



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Washington, D.C. 20250

April 29, 2020

Mr. Buzz Mattelin
President, National Barley Growers Association
600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Mattelin:

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 2020, requesting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provide direct assistance to barley farmers. The implementation of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will provide critical support to our farmers, maintain the integrity of our food supply chain, and ensure every American continues to receive and have access to the food they need during this national crisis. Your comments and recommendations are appreciated.

We recognize these are uncertain times for all Americans and share your concerns about the effects of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the barley industry. USDA is taking the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously, actively monitoring the situation as it evolves, and will take appropriate steps to respond and protect the food supply chain to the extent Congress has authorized.

Using the funding and authorities provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and utilizing USDA's existing authorities, CFAP will use direct payments, commodity purchases, and food distribution to provide certainty to farmers and consumers. The program will provide direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers where prices and market supply chains have been impacted. CFAP will assist producers with additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short-term oversupply for the 2020 marketing year caused by COVID-19.

In regard to quality losses and coverage under WHIP+, USDA is also working to implement those provisions to compensate for farmers for the impact of those specified natural disasters on commodity quality.

We will quickly be implementing the programs above. That said, I stand ready to work with you to implement solutions as appropriate that will help ensure the health and safety of American agriculture. Please visit <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus> for additional resources.

Again, thank you for your letter and continued support of our farmers and ranchers. For more information, please have a member of your staff reach out to the Office of Congressional Relations at (202)720-7095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue".

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

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