



## Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

### **GovDelivery**

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [A Message from our State Executive Director](#)
- [Interest Rates](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [FSA Makes Changes to Farm Loan, Disaster, Conservation and Safety Net Programs to Make it Easier for Customers to Conduct Business](#)
- [FSA Adds Farm Loan Flexibilities](#)
- [USDA Offers Individuals Options to Complete Business Online](#)
- [USDA's Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Signup](#)
- [Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income \(AGI\) Certifications](#)
- [Livestock Losses](#)

---

## Oregon FSA Newsletter

---

### **Oregon Farm Service Agency**

7620 SW Mohawk St.  
Tualatin, OR 97062

**Phone:** 503-692-3688

**Fax:** 855-824-6185

[www.fsa.usda.gov/or](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or)

**State Executive Director:**  
Barry Bushue

**State Committee:**  
Anna Sullivan, Chair  
Sam Asai, Member  
Phil Hassinger, Member  
TJ Hansell, Member  
Denver Pugh, Member

**Administration:**  
Martin Nguyen,  
Administrative Officer

### **A Message from our State Executive Director**

Greetings!

We know farmers are resilient and the Farm Service Agency in Oregon will continue to deliver the disaster assistance, safety net, farm loan and conservation programs that keep American agriculture in business today and long into the future.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. This legislation includes \$48.9 billion for USDA agencies and the Food and Drug Administration to continue to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

The CARES Act contains \$9.5 billion in assistance for agriculture producers who have been impacted by COVID-19 along with a \$14 billion replenishment to the Commodity Credit Corporation. In addition, the legislation includes \$100 million in ReConnect grants to expand access to broadband in rural America for educational purposes, business, and access to critical telehealth services.

We are swiftly evaluating the authorities granted under the CARES Act and will leverage our programs to alleviate disruption as

**Farm Programs:**  
Kent Willett, Acting Chief

necessary. For the latest updates on the CARES Act, and other Frequently Asked Questions, visit [usda.gov/coronavirus](https://usda.gov/coronavirus).

**Farm Loan Programs:**  
Kathy Brucker, Chief

USDA is actively monitoring all agriculture commodity markets during the COVID-19 National Emergency. The U.S. food supply chain remains safe and secure and we are committed to ensuring America's farmers, ranchers, and producers get through this pandemic.

**Next STC Meeting:**  
May 20-21, (tentative)

**Sign up for important text message alerts from your local county FSA office! To subscribe, text FSANOW (372-669).**

Our USDA Service Centers in Oregon will continue to be open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment.

I also encourage you to visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus) to keep up-to-date on temporary program flexibilities available as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

---

## Interest Rates

**90 Day Treasury Bill:** 1.625%  
**Farm Operating Loans - Direct:** 2.375%  
**Farm Operating - Microloan:** 2.375%  
**Farm Ownership Loans-Direct:** 3.000%  
**Farm Ownership - Microloan:** 3.000%  
**Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing:** 2.500%  
**Farm Ownership-Down Payment:** 1.500%  
**Emergency Loans Actual Loss:** 3.375%  
**Farm Storage Facility Loan 3 Year:** 0.750%  
**Farm Storage Facility Loan 5 Year:** 0.750%  
**Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 Year:** 1.000%  
**Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 Year:** 1.000%  
**Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 Year:** 1.125%

---

## Important Dates

**May 15:** CRP Grasslands Sign-up began March 16, 2020 and runs through May 15, 2020.

**May 24:** Memorial Day, Offices Closed

**Applications accepted for WHIP+** for milk loss, and loss of on-farm stored commodities resulting from eligible disaster (into 2020).

**June 15:** Nomination Open for 2020 FSA County Committee Elections

**June 30:** ARC-PLC Program Year 2020 signup ends.

**July 4:** Independence Day, Offices Closed

**July 15:** Acreage Reporting Deadline: Perennial Forage for 2019 and subsequent years.

---

## FSA Makes Changes to Farm Loan, Disaster, Conservation and Safety Net Programs to Make it Easier for Customers to Conduct Business

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices are open in Oregon by phone appointment only until further notice, and FSA staff are available to continue helping agricultural producers with program signups, loan servicing and other important actions.

