

# NCGA + COVID 19



NCGA is taking a series of actions to do our part to help contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the economic fallout it is creating for corn farmers and our customers. Short term, this means instituting policies to protect the health and safety of our stakeholders and the broader communities we serve. Long term, we're focused on creating solutions to help corn farmers and our customers recover from the financial impacts of this crisis.

**The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:** The wide-ranging legislation provides emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

- The CARES Act includes \$48.9 billion for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.
  - This includes \$9.5 billion for the Secretary of Agriculture to assist agriculture producers, including specialty crop producers; producers who support local food systems such as farmers markets, schools, and restaurants; and livestock producers, including dairy.
  - The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is replenished with the addition of \$14 billion.
  - USDA food and nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Nutrition Programs, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and The Emergency Food Assistance Program will receive additional funding to ensure nutrition needs are met.
- The CARES Act also includes increased funding to help improve distance learning and telemedicine in rural areas and help expand broadband access across the country.
- The CARES Act includes a number of Small Business Administration (SBA) provisions that farmers, ethanol producers and, in some cases, cooperatives can utilize.
  - Paycheck Protection Program provides \$350 billion to support loans.
  - Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Emergency Economic Injury Grants provide an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits harmed by COVID-19 within three days of applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL).

## Administrative Actions

- The Risk Management Agency (RMA) authorized additional flexibilities due to coronavirus while continuing to support producers, working through Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) to deliver federal crop insurance services, including processing policies, claims and agreements.
- The Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency provided updated guidance on critical infrastructure workers, including farm workers.