



Industry Overview (Global):

[Rising uncertainties from COVID-19 cloud medium-term agricultural prospects](#)

The fight against the global COVID-19 pandemic is causing unprecedented uncertainties in global food supply chains, with potential bottlenecks in labor markets, input industries, agriculture production, food processing, transport and logistics, as well as shifts in demand for food and food services. In the short term, the economic and social impacts of the pandemic interrupt the generally positive medium-term outlook for global agricultural production and food consumption. Governments face the challenge to create balanced policies that address immediate needs, such as labor shortages and create durable conditions for the agricultural sector to 'build back better,' according to a new report presented by OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría and UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General QU Dongyu.



The joint [OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2020-2029](#) report finds that over the next ten years supply growth is going to outpace demand growth, causing real prices of most commodities to remain at or below their current levels. Fluctuations in the driving factors of supply and demand could lead to strong price variations around this general path. At the same time, a decrease in disposable incomes in low-income countries and households caused by COVID-19 is expected to depress demand in the early years of this outlook and could further undermine food security.

Industry Overview (United States):

[Farms and Farm Households During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has widely impacted the U.S. economy, including the farm sector and farm households. Farm businesses have experienced disruptions to production due to lowered availability of labor and other inputs, and reductions in output prices resulting from declines in demand for commodities in certain market segments. Additionally, farm households may be impacted through loss of wages and benefits from off-farm labor that they use to fund farm production needs, household living expenses, investments, and payments on farm business debt. Reductions in available labor affect crop and livestock production, as well as processing capacity for crop and animal products that leave the farm. Reduced processing capacity results in lower consumption of certain agricultural commodities. Although these downstream shocks originate outside of production agriculture, the shocks manifest themselves in the prices that farmers receive for the commodities they produce and, hence, their farm income. Historically, most farm households report a loss from their farming operations and rely on off-farm income sources for both on-farm and off-farm needs. Off-farm income is generally more stable and aids in managing farm risks. However, as the pandemic increases risks associated with farming, it also increases risks off the farm.

FEMA's Role:

FEMA Region I established the COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Task Force under the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#) (NDRF), which promotes effective recovery from large-scale incidents and enables orchestrated support to impacted states, tribes and local jurisdictions. The NDRF focuses on how best to restore, redevelop and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural and environmental fabric of the community as well as build a more resilient nation.

This COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Task Force works in tandem, but separately from other FEMA Short-Term Recovery Support programs such as Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. The Long-Term Recovery Task Force coordinates access to funding from federal agencies but does not provide direct funding.

About this Resource Guide:

This Resource Guide has been developed to provide businesses and individuals who work in Agriculture (and related industries) in New England with a summary of federal agency partners, how they might be able to assist, and the resources available (funding and technical assistance) to support a resilient recovery.

Intended Audiences:

This Resource Guide is meant to provide useful information and resources for the following targeted audiences: [Sub-Sector Overview](#) (list is representative, not comprehensive)

State agencies (with links)

Industry associations (with links)

<p>Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets</p> <p>New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food</p> <p>Connecticut Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management</p> <p>Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources</p> <p>Maine Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New England Food Policy Council: Building a Sustainable Food System • Harvest New England • New England Apple Association • Farm to Institution New England • Connecticut Working Lands Alliance • Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets • New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation • Agricultural Council of Maine • Massachusetts Food Systems Collaborative • Rhode Island Food Policy Council • Neighboring Food Co-op Association
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Federal Agency Partner Overview:

This next section of the Resource Guide gives a description of the key federal agency partners that can support long-term recovery for the agriculture sector. Included are examples of how to engage with these agencies, what types of programs and support can be leveraged for recovery, along with helpful links and regional contact information.

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and (USDA/APHIS) provides a wide variety of services.

[COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#)

This resource matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in stimulus bills and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.

- For more information on the immediate actions USDA is taking to respond to COVID-19, visit www.usda.gov/coronavirus
- To learn about USDA's COVID-19 response for rural communities, visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus
- For the latest news from the CDC on COVID-19, visit www.coronavirus.gov

United States Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency

USDA offers a variety of programs and services to help communities, farmers, ranchers, and businesses that have been hard hit by Hurricanes Irma, Harvey, Maria and other natural disaster events.

Resource Guide: [Disaster Assistance Programs at a Glance](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

- 3 programs to address resource concerns on agricultural land in New England
 - [Environmental Quality Incentive Program \(EQIP\)](#) – plant health and habitat provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against increasing weather volatility.
 - [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.
 - [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. – projects in partnership with NRCS. More flexibility than other programs. RFP for FY21 – will be released Aug. 6, open for 90 days.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)

USDA has created this valuable Resource Guide (<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs>) with comprehensive information about all the programs and resources offered within this agency.

USDA-RD offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. Out of the many, these are of the most relevance to agriculture.

