



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Online town hall for USDA Farm Service
Agency debt relief program to be held on Monday**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will host an online town hall on Monday, June 7th at 6:00 p.m. (MDT) on the Nez-Lizer Facebook page and YouTube channel to provide information regarding the USDA Farm Service Agency's debt relief program for farmers and ranchers. The town hall will also air on local radio stations later in the week.

Under the American Rescue Plan Act, the program is authorized to pay up to 120 percent of direct and guaranteed loan outstanding balances as of Jan. 1, 2021, for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as defined in Section 2501(A) of the Food, Agriculture Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. The Act defines a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher as a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group, which is further defined as a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Qualifying loans include certain direct loans under the Farm Loan Programs (FLP) and Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL).

"According to the USDA, there is a substantial percentage of Navajo farmers and ranchers in the southwest who may qualify for the debt relief program. Our goal with the town hall is to bring awareness and to provide information, so that qualified farmers and ranchers can begin the process of working with the USDA to possibly benefit from the program. If you or a loved one has an outstanding loan through the USDA, it's very important that you tune-in to the online town hall on Monday to learn more about the debt relief program," said President Nez.

USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Gloria Montaño Greene and Administrator of the Farm Service Agency Zach Ducheneaux will participate in Monday's town hall, along with Navajo Nation Council members Edmund Yazzie and Mark Freeland and Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler. Several members of Congress are also tentatively scheduled to participate to offer their support and additional information.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer met with USDA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Director Liz Archuleta on Friday, and recommended that the USDA also visit each of the five

Navajo agencies to provide opportunities for Navajo farmers and ranchers to receive information and ask questions in person.

“This is a great opportunity for Navajo farmers and ranchers to relieve themselves of debt through the USDA loan programs, and hopefully be able to expand their farming and ranching operations as a result. We thank all of the USDA officials for working with our administration to host the upcoming town hall and we invite all of Navajo people to tune-in. We are confident that the USDA will continue to provide community outreach and opportunities for our people to ask questions in person as well,” stated Vice President Lizer.

In late May, the USDA began mailing letters to borrowers making them aware of the program and its benefits. To learn more about the loan payments to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, please visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/americanrescueplan>.

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JUNE 7, 2021

Online Town Hall

USDA Farm Service Agency debt relief program

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FACEBOOK LIVE

@NEZLIZER2018

YOUTUBE LIVE

"NAVAJO NATION OPVP COMMUNICATIONS"

6:00 P.M. (MDT)