodate small, diversified producers, [reports Ximena Bustillo](#).

Groups representing this demographic warn that an entire generation of farmers could go bankrupt this year, especially after their request for a portion of funds to be set aside for young and beginning producers has not been granted.

The Agriculture Department predicts that it will receive 1.6 million applications for the [Coronavirus Financial Assistance Program](#). The application period opened will run through August. A USDA spokesperson said that a lack of experience with the department should not be a deterrent to applying, and the program is open to all types of producers and farms.

All in the math: Some producers argue the calculation used to determine direct payments is bound to mainly benefit large growers and shuts out many young and beginning farmers with direct sales or CSA business models. Those sales may mean they're unable to adequately represent their loss, including increases in out-of-pocket costs, to receive enough federal money. The payments are also on a per-crop basis, complicating how diversified farmers could tally losses.

(For more details on the programs go to [farmers.gov](#))



Follow #OurFarmers During #Plant2020

Taken from *Farmers.gov* as of June 5, 2020

It's planting season, and our team is closely following spring planting across the country. We encourage you to follow along with our [#plant2020 campaign](#), or even better, send us photos of how planting is going on your farm.

As you know, many farmers across the country faced challenges last year when it came to planting their spring crop. Flooding and excessive moisture led to nearly 20 million prevented plant acres, the highest number ever recorded. This year, most producers are seeing more favorable planting conditions when it comes to

weather. But they are facing yet another challenge – putting a crop in the ground during a global pandemic. With many states implementing “stay at home” orders, agriculture was deemed an essential industry as all producers know that farm work and livestock care can't be paused.

Get Involved

We invite you to send us your planting progress by sending an email to sharingoursuccesses@usda.gov with your photos, photo descriptions, your city and state, and your Twitter handle (if you have one).

(Also, please share your photos with NYFEA. Send to nyfea-main@nyfea.org)

2020 NYFEA Institute – Fort Wayne, Indiana

Hotel: Hilton Fort Wayne at the Grand Wayne Conv. Center; 1020 S. Calhoun St, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; Hotel: 260-420-1100 (ask for NYFEA or Young Farmer Room Rate) Room: \$112.00/night – until block is filled or 11/10/2020 (cut-off date). (If you have any challenges with your room or registration, please call NYFEA at 334-546-9951 or email: nyfea-main@nyfea.org)

Schedule:

- Wednesday, Dec. 2 – Registration at noon. Board meets at 1 pm; Delegates meet at 3 pm; Taste of Indiana Reception at 5 pm.
- Thursday, Dec. 3 – Following breakfast at the Hilton the tour buses will head to the South Bend area. Tour stops: Hoosier Shrimp Farm, Homestead Dairy, Louis Dreyfus, Corteva Agriscience, South Bend Chocolate Company and Studebaker National Museum.
- Friday, Dec. 4 – During breakfast at the Hilton you will hear from officer candidates and then head out on Fort Wayne tours. Tour stops: Joseph Decuis Farm, Ivy Tech Fort Wayne Agriculture Program, Sweetwater Sound, Peridot, Inc., & Davaus.
- Saturday, Dec. 5 – 8 am – Ag Decision Makers College – Hear from local farmers and ag officials; 10 am – Ag Communications Award-should provide excellent insight to the new communication challenges facing agriculture; 11:45 am – Salute to Indiana and Officer Lunch; 2 pm – Final of Ag Communication Award; 4 pm – Auction; 6:30 pm – Banquet and Entertainment!

Register online: www.nyfea.org

(If plans change due to COVID-19, NYFEA will work with all registered attendees)

