

June 2016



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## Oregon State FSA Newsletter

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### **Oregon State Farm Service Agency**

7620 SW Mohawk Street  
Tualatin, Oregon 97062  
Phone: 503-692-3688  
Fax: 855-824-6185  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/or](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or)

### **State Committee:**

Sam Asai, Chairman  
Jason Smith, Member  
Anna Sullivan, Member  
Vernon Frederickson,  
Member

### **State Executive Director:**

Phil Ward

### **Program Chiefs:**

Bob Perry, Farm Loan Chief  
Mitzi Lankford, Farm Program

### **USDA's Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a comprehensive and detailed approach to support farmers, ranchers, and forest land owners in their response to address the causes of climate change in April 2015. The framework consists of 10 building blocks that span a range of technologies and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon storage, and generate clean renewable energy through mitigation.

USDA's strategy focuses on climate-smart practices designed for working production systems that provide multiple economic and environmental benefits in addition to supporting resilience to extreme weather, reduced emissions and increased carbon storage.

Through this comprehensive set of voluntary programs and initiatives spanning its programs, USDA expects to reduce net emissions and enhance carbon sequestration by over **120 million metric tons** of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e) per year – about 2% of

Chief  
Dan LoFaro, Chief  
Administrative Officer

### **Next State Committee**

**Meeting:** August 17-18, 2016  
at the State Office in Tualatin.

To find contact information for  
your local office go to  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/or](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or)

### **FSA Unveils Monthly Webinar Series**

The FSA Outreach and  
Education Division will host a  
series of webinars each  
month to inform producers  
about FSA programs and  
initiatives. To register for any  
of the below listed webinars,  
visit  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach)  
and click on "Outreach  
Webinars."

#### **July 19 @ 2 p.m. EDT**

**Understanding Receipt for  
Service**

To ensure that all USDA  
customers and potential  
customers are being served  
properly in local offices, the  
2014 Farm Bill requires that a  
receipt be provided. Learn  
more about Receipt for  
Service, how it affects you  
and what you can expect  
when you visit a local Farm  
Service Agency county office.

#### **Aug. 9 @ 2 p.m. EDT**

**Need Commodity Storage?**

The Farm Storage Facility  
Loan (FSFL) Can Help  
The Farm Storage Facility  
Loan Program provides low-  
interest financing so  
producers can build or  
upgrade permanent or  
portable facilities to store  
commodities. Learn how this  
program may be able to help  
your operation.

economy-wide net greenhouse emissions – by 2025. That's the  
equivalent of taking **25 million cars** off the road, or offsetting the  
emissions produced by powering nearly **11 million homes** last  
year.

For more information on the Building Blocks for Climate Smart  
Agriculture and Forestry click the following  
link: <http://www.usda.gov/documents/climate-smart-fact-sheet.pdf>.

For additional information on ways to consider greenhouse gases  
when managing land, refer to the USDA Climate Hub webpage:  
<http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>.

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## **FSA County Committee Nomination Period Now Open in Oregon State**

The nomination period for Oregon's FSA County Committees  
began on June 15, 2016. Nomination forms must be postmarked or  
received in FSA County Offices by close of business on Aug. 1,  
2016.

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have  
a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person  
must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program,  
be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the  
Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All  
producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and  
ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and  
election process.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates.  
Organizations representing minority and women farmers and  
ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee,  
eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more  
information about county committee elections is available online  
at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and  
are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster,  
conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as  
other important federal farm program issues. County committees  
consist of three to 11 members.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7.  
Ballots are due back in the County Office by mail or in person no  
later than Dec. 5, 2016. All newly elected county committee  
members and alternates will take office January 1, 2017.

For more information about county committees, please contact the  
your local County FSA office [www.fsa.usda.gov/or](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or) , or visit  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/election`s](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/election`s).

# USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Results

*More Than 800,000 Acres Selected Through Highly Competitive Application Rounds*

USDA announced the enrollment of more than 800,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Through CRP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) helps farmers offset the costs of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and strengthen wildlife habitat. Farmers' and ranchers' participation in CRP continues to provide numerous benefits to our nation, including helping reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases and providing resiliency to future weather changes.

A nationwide acreage limit was established for this program in the 2014 Farm Bill, capping the total number of acres that may be enrolled at 24 million for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. At the same time, USDA has experienced a record demand from farmers and ranchers interested in participating in the voluntary program. As of March 2016, 23.8 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with 1.7 million acres set to expire this fall.

Over three million acres have been offered for enrollment this year across the three main categories within CRP, with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) receiving over 26,000 offers to enroll more than 1.8 million acres during the general enrollment period, and over 4,600 offers to enroll more than one million acres in the new CRP Grasslands program. Coming off a record-setting 2015 continuous enrollment of over 860,000 acres, more than 364,000 acres already have been accepted for 2016 in the CRP continuous enrollment, triple the pace of last year.

