

## **Alabama Agricultural Stabilization Program**

Governor Ivey awarded \$26 Million of the Coronavirus Relief Fund provided by the CARES Act to assist Alabama Agriculture for impacts caused by COVID-19. The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries in cooperation with numerous agricultural stakeholder groups and Governor Ivey's office developed the Alabama Agricultural Stabilization Program (AASP) to disburse the funds in the following programs:

The first three AASP programs to accept applications were the meat processing program, the catfish processor program, and the fruit & vegetable processor program. The application deadline for these three programs was September 15<sup>th</sup>. In September, ADAI completed the review of these applications and notified the applicants of their status. A summary of each program is provided below:

1. **Meat Processor Program** (AASP Allowed \$1.5 million):

34 applicants- 29 approved

Estimated Total Payout: \$1,300,000.00

Estimated Carry-Over : \$ 200,000.00

As of November 10, 2020: \$692,806.38 in payments are either completed or "pending" in STAARS.

Due to the continued demand for additional meat processing capacity, ADAI opened a second round of meat processing applications. We had 16 additional applicants with an estimated total payout of an additional \$640,000.00. Working with our state partners, we were able to amend the AASP to utilize the \$200,000.00 remaining after our initial meat processor program and transfer \$440,000 in carry-over funds from our Nursery Grower program to meet this additional need.

2. **Fruit and Vegetable Processor Program** (AASP allowed \$500,000):

5 applicants- 5 approved

Estimated Total Payout: \$269,039.01

Estimated Carry-Over : \$230,960.99

As of November 12, 2020: \$49,517.93 in payments have been issued to applicants.

\*\*Please note the total amounts for these programs are estimated because the actual payment amounts will be determined once the applicants present final invoices for items they must purchase and have in service before November 30<sup>th</sup>. \*\*

3. **Catfish Processor Reimbursement Program** (AASP allowed \$500,000):

2 applicants- 2 approved

Total Approved: \$182,041.83

Carry-Over: \$317,958.17

As of November 12, 2020: \$182,041.93 in payments have been issued to applicants.

The AASP's cattle program, state supplemental CFAP program, nursery grower reimbursement program, and poultry program are in various stages of progress. A summary is outlined below:

**Cattle Program** (AASP allowed \$10.5 million): Application period opened September 8<sup>th</sup> and closed October 9<sup>th</sup>. Since the October report, we have finalized and issued payments on almost all the cattle applications.

We received 373 completed applications with 348 applicants ultimately approved to participate in the program. 23 applications are ineligible because the cattle sales were outside of the date range, the applicants are not residents of Alabama, or because the applicants did not meet some other criteria of the program. 2 applications were withdrawn by the applicants. 342 applicants have been processed for payments and ADAI is continuing to work with approximately 6 applicants so that their payments can be issued soon.

Payments to the 348 applicants will total approximately \$3,654,899.98 with a carry-over of approximately \$6,845,100.02.

**State Supplemental CFAP Program** (AASP Allowed \$8 million): Application period opened on September 15th and closed on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We received a total of 287 applications. 9 applications were declined because they did not meet the program requirements, and 3 applications were withdrawn by the applicants. We are in the final stages of processing and issuing payments for the 275 successful applications and anticipate the total payout for this program to be approximately \$6.5 million. The anticipated carry-over from this program is \$1.5 million.

**Nursery Grower Reimbursement** (AASP Allowed \$1 million): Application period opened on September 15th and closed October 15<sup>th</sup>. We received a total of 5 applications, but only 3 were eligible for the program. We have processed payments to the three applicants totaling \$49,986.38.

Working with the Alabama Department of Finance, we were able to reallocate \$440,000.00 from this program to fund a second round of the meat processing program. After this reallocation, there is a carry-over amount of \$510,013.62 remaining in this program.

**Poultry Program** (AASP Allowed \$4 million): Application periods opened October 13<sup>th</sup> and were originally set to close on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Due to extensive power outages and other issues impacting poultry farms as a result of Hurricane Zeta, the application deadline for poultry programs was extended until Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

As of 3:00 pm on November 13, 2020, we have received 680 broiler grower applications, 25 breeder grower applications, and no pullet grower applications.

Payments will be issued to successful applicants once all applications have been reviewed. Based on current projections, we anticipate utilizing the \$4 million allocated for this program.

#### **Additional Programs:**

ADAI and the Alabama Department of Finance are in the final stages of amending the AASP to create two additional programs. The first addition will be a \$500,000 program for the existing livestock auction markets in Alabama, and the other addition will be a \$1.2 million reimbursement program for existing poultry processing facilities in the state. These programs will be funded utilizing funds remaining in the original AASP allocation. Details on these programs and sign-up periods will be announced soon.