

BEEF BUSINESS

by Julie Mais, editor

In this month's "Beef Business," we present the USDA's framework for food supply chain challenges and funds available to producers affected by recent natural disasters.

USDA framework for shoring up the food supply chain

The USDA announced June 1 details of a framework to transform the food system to benefit consumers, producers and rural communities by providing more options; increasing access; and creating additional, new and improved markets for small and mid-size producers. The announcement builds on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. This announcement also provides added details on the June 2021 announcement to strengthen critical supply chains and address longstanding structural challenges that were revealed and intensified by the pandemic.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, USDA made significant investments through its Pandemic Assistance Program, providing immediate relief to producers, businesses, food workers and others.

The goals of USDA's Food System Transformation framework include: building a more resilient food supply chain that provides more and improved market options for consumers and producers while reducing carbon pollution; creating a fairer food system that combats

market dominance and helps producers and consumers gain more power in the marketplace by creating additional, new and improved local market options; making nutritious food more accessible and affordable for consumers; and emphasizing equity.

The announcement supports the Biden-Harris administration's broader work to strengthen critical supply chains as directed by Executive Order 14017, *America's Supply Chains*. Funding is provided by the *American Rescue Plan Act* and other relief legislation.

Source: USDA

USDA to provide \$6 billion to crop producers affected by 2020 and 2021 natural disasters

The USDA announced May 16 commodity and specialty crop producers affected by natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021 will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments totaling approximately \$6 billion through the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) new Emergency Relief Program (ERP) to offset crop yield and value losses.

Sept. 30, 2021, President Biden signed into law the *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act* (P.L. 117-43), which includes \$10 billion in

assistance to agricultural producers affected by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021. FSA recently made payments to ranchers affected by drought and wildfire through the first phase of the Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP). ERP is another relief component of the Act.

For affected producers, existing Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data is the basis for calculating initial payments. USDA estimates that phase one ERP benefits will reach more than 220,000 producers who received indemnities for losses covered by federal crop insurance and more than 4,000 producers who obtained NAP coverage for 2020 and 2021 crop losses. [A](#)

Source: FSA