



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

June 16, 2020

Mr. Matt Teagarden
Kansas Livestock Association
6031 SW 37th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66614

Dear Mr. Teagarden:

Thank you for your letter of June 4, 2020, requesting that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reassess payments to cattle producers from the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

I appreciate the information you shared regarding difficulties facing the cattle industry. As you are aware, on April 17, 2020, President Donald J. Trump announced CFAP, which is providing critical support to our farmers, maintaining the integrity of our food supply chain, and ensuring every American continues to receive and have access to the food they need during this national crisis. Throughout the process of creating CFAP, we received input from every corner of the U.S. agriculture sector. The challenges are great and given that the demand is more than USDA can accommodate under current funding levels, payment limits are a mechanism to equitably distribute funds. USDA will continue to support U.S. agriculture using all of the resources and authorities provided by Congress.

The cattle industry is eligible for CFAP payments. Specific program details, analysis, and justification—including detail about the mid-January to mid-April dates used as the basis for the price change calculations—are provided in the Final Rule, Cost Benefit Analysis and NOFA and are accessible at www.farmers.gov, www.farmers.gov/cfap/livestock, or in the [Federal Register](#). Program sign-up has begun and will continue through August 28, 2020 through local county Farm Service Agency offices.

We recognize these are uncertain times for all Americans and share your concerns about the effects of COVID-19 on the cattle industry. USDA is working expeditiously to fully implement the CFAP provisions and is actively engaged in working to mitigate the immediate and long-term impacts the pandemic is having on the agricultural sector and the food supply chain. USDA stands ready to work with you to implement solutions that will help ensure the health and safety of American agriculture.

Thank you for your continued support of America's farmers and ranchers. Your comments and recommendations are appreciated. Please visit <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus> for additional resources. For more information, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 720-7095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary