

November 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

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

- [Acting State Executive Director Message](#)
- [USDA to Open Signup for the Conservation Reserve Program and CRP Grasslands in Early 2021](#)
- [Interest Rates](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Apply Now for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#)
- [USDA Supports U.S. Seafood Industry Impacted by Retaliatory Tariffs](#)
- [Financial Assistance Available to Oregon Farmers, Ranchers, Forest Owners](#)
- [Maps for Acreage Reporting are Available](#)
- [Reporting Organic Crops](#)
- [USDA Announces Improvements to the Livestock Gross Margin Insurance Program for Cattle and Swine](#)
- [Communication is Key in Lending](#)

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

Acting State Executive Director (SED):

Josh Hanning

State Committee:

Anna Sullivan, Chair
Sam Asai, Member
Phil Hassinger, Member
TJ Hansell, Member
Denver Pugh, Member

Acting State Executive Director Message

During this holiday season I hope you and your family are well as we continue to face COVID-19 challenges, and recover from this year's wildfires and natural disasters. We are truly thankful for our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Oregon's Farm Service Agency is committed and will continue to support you in any way we can.

I want to remind you about the upcoming deadlines and to sign-up for the second Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP-2) by December 11, and the Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP) by December 14. Further information and resources are contained in this newsletter.

Our USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone or you can schedule an appointment to conduct business on-site at a local USDA Service Center. You can learn the status of your service center through [this tool](#). Business can also be conducted through on-line tools such as [USDA's Box and OneSpan](#).

To ensure we all remain safe and are following state guidelines, staff and customers who visit a Service Center are required to wear

Administration:
Martin Nguyen
Administrative Officer

Farm Programs:
Jeremy Nalder, Chief

Farm Loan Programs:
Kathey Brucker, Chief

Next STC Meeting: Dec. 2

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

How can we help you? Submit questions or requests for further information to [Ask USDA](https://ask.usda.gov/s/) at <https://ask.usda.gov/s/>

[ASK.USDA.GOV](https://ask.usda.gov/s/)
1-833-ONE-USDA
ASKUSDA@USDA.GOV
(available starting Nov. 23)

a face mask and must follow social distancing guidelines. If a Service Center temporarily closes due to a COVID-19 exposure, FSA staff can be reached by phone, or you can submit your documents through the use of the on-line tools. You can also contact the Oregon FSA State Office at 503-692-3688 for direct assistance.

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

We take our commitment to serve the farmers and ranchers of Oregon very seriously and we hope all eligible producers will take advantage of the programs we are offering.

Happy Holidays,

Josh Hanning
Acting State Executive Director

USDA to Open Signup for the Conservation Reserve Program and CRP Grasslands in Early 2021

USDA announced on November 12, 2020, the 2021 signup periods for general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and CRP Grasslands offers.

General signup for CRP will be open from January 4, 2021 to February 12, 2021; signup for CRP Grasslands runs from March 15, 2021 to April 23, 2021. Both programs are competitive and provide annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

CRP and the many focused programs that come under it, like CRP Grasslands, are some of the most critical tools to help producers better manage their operations while conserving natural resources. CRP has proven to protect the Nation's valuable resources. Next year's signup gives farmers and ranchers an opportunity to enroll in CRP for the first time or continue their participation for another term.

Producers may apply by contacting their FSA office.

Questions? Please contact your local [FSA Office](#).

Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans - Direct: 1.250%
Farm Operating - Microloan: 1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans-Direct: 2.375%
Farm Ownership - Microloan: 2.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing: 2.500%

Farm Ownership-Down Payment: 1.500%
Emergency Loans Actual Loss: 2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 3 Year: 0.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 5 Year: 0.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 Year: 0.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 Year: 0.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 Year: 0.875%

Important Dates

- **Nov. 20:** Applications due for disaster assistance or eligible milk or on-farm storage loss due to qualifying natural disasters in 2018 and 2019.
- **Nov. 20:** Applications due for the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP). to be considered for the first round of fiscal year 2021 funding.
- **Nov. 26:** Thanksgiving Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- **Dec. 7:** Last day to return COC Election voted ballots to local USDA Service Centers.
- **Dec. 11:** CFAP-2 applications due.
- **Dec. 11:** Signup ends for Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program for 2021 enrollment.
- **Dec. 14:** Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP) applications due.
- **Dec. 25:** Christmas day Holiday - Offices Closed
- **Jan. 1, 2021:** New Year's Day Holiday - Offices Closed

Apply Now for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers that **the deadline to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) is Dec. 11, 2020.** This program provides direct relief to producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.

