



Georgia Farm Recovery Block Grant: Notice of Insurance Linkage Requirements

The law authorizing this block grant program stated that all block grant recipients must purchase crop insurance in crop year 2021 and 2022 for all commodities covered under your award. This is the crop insurance linkage requirement that was mentioned in the eligible producer contract (under "Eligible Producer Responsibilities") that each approved applicant signed and returned to Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) before receiving payment.

GDA has worked with USDA-FSA to identify the specific applications and commodities that will be exempted from this requirement because the Federal Crop Insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) do not cover losses to these commodities as they were measured by this program. Producers who received assistance solely for **timber, beef, dairy, poultry, and uninsured infrastructure that housed or covered livestock** will be exempted from the crop insurance linkage requirement.

Producers who received assistance for **fruit and vegetable, pecan, and uninsured infrastructure** that covered/stored a commodity grown by the producer will be required to obtain crop insurance, NAP, or Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) coverage at the **60/100 coverage level** for crop year **2021** and **2022**. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the producer being required to refund the entire award amount to GDA. Additionally, **all fruit and vegetable, pecan, and uninsured infrastructure recipients will be required to file an FSA-578 Report of Acreage form with their county Farm Service Agency office for crop years 2021 and 2022.**

For those who are ineligible to purchase a crop insurance policy or NAP coverage for some or all of the commodities for which they received assistance, documentation is required to prove that the recipient could not purchase crop insurance or NAP for those commodities. In the spring, GDA will ask all producers who failed to purchase crop insurance or NAP to provide a letter from a crop insurance agent and county FSA office.

There are many reasons why a producer may not be able to purchase crop insurance for a commodity. For example: they are no longer producing that specific commodity; they are a landowner who is leasing their grove to another producer who is carrying insurance for that crop; or they have retired or sold their farming operation since October 10, 2018. **It is the producer's responsibility to prove that they cannot purchase coverage in the event they are ineligible for crop insurance and NAP.**

For a full listing of all crop insurance policies for crop year 2021, use the RMA Actuarial Browser at <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser2021/CropCriteria.aspx>. Those not eligible to purchase crop insurance at the 60/100 coverage level should contact their local USDA Service Center. Find local USDA offices by visiting <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>. Please note, the purchasing deadlines for crop insurance vary by commodity and many commodity deadlines for crop year 2021 occur in 2020.

For more information on the crop insurance linkage requirement and the Farm Recovery Block Grant program, read the "Crop Insurance Linkage Requirement FAQ's" at www.farmrecovery.com or feel free to email farmrecovery@agr.georgia.gov.