FSA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into to the office, they will be working with our agricultural producers by phone and using email and online tools whenever possible.

FSA is delivering programs and services, including:

- Farm loans;
- Commodity loans;
- Farm Storage Facility Loan program;
- Disaster assistance programs, including signup for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (this includes producers now eligible because of losses due to drought and excess moisture in 2018 and 2019);
- Safety net programs, including 2020 signup for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs;
- Conservation programs; and
- Acreage reports.

Additionally, FSA is relaxing the loan making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need. For a full list of flexibilities, visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

### **Contacting FSA**

FSA will be accepting additional forms and applications by facsimile or electronic signature. Some services are also available online to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://farmers.gov/sign-in).

FSA encourages producers to contact their county office to discuss these programs and any current, and future, temporary changes to farm loan deadlines and the loan servicing options available. For Service Center contact information, visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

---

## **FSA Adds Farm Loan Flexibilities**

Farm loans are critical for annual operating and family living expenses, emergency needs and cash flow, especially in tough times. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is providing additional flexibilities to provide producers with credit options. We encourage direct loan applicants and borrowers to contact their county office to discuss these programs and any current, and future, temporary changes to farm loan deadlines and the loan servicing options available. Customers participating in FSA's guaranteed loan programs are encouraged to contact their lender. For a full list of flexibilities, visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

---

## **USDA Offers Individuals Options to Complete Business Online**

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers have online options to access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, including Farm Service Agency's Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), producer farm data, such as

Common Land Unit data through FSAfarm+, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's [Conservation Client Gateway](#).

Producers doing business as an individual with these agencies first need to sign up for the Level 2 eAuthentication access. Currently USDA eAuthentication does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses, corporations, other entities or for anyone acting on behalf of another individual or entity.

Users with a secure Level 2 eAuthentication ID linked to their USDA customer record can apply for select USDA programs, view and print farm maps and farm records data. Enrolling is easy!

1. Contact your local service center to confirm you have a USDA customer record with a primary email address. Use our [Service Center Locator](#) to find your local office.
2. Navigate to the [eAuth Account Registration page](#).
3. Select "Customer" on the registration page.
4. Enter your primary email address, which should match what USDA has on your customer record. You will receive an email from eAuth asking you to confirm your email address. Click the "Continue Registration" link in this email to continue the registration process. *Note: When you log in, your User ID will be your email address.*
5. Next, enter your name and set a password.
6. Finally, you will need to verify your identity. You will be taken to a page where you will need to provide information such as your date of birth and residential address, and then can verify your identity online. If you are unable to verify your identity online, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Visit [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://farmers.gov/sign-in) to learn more. To locate a Service Center near you or use online services not requiring eAuthentication access, visit [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov). For technical assistance, call the eAuthentication help desk at 1-800-457-3642.

---

## USDA's Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Signup

Farmers and ranchers may apply to enroll grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands signup. The signup runs through May 15.

Through CRP Grasslands, participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, such as haying, mowing or harvesting seed from the enrolled land. Timing of some activities may be restricted by the primary nesting season of birds.

Participants will receive an annual rental payment and may receive up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices. The duration of the CRP contract is either 10 or 15 years. FSA will rank applications using a number of factors including existence of expiring CRP land, threat of conversion or development, existing grassland, and predominance of native species cover, and cost.

The 2018 Farm Bill set aside 2 million acres for CRP Grassland enrollment. CRP is one of the largest conservation programs at USDA. CRP marks its 35-year anniversary in 2020 with 22 million acres currently enrolled.

For more information or to enroll in CRP Grasslands, contact your local FSA county office or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp). To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

---

## Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing

Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*. No program payment can be issued to an eligible producer, including landowners who share in the crop, without a valid CCC-941 on file in the county office.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year will not receive payments. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

---

## Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2020 livestock losses, eligible livestock owners must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.

Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their 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) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, producers must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2021.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator)

---

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).

 SHARE



Questions?  
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#)