



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Production
And Conservation
(FPAC)

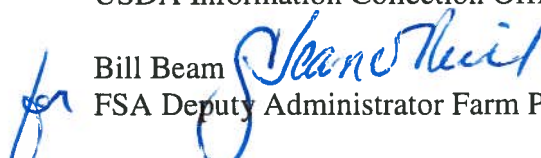
Farm Service
Agency (FSA)

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DATE: August 15, 2019

TO: Cortney Higgins
OMB Desk Officer

THROUGH: Ruth Brown
USDA Information Collection Officer

FROM:  Bill Beam
FSA Deputy Administrator Farm Programs

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval for a New Information Collection
Package— Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program+ (WHIP+)

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is implementing the Wildfire and Hurricanes Indemnity Program + (WHIP+) that will provide assistance to eligible agricultural producers who suffered crop, tree, bush, and vine losses related to hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms, and wildfires occurring in the 2018 and 2019 calendar years. WHIP+ is essential to the mission of FSA to provide assistance to the producers quickly as possible. Therefore, FSA requesting emergency approval of a new package to quickly provide assistance.

The WHIP+ payments for crop losses cover only production losses; they do not cover quality losses. Eligible crops include those for which crop insurance or NAP coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. WHIP+ is funded under Disaster Relief Act, 2019, which allows the Secretary of Agriculture to use funds to help re-establish the purchasing power of farmers, ranchers and producers.

The final rule will be published in the Federal Register and will provide guidance and notify applicants of the sign-up period (no proposed rule is required). The use of normal clearance procedure for WHIP+ collection would prevent getting assistance to the producers quickly. The sign-up period for WHIP+ payments will begin upon the publication of final rule. Up to 26,578 producers are expected to apply for payments under WHIP+. The collection also includes the WHIP Milk Loss Program and On-Farm Storage Loss Program.

If there are any questions or concerns, please call Deirdre Holder at 202-205-5851 or Mary Ann Ball at 202-720-4283.