



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oklahoma Newsletter - May 2022

Oklahoma

Natural Resources Conservation Service



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A Message from the State Conservationist

Greetings Oklahoma! What busy months April and May have been and as I end my tour as your Acting State Conservationist at the end of May, I reflect back to my years of working with the Oklahoma farmers and ranchers. It has been a great opportunity to return and reacquaint with old friends and meet new producers in the state. It has also been a great reminder of the above and beyond work ethic of Oklahoma's NRCS employees.



This year, nearly 850 4-H and FFA students and over 250 coaches from about 34 states competed in the National Land and Range Judging Contest. The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) is the primary host along with 30 additional sponsors, but NRCS staff play a significant role in the success of this prestigious event. And sometimes it's what you don't see that speaks volumes: It's the NRCS employees who dumped bucket after bucket of water out of practice pits. It's NRCS staff arriving hours early on contest day to pump the pits after overnight rains and doing some livestock wrangling. There are no excuses, just solutions and actions. That's the same way they approach their daily interaction with producers. That's what winning means – facing adversity, adjusting and delivering. And speaking of winning, Vian (Okla.) FFA claimed the Homesite Evaluation FFA National Champion Team title.

USDA offices in Oklahoma are fully open, however it is still highly recommended to call your local office to set up an appointment. This will ensure that staff will be on hand to provide assistance to you. It has been an honor to get to work with the Oklahoma NRCS team as Acting State Conservationist and I am so proud of the people that live and work in this great state.

Jamey Wood, Acting State Conservationist

Oklahoma Land Access Program

NRCS is working with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to administer the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP). This program provides financial incentives to landowners who allow public access for hunting, fishing, stream access, and wildlife viewing opportunities on private lands. Participating landowners receive annual payments of \$4.00 to \$20.00 per acre, according to location, habitat quality, and access allowed. Access is typically archery/shotgun only, and hunters are restricted to foot access only. Landowners are

accorded limited liability by states laws, and enrolled properties are patrolled by ODWC game wardens.

2022 enrollment for OLAP is prioritizing:

- CRP, CRP-SAFE, and other rangeland easements
- WRE/WRP wetland easements
- Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers
- Close to metro areas

Please do not contact the local NRCS Field office for this program. For more information, please visit www.wildlifedepartment.com/OLAP or contact Jeff Tibbits, OLAP Biologist, at jeff.tibbits@odwc.ok.gov or 405-535-7382.

Conservation Practice of the Month

Grassed Waterway



As wheat crops are coming off the field and before the next planting season or before other crops are being planted this year producers are looking for ways to reduce soil erosion. A **grassed waterway** is a shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to convey surface water at a non-erosive velocity using a broad and shallow cross section to a stable outlet.

The Oklahoma Standards and Specifications information: [click here](#).

Management and Strategy | Job Postings

Upcoming Vacancy Announcements:

- Realty Specialist, GS 9 - Stillwater, Ok
- Public Affairs Specialist, GS 5/7/9/11 - Stillwater, Ok
- Economist, GS 5/7/9 - Stillwater, Ok
- Archeologist, GS 9/11 - Stillwater, Ok
- Ag Engineer, GS 9/11/12
 - Woodward
 - McAlester
- Civil Engineer Technician, GS 8/9
 - Woodward
 - Clinton
- Soil Conservationist, GS 5/7/9
 - Hollis
 - Jay/Miami
- Range Conservationist, GS 5/7/9
 - Chickasha
 - Cheyenne
 - Boise City
- Resource Conservationist, GS 9/11
 - Watonga
 - Boise City or Guymon
 - Tahlequah
 - Walters
 - Lawton

The best way to stay updated on job postings is to check [USA Jobs](#) often and sign up for notifications for job announcements.

All jobs with NRCS are listed and posted on USAJobs.

Photo of the Month



Photo by Kari Nixon in Freedom, OK. To enter a photo in this month's contest, email the full resolution photo to NRCSinfo-OK@usda.gov by June 15.

Dates to Remember

June

- June 1-2 Langston Small Farmer Conference in Edmond, Ok
 - [Registration Link](#)
- Gardening School Series - contact [James Arati](#)
 - June 7 - Tulsa, Ok
 - June 9 - Taft, Ok

- June 17 - Inola, Ok

July

- Gardening School Series - contact [James Arati](#)
 - July 7 - Taft, Ok
 - July 12 - Piedmont, Ok
- July 21-22 [Oklahoma Local Ag Collaborative Regional Workshop](#) in Lawton, Ok

August

- August 4-5, Oklahoma City - [Oklahoma Women in Ag](#)



NASS Survey - Conservation Practice Adoption

Farmers and ranchers are on the front line of conservation in agriculture – we want to hear their stories.

The [Conservation Practice Adoption Motivations Survey](#) is a joint project between the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) aimed at assessing the adoption rates of different conservation practices. **Survey data will be used to guide the implementation of NRCS programs in the future.** The data collection period runs May 30 – August 19.

There are four different conservation categories which are surveyed: crop practices, grazing practices, confined livestock practices, and forestry practices. Each category will have a questionnaire that has been designed to gather information specific to the practices involved in each category.

NASS is sending questionnaires for [crop practices](#) and [confined livestock practices](#) in 2022. Questionnaires for grazing practices and forestry practices will be sent in 2024.

FSA - Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses

For 2022 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower's contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 5%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by **March 1, 2023**.

Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation

Farmers and ranchers can use the Farm Loan Discovery Tool on farmers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to

borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the Farm Loan Discovery Tool by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

About Farmers.gov

In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

The *Farm Loan Discovery* Tool is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the My Financial Information feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1 to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.

For more information, contact your [USDA Service Center](#) at or visit farmers.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).



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