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Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:42 PM

To: SM.FPAC.BC.DCWA2.PRESS

Subject: USDA Service Centers Taking Proactive Measures to Help Prevent the Spread of Coronavirus

Good afternoon,

As precautionary health measures are put in effect nationwide to reduce the spread of coronavirus, the USDA is taking steps to ensure the safety of its employees and customers. The agencies of the Farm Production and Conservation mission area, including Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA), have been closely monitoring the situation.

As part of our commitment to farmers and ranchers, USDA Service Centers will continue to be open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While our FSA and NRCS program delivery staff at the Service Centers will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone, and using online tools whenever possible. Producers can find their Service Center's phone number at farmers.gov/service-center-locator. In the event a Service Center is closed, producers can receive assistance from the closest alternate Service Center by phone.

RMA, through its Approved Insurance Providers will continue to deliver crop insurance services such as processing policies and claims, as well as written agreements.

FPAC agencies continue to look at the flexibilities we have to deliver programs on behalf of producers, just as we have in past situations, such as natural disasters. Farmers and ranchers are resilient and FPAC agencies will continue to deliver the farm safety net programs and resource conservation programs that keep American agriculture in business today and long into the future.

Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the Conservation Client Gateway. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in.

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center status visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.