CFAP 2 will provide up to \$14 billion to eligible producers of certain row crops, livestock, dairy, specialty crops, aquaculture and more. All eligible commodities, payment rates and calculations can be found on farmers.gov/cfap. CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first iteration of the program (CFAP 1) and interested producers must complete a new application to be eligible for payment for CFAP 2.

Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office.

Application Options

Producers have several options for applying to the CFAP 2 program by the Dec. 11 deadline:

- Using an online portal at farmers.gov/cfap. This allows producers with secure USDA login credentials, known as eAuthentication, to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center.
- Completing the application form using our CFAP 2 Application Generator and Payment Calculator found at farmers.gov/cfap. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the

application form, which can be printed, then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center.

Downloading the AD-3117 application form from farmers.gov/cfap and manually completing the form to submit to the local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically, or by hand delivery to an office drop box. In some limited cases, the office may be open for in-person business by appointment. Visit farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status to check the status of your local office.

USDA Service Centers can also work with producers to complete and securely transmit digitally-signed applications through two commercially available tools: Box and OneSpan. Producers who are interested in digitally signing their applications should notify their local FSA office when calling to discuss the CFAP 2 application process. You can learn more about these solutions at farmers.gov/mydocs.

Producers of commodities with payments based on acreage will use acreage and yield information provided by FSA through the annual acreage reporting process. Producers have the option to complete their application by working directly with their local FSA office or online through the CFAP 2 Application Portal.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap/apply. For existing FSA customers, including those who participated in CFAP 1, these documents are likely already on file. To find the latest information on CFAP 2, visit farmers.gov/cfap or call 877-508-8364.

More Information

As of Nov. 9, FSA has paid more than \$9.5 billion with more than 576,000 applications for CFAP 2. This builds upon more than \$10.3 billion paid through CFAP 1.

Both CFAP 1 and CFAP 2 are self-certification programs, which means the applicant certifies the information submitted is correct. FSA will soon begin an important step in the internal controls portion of CFAP 1 by conducting spot checks. Producers have been randomly selected using a statistically sound methodology. These CFAP 1 applicants will be contacted by FSA staff and asked to provide supporting documentation to verify the information certified by the producer on their CFAP 1 application.

USDA Supports U.S. Seafood Industry Impacted by Retaliatory Tariffs

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide approximately \$530 million to support the U.S. seafood industry and commercially licensed fishermen impacted by retaliatory tariffs from foreign governments. The funding will be provided through the Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP) and funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The Seafood Trade Relief Program funding will support the following seafood types:

- Atka mackerel, Crab (Dungeness, King, Snow, Southern Tanner), Flounder, Geoduck, Goosefish, Herrings, Lobster, Pacific Cod, Pacific Ocean Perch, Pollock, Sablefish, Salmon, Sole, Squid, Tuna, Turbot.

Fishermen can sign-up for relief through the program from September 14, 2020 to December 14, 2020. Fishermen should apply through their local USDA Service Center. To find your local

Service Center, visit www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator. The application can be found at www.farmers.gov/seafood.

Questions? Please contact your local [FSA Office](#).

Financial Assistance Available to Oregon Farmers, Ranchers, Forest Owners

Next application deadline November 20.

Opportunities are available for Oregon farmers, ranchers and forest owners to perform voluntary conservation activities with financial assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

NRCS Oregon announces new sign-up deadlines for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP). Applicants must apply by **November 20, 2020** to be considered for the first round of fiscal year 2021 funding.

To apply for EQIP, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) or apply online at farmers.gov .
To apply for RCPP and see what is available in your area, call your [local USDA Service Center](#) or lead partner for the RCPP Project.
To apply for ACEP, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).

The November 20 deadline applies to the following funding pools:

- **General EQIP:** In Oregon, general EQIP dollars are only available to producers within a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) area. CIS's are locally-led projects developed by farmers and partners through the NRCS Local Work Group process. See a map of current CIS's on the [NRCS Oregon homepage](#).
- **Organic EQIP:** Offers assistance to USDA certified organic producers and to producers wishing to transition their operation to obtain an organic certification.
- **Seasonal High Tunnel EQIP:** Offers assistance to install a seasonal high tunnel (hoop house) to extend seasonal crop production to strengthen local and regional food markets while reducing pesticide use and energy inputs.
- **On-Farm Energy EQIP:** Assists producers to conserve energy on their farms through an on-farm energy audit and provides assistance to implement various recommended measures identified in an energy audit.
- **Sage Grouse Initiative EQIP:** Focuses on making measurable and significant progress toward treating threats to rangeland health including sage grouse habitat on private lands.
- **Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) Initiative:** Available to AFO producers statewide to address water quality and air quality resource concerns by developing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan to manage manure and organic byproducts; and to implement conservation practices identified in that plan.
- **Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Initiative:** These projects focus on reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire on private forestlands and adjacent federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service.
- **National Water Quality Initiative:** NRCS works closely with conservation partners to select priority watersheds where on-farm conservation investments will deliver the greatest water quality improvements. Fiscal year 2021 funding is available for the Lost River watershed in

Klamath County.

