

Alabama Department. of Agriculture & Industries
Alabama Agricultural Stabilization Program (AASP)
Report on CRF Funds – October 2020

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 15th. 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 October 14, 2020: \$48,525.70 in payments are “pending” in STAARS

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 October 14, 2020: \$49,517.93 in payments are “pending” in STAARS

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 30th.

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 October 14, 2020: \$182,041.93 in payments are “pending” in STAARS.

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 8th and closed October 9th. We received 367 completed applications and are working with producers to finalize approximately 5 more applications that encountered technical difficulties during the submission process. 168 of these applications contain all necessary information and are awaiting payment. 19 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. We will continue interacting with applicants over the coming days to review applications and gather necessary documentation to approve the remaining applications.

Payments will be issued to successful applicants once all applications have been reviewed. Based on current calculations, the maximum anticipated payout for this program is \$5 million with an estimated carry-over of \$5.5 million.

State Supplemental CFAP Program (AASP Allowed \$8 million): Application period opened on September 15th and closes on October 15th. As of October 14, 2020, we received 196 applications. Once the application period closes, we will begin review of these applications and process payments accordingly.

Nursery Grower Reimbursement (AASP Allowed \$1 million): Application period opened on September 15th and closes October 15th. As of October 14, 2020, we received 3 applications. 2 of these applicants are ineligible because they do not meet the requirements of the program. Once the application period closes, we will complete the review of all applications and process payments accordingly.

Poultry Program (AASP Allowed \$4 million): Application periods opened October 13th and closes on November 6th. After additional consultation with industry representatives and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the AASP poultry program was amended to include programs for farmers of broiler chickens, pullet chickens, and breeder chickens. Each program has a separate application and eligibility requirements. As of October 14, 2020, we received 28 broiler grower applications, 0 breeder applications, and 0 pullet applications. The vast majority of Alabama's poultry farmers grow broilers, so that program will have the highest number of applicants.

Additional Round of Meat Processing Funding: The initial meat processing program was limited to licensed processing facilities that both slaughter and process animals. After the conclusion of that initial round, there was still a demand for additional meat processing capacity in the state. A second round of assistance for meat processors opened on October 8th and will close on October 19th. This round will be available to licensed processing facilities that do not slaughter on-site and to facilities that do slaughter but did not participate in the initial round of the program. This second round will be limited to a maximum reimbursement amount of \$40,000.00 per applicant, and we anticipate approximately 30 applicants. This will result in an approximate increase of \$1.2 million available to increase Alabama's meat processing capacity and provide needed protein to our food supply chain. This round will follow the same guidelines regarding eligible reimbursements as the first round of the program. ADAI will continue to work with the Alabama Department of Finance to finalize any necessary revisions to the MOU creating the AASP to adjust funding for this program expansion.