FSA will accept 411,000 acres in general enrollment, the most competitive selection in the history of the program, with the acreage providing record high conservation benefits. USDA selected offers by weighing environmental factors plus cost, including wildlife enhancement, water quality, soil erosion, enduring benefits, and air quality.

The results of the first-ever enrollment period for CRP Grasslands, FSA will also accept 101,000 acres in the program, providing participants with financial assistance for establishing approved grasses, trees and shrubs on pasture and rangeland that can continue to be grazed. More than 70 percent of these acres are diverse native grasslands under threat of conversion, and more than 97 percent of the acres have a new, veteran or underserved farmer or rancher as a primary producer. FSA continues to accept CRP Grasslands offers and will conduct another ranking period later this year.

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

To learn more about FSA's conservation programs, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation) or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## USDA Unveils New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

*Update Lets Farmers and Ranchers Report Common Acreage Information Once*

Farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location.

This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This interagency collaboration also includes participating private crop insurance agents and insurance companies, all working to streamline the information collected from farmers and ranchers who participate in USDA programs.

Once filing at one location, data that's important to both FSA and RMA will be securely and electronically shared with the other location avoiding redundant and duplicative reporting, as well as saving farmers and ranchers time.

Since 2009, USDA has been working to streamline the crop reporting process for agricultural producers, who have expressed concerns with providing the same basic common information for multiple locations. In 2013, USDA consolidated the deadlines to 15 dates for submitting these reports, down from the previous 54 dates at RMA and 17 dates for FSA. USDA representatives believe farmers and ranchers will experience a notable improvement in the coming weeks as they approach the peak season for crop reporting later this summer.

More than 93 percent of all annual reported acres to FSA and RMA now are eligible for the common data reporting, and USDA is exploring adding more crops. Producers must still visit both locations to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps or provide program-specific information. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report. Plans are underway at USDA to continue building upon the framework with additional efficiencies at a future date.

Farmers and ranchers are also reminded that they can now access their FSA farm information from the convenience of their home computer. Producers can see field boundaries, images of the farm, conservation status, operator and owner information and much more.

The new customer self-service portal, known as **FSAFarm+**, gives farmers and ranchers online access to securely view, print or export their personal farm data. To enroll in the online service, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for details. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans).

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans).

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## Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a customer receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity. Electronic receipts for acreage reports will begin on August 1, 2016.

A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

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## Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and some loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 will no longer require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport) or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

## 2016 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

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## **USDA Expands Microloans to Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property**

*Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary this week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

This microloan announcement is another USDA resource for America's farmers and ranchers to utilize, especially as [new and beginning farmers and ranchers](#) look for the assistance they need to get started. To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans), or contact your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

## **USDA to Provide Agricultural Credit Training, Expand Opportunities for Farmer Veterans and Beginning Farmers**

USDA is partnering with the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) to conduct agricultural credit training sessions in the Midwest for military veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers. States under consideration to host the workshops include Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska.

These workshops will provide individuals interested in farming as a career, including military veterans, with methods to improve business planning and financial skills, and improve understanding of the risk management tools that can help small farm operations.

Other partners include Niman Ranch a community network of more than 700 independent family farmers and ranchers, and the Farm Credit Council and the Farm Credit System, which provides loans, leases and financial services to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses across the United States. The workshops will also include assistance with credit applications and introductions to local or regional food markets.

To learn more about veterans in agriculture, visit [www.usda.gov/veterans](http://www.usda.gov/veterans). Visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans) or your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to learn more about FSA's farm loan programs. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. More information also is available from the Farmer Veteran Coalition at [www.farmvetco.org](http://www.farmvetco.org).

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## Selected Interest Rates - June 2016

90 Day Treasury Bill = 0.25 %

Farm Operating Loans - Direct = 2.250 %

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct = 3.500 %

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Downpayment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher = 1.500 %

Emergency Loans = 3.250 %

Farm Storage Facility Loans

(7 years) = 1.625 %

(10 years) = 1.875 %

(12 years) = 1.875 %

Commodity Loans = 1.625 %

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## Important Dates and Deadlines

**July 1:** Deadline for Non-Family Farming Operations to Restructure Farm in Response to 'Actively Engaged' Farm Management Rule

**July 15:** Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Alfalfa Seed (planted 4/21-6/10), Onions (planted 2/15-5/15).

**August 1:** Deadline to Enroll in the ARC/PLC Program.

**August 1:** Ballots for County Committee Elections must be Postmarked or Received at County FSA Office by this Date.

**August 4:** Deadline for Farmers and Foresters to Apply to Receive Incentives to Remove Biomass from Fields or National Forests for Delivery to Energy Generation Facilities (BCAP).

**August 15:** Acreage Reporting deadline for Cabbage (planted 6/11 - 8/10).

**September 30** - Deadline for Registration and Annual Election in the Margin Protection Program (MPP) for 2017 Dairy Producers.

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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).