- **National Air Quality Initiative:** In Oregon, NAQI funding is available to farmers in Hood River County to help orchard producers reduce the use of high-emission, diesel-fuel smudge pots which are commonly used to protect crops from damaging spring frosts. NRCS is providing a financial incentive to help growers remove smudge pots from their operations, so they can be replaced with cleaner, more efficient systems.
- **RCPP-EQIP projects:** There are currently 15 active RCPP projects throughout Oregon. These are typically 5-year projects with specific goals within regions and watersheds. Visit the [Oregon RCPP webpage](#) to learn more about RCPP funding opportunities and program eligibility.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP):** NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to secure easements for both working agricultural lands and for wetlands. The program has two components: one for Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and one for Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). Learn more on the [Oregon ACEP webpage](#).

Interested applicants can also contact a [local USDA Service Center](#) to inquire about [funding opportunities in each county](#) and apply for assistance.

Maps for Acreage Reporting are Available

Maps are now available at Oregon FSA County Offices for acreage reporting purposes. If you wish to receive your maps by e-mail, please contact your County Office. Please see the following acreage reporting deadlines for Oregon:

- December 15, 2020: Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Canola, Fall Mint, Onions (planted 8/15 - 9/15), Fall Seeded Small Grains
- January 15, 2021: Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums
- May 15, 2021: Cabbage (Planted 3/12 - 4/20)

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, you must file timely acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may cause ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.

Producers are encouraged to file their acreage reports as soon as planting is completed.

Questions? Please contact your local [FSA Office](#).

Reporting Organic Crops

If you want to use the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) organic price and selected the "organic" option on your NAP application, you must report your crops as organic.

When certifying organic acres, the buffer zone acreage must be included in the organic acreage.

You must also provide a current organic plan, organic certificate or documentation from a certifying agent indicating an organic plan is in effect. Documentation must include:

- name of certified individuals

- address
- telephone number
- effective date of certification
- certificate number
- list of commodities certified
- name and address of certifying agent
- a map showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, including the buffer zone acreage

Certification exemptions are available for producers whose annual gross agricultural income from organic sales totals \$5,000 or less. Although exempt growers are not required to provide a written certificate, they are still required to provide a map showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, transitional and buffer zone acreage.

Questions? Please contact your local [FSA Office](#).

USDA Announces Improvements to the Livestock Gross Margin Insurance Program for Cattle and Swine

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced changes to the Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) insurance program for cattle and swine beginning in the 2021 crop year. Changes include adding premium subsidies to assist producers and moving premium due dates to the end of the endorsement period for cattle.

Prior to this change, LGM-Cattle and Swine did not have premium subsidies. Now, subsidies have been added and are based on the deductible selected by you. For LGM-Cattle, the subsidy will range from 18 percent with 0 deductible up to 50 percent with a deductible of \$70 or greater. For LGM-Swine, the subsidy will range from 18 percent with 0 deductible up to 50 percent with a deductible of \$12 or greater.

Livestock insurance is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. A list of insurance agents is available online using the RMA [Agent Locator](#). Learn more about livestock insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov.

Communication is Key in Lending

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing our farm loan borrowers the tools necessary to be successful. FSA staff will provide guidance and counsel from the loan application process through the borrower's graduation to commercial credit. While it is FSA's commitment to advise borrowers as they identify goals and evaluate progress, it is crucial for borrowers to communicate with their farm loan staff when changes occur. It is the borrower's responsibility to alert FSA to any of the following:

- Any proposed or significant changes in the farming operation
- Any significant changes to family income or expenses
- The development of problem situations
- Any losses or proposed significant changes in security

If a farm loan borrower can't make payments to suppliers, other creditors, or FSA on time, contact your farm loan staff immediately to discuss loan servicing options.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your local USDA Service Center at www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator or visit fsa.usda.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).

 SHARE



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

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