Rural Business - Cooperatives Service

- [Business and Industry CARES Act Program](#)
- [Business & Industry Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Intermediary Relending Program](#)
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#)
- [Rural Business Investment Program](#)
- [Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program](#)
- [Value Added Producer Grants](#)
- [Rural Cooperative Development Grants](#)

Rural Utilities Service - Electric Programs

- [Distributed Generation Energy Project Financing](#)
- [Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program \(FFB\)](#)
- [Energy Efficiency & Conservation Loans](#)
- [Rural Energy Savings Program](#)
- [Energy Resource Conservation](#)

Rural Utilities Service - Water & Environmental Programs

- [Water & Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and Colonies](#)
- [Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants](#)
- [Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants](#)
- [Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants](#)

Cooperative Programs (USDA)

Cooperatives are an essential part of the U.S. economy, especially in rural communities and areas. Co-ops are usually organized to meet a need that the marketplace is not fulfilling adequately. On an economic level, cooperatives foster regional economic self-reliance and independence from outside control, empowering local people. They create employment, circulate money within the community, and offer a wide range of goods and services. Because cooperative enterprises are owned by the members themselves, profits stay in the local area.

- Funding for Cooperatives - In conjunction with other [Rural Development program areas](#), USDA provides financial assistance opportunities that are available to assist rural businesses, including cooperatives, and agricultural producers.
 - Research – USDA research provides support to cooperatives and their member-owners dealing with a wide variety of issues. This research provides a knowledge base to support cooperatives dealing with current and emerging issues.
 - Technical Assistance. Technical assistance with cooperative issues may be obtained by contacting coopinfo@wdc.usda.gov, your [State Office](#), or a [Rural Cooperative Development Center](#) which are partially funded through USDA.

U.S. Department of Agriculture -National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for programs that advance agriculture-related sciences. We invest in and support initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. NIFA applies an integrated approach to ensure that groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice.

Grants: Funding Opportunities currently available:

- [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program](#)
- [Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions \(1890 COEs\)](#)
- [Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program \(NLGCA\)](#)

- [Small Business Innovation Research Program - Phase I](#)
- [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development](#)

[U. S. Economic Development Administration \(EDA\)](#)

Mission: To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

Types of Support:

- Public Works Empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. [Printable Public Works Program \(PDF\)](#)
- Economic Adjustment assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its [Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) Program](#), which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business. [Printable Economic Adjustment Program \(PDF\)](#)
- Planning supports local organizations ([Economic Development Districts](#), Indian Tribes, and other eligible areas) with short and long-term planning efforts. The [Comprehensive Economic Development](#)

[Strategy \(CEDS\) Content Guidelines](#), provides suggestions, tools, and resources for developing comprehensive economic development strategies. [Printable Planning Program \(PDF\)](#)

- [Build to Scale \(formerly known as Regional Innovation Strategies\)](#) The [Build to Scale \(B2S\) Program](#) builds regional economies through scalable startups and includes three competitions supporting entrepreneurship, acceleration of company growth and increased access to risk capital across regional economies.
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms A national network of [11 Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers](#) to help strengthen the competitiveness of American companies that have lost domestic sales and employment because of increased imports of similar goods and services. [Printable Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program \(PDF\)](#)
- University Centers A partnership of the federal government and academia that makes the varied and vast resources of universities available to the economic development community. [Printable University Centers Program \(PDF\)](#), Report: [Making Connections, Evaluation Project to Assess Best Practices in EDA's University Center Program \(PDF\)](#)
- Research and National Technical Assistance supports research of leading edge, world class economic development practices and information dissemination efforts. [Printable Research and National Technical Assistance Program \(PDF\)](#)
- Local Technical Assistance helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in distressed areas from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues. [Printable Local Technical Assistance Program \(PDF\)](#)

[Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)

The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) helps small business owners and entrepreneurs pursue the American dream. The SBA is the only cabinet-level federal agency fully dedicated to small business and provides counseling, capital, and contracting expertise as the nation's only go-to resource and voice for small businesses.

Resource page for Agriculture: <https://www.sba.gov/category/industry/agriculture>

Type of support:

- [Economic Injury Disaster Loan program \(EIDL\)](#) EIDL is designed to provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. EIDL proceeds can be used to cover a wide array of working capital and normal operating expenses, such as continuation to health care benefits, rent, utilities, and fixed debt payments.
- Targeted Webinars for the agriculture industry to expand knowledge and use of SBA loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) are available upon request
- Boots to Business (B2B) Funding Opportunity This funding opportunity is addressed exclusively to Boots to Business (B2B) grantees. Through this program, the SBA supports your organization for a period of 5 years.
- Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program This is a one year funding opportunity for organizations to organizations to execute state/regional programs that increase the number of SBIR (innovation)/STTR (research and development) proposals; increase the number of SBIR/STTR awards; and better prepare SBIR/STTR awardees for commercial success.
- Veterans Business Outreach Centers The [Veterans Business Outreach Centers](#) Cooperative Agreement provides quality counseling assistance and training events, particularly B2B events to transitioning service personnel and spouses of veterans, veteran and service-disabled small business owners and entrepreneurs.
- Service-Disabled Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program (SDVETP) This Cooperative Agreement aims to support organizations that currently deliver entrepreneurship training programs to service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs who aspire to be small business owners or currently own a small business.
- SCORE This is a funding opportunity for a current recipient of an SBA SCORE award. To be eligible, you must be a current recipient of SBA funding to SCORE. For-profit businesses are not eligible for this award.
- State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) The purpose of this Funding Opportunity is to invite proposals for funding from eligible state entities interested in and capable of providing assistance and guidance to eligible small business concerns to increase the number of such firms that export and the value of small business exports.

[Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#)

The [US Department of Labor's](#) mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

Types of Support:

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Workplace Safety: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has resources to help employers and workers prepare for and respond to coronavirus in the workplace.

- [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) – Developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help employers respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace.
- [Temporary OSHA Guidance on Respiratory Protection Standard](#) – This guidance provides suggestions and options to help increase the availability of N95 filtering facepiece respirators for healthcare providers.
- [COVID-19 Webpage](#) – Provides infection prevention information specifically for employers and workers. Wages, Hours and Leave:

The Wage and Hour Division is providing [information on common issues employers and workers face when responding to COVID-19](#), including the effects on wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Short Term Compensation: Short-Time Compensation (STC), also known as work sharing or shared -work program, is an alternative to layoffs for employers experiencing a reduction in available work. STC preserves employees' jobs and employers' trained workforces during times of lowered economic activity. STC allows employers to reduce hours of work for employees rather than laying-off some employees while others continue to work full time. Those employees experiencing a reduction in hours can collect a percentage of their unemployment compensation (UC) benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages. STC cushions the adverse effect of the reduction in business activity on workers by averting layoffs and ensures that these workers will be available to resume prior employment levels when business demand increases. Twenty-seven states have active STC programs, including CT, RI, MA, NH, and ME.

Support for Dislocated Workers and States: The Employment and Training Administration announced the [availability of up to \\$100 million in National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grants to help states, territories, and tribal governments respond to the workforce-related impacts of COVID-19](#).

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-Agriculture

<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture>

The following links are intended to help the public learn more about how EPA works with agriculture:

- [AgSTAR Anaerobic Digesters – New Handbook](#)
- [Animal Carcass Management](#)
- [Animal Production](#)
- [Biosecurity](#)
- [Coronavirus/COVID- 19](#)
- [Crops](#)
- [Dicamba](#)
- [Urban Agriculture](#)
- [Worker Protection Standard \(WPS\)](#)
- [A- Z Agriculture Index](#)

EPA basic regulatory information:

- [Federal Regulation Finder](#)
- [Laws and regulation, compliance and policies and guidance information](#)
- [EPA information about the agriculture sector](#)
- [Resources and certification programs](#)
- [Climate Impacts and Risk Analysis Report information about the agriculture sector](#)

EPA resources:

- [AgSTAR: Biogas Recovery in the Agriculture Sector](#) – promotes the use of biogas recovery systems to reduce methane emissions from livestock waste
- [SmartWay Transport](#) – EPA’s SmartWay Transport helps companies advance supply chain sustainability by measuring, benchmarking, and improving freight transportation efficiency. Any company or organization that ships, manages, or hauls freight in its operations can become an EPA SmartWay Partner.
- [Sustainable Materials Management Prioritization Tools](#) – Free, life cycle-based tools that offer a starting place to establish priorities for environmental improvement, focus limited financial and human resources where action could offer greater holistic benefit, and consider key industries for collaboration.
- [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\)](#): competitively funds environmental technology research at small businesses.

Resource Contact Information:

FEMA Region 1

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Andrew Henson, FEMA Liaison for NH
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Emma Bernstein, FEMA Liaison for VT
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Federal Agency Coordinators

EDA:

Please refer to the Regional Office Section on the website below to find the state by state contact,

<https://eda.gov/contact/>

USDA Rural Development:

Maine

Tim Hobbs, State Director

Phone: (207) 990-9160

www.rd.usda.gov/me

Massachusetts | Rhode Island | Connecticut
George Krivda, State Director

Phone: 1 (800) 352-8015

www.rd.usda.gov/ma

www.rd.usda.gov/ri

www.rd.usda.gov/ct

Vermont | New Hampshire

Anthony Linardos, State Director

Phone: (802) 828-6000

www.rd.usda.gov/vt

www.rd.usda.gov/nh

DOL:

Peter Steele, Regional

Representative Phone: (617)

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steele.peter.a@dol.gov

SBA:

Wendell Davis

Wendell.davis@sba.gov

USDA Region 9:

Midori Raymore 414-297-1894

Midori.raymore@usda.gov

EPA:

Information and contacts for EPA programs in New England can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england>

EPA:

Jessica Dominguez

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<https://www.epa.gov/opportunity-zones>

<https://www.epa.gov/smartsectors>