

# COVID-19 UPDATE



## **CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION**

As you may recall, in early July, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a modification to its original Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) ruling. Unfortunately, wild rice was once again left out of the program's component dealing with price declines. This was due to the USDA requirements for the program stating that growers/processors applying for these funds must be able to demonstrate at least a 5% loss in sales during the eligibility time frame set by USDA from January 15-April 15, 2020.

The CFAP program was included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and was passed by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support and eventually signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. The CWRAB has been actively involved in discussions regarding CFAP and have been advocating for a second round of funding that will be more inclusive of other commodities, specifically wild rice, who have and expect to be harmed by COVID-19 during the upcoming season.

If you have any questions regarding the CFAP program, please do not hesitate to contact the CWRAB office.

## **USDA-ERS RELEASES UPDATED COVID 19 ECONOMIC IMPLICATION STUDIES FOR AGRICULTURE**

The United States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) has compiled a list of the economic impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on agriculture. The ERS' research program considers links in the farm-to-consumer supply chain that may be affected by the pandemic, including farms, processors, handlers, retail outlets, and trade. ERS also examines the economic impacts of the pandemic on consumers, food assistance program participants, residents of rural America, and farmers. Topics of their research and links to relevant reports can be found at the following link: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/covid-19/>