



Oregon FSA Newsletter - August 2021

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Acting State Executive Director's Message

On August 3, Oregon's USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) hosted a visit by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The Secretary traveled to Oregon and California where he met with federal and state agencies and producers. During round-table discussions they discussed the impacts to conventional crops, specialty crops, and livestock loss due to drought and wildfires. *(Pictured left to right: Josh Hanning, FSA District Director and Acting State Executive*



Director; USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack; Oregon Governor Kate Brown; Ron Alvarado, NRCS State Conservationist.)

We had the opportunity to visit G. & C. Farms Inc. in Marion County, to see first-hand the damage to caneberry and other berry crops from the June heat wave. Blackberry growers Taylor and Randy Martin were also there to represent the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission. I would like to thank G. & C. Farms Inc., for the tour and hospitality.

Recently, USDA announced two new pandemic relief programs under the [Pandemic Assistance for Producers](#) initiative. The [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program \(PLIP\)](#) and the [Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers \(PATHH\)](#). These two programs are authorized to make payments under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. Please see the program details, eligibility, and due dates at those links or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Just prior to Secretary Vilsack's visit to Oregon, USDA announced [\\$15 million for producers in the Klamath Basin](#) and that the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) will soon announce flexibility for livestock producers.

More Information

On [Farmers.gov](#), the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their [crop insurance agent](#). For FSA and NRCS programs, please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Oregon FSA employees located across the state within our 23 [USDA Service Centers](#) understand the current circumstances and empathize with every affected agriculture producer. Your local [USDA Service Center](#) is committed to providing the best available outreach and implementation of programs currently available, as well as other ad hoc congressionally mandated [disaster programs](#) that become available.

Josh Hanning
Acting State Executive Director

Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 1.750%
Farm Operating – Microloan, 1.750%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 3.250%
Farm Ownership – Microloan, 3.250%
Farm Ownership-Direct, Joint Financing, 2.500%
Farm Ownership-Down Payment, 1.500%
Emergency Loans Actual Loss, 2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 0.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 0.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 1.375%

Important Dates

- [CFAP-2](#) Additional Enrollment Open.
- [CRP General Signup](#) continues, extended signup deadline TBD.
- [Organic Cost Certification Share Program \(OCCSP\) Sign-up Period](#): The 2021 program year covers eligible expenses paid by certified organic operations between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021. Applications due before Oct. 31, 2021.
- **August 20:** [CRP Grasslands applications deadline](#)
- **August 31:** Oregon NAP Deadline for beets, cabbage, canola, carrots for seed, Christmas Trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except mint), onions & radish.
- **Sept. 6:** Labor Day Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **Sept. 17:** Applications due [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program \(PLIP\)](#).
- **Oct. 15:** Applications due for [Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program \(PATHH\)](#).
- [Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)

Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

NAP provides financial assistance to you for crops that aren't eligible for crop insurance to protect against lower yields or crops unable to be planted due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

To receive payment, you had to purchase NAP coverage for 2021 crops and file a notice of loss the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

For hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops, you must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, please contact your contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Sign-up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

If you're an orchardist or nursery tree grower who experienced losses from natural disasters during calendar year 2021, you must submit a TAP application either 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent.

TAP provides financial assistance to help you replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster, plus an adjustment for normal mortality. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which you can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 1,000 acres annually.

For more information on TAP, please contact your contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit fsa.usda.gov/tap.

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Surveys

The USDA-NASS has two upcoming surveys offering producers a chance to share how their cereal grains have been impacted by the drought and heat this year:

- **The September Ag Survey** (August 28-September 15) will ask producers for harvested acreage, yield and production, and grain stocks on farm as of September 1, for small grain crops in Oregon and the U.S. Data from this survey will also be used to estimate yields at the county level. Estimates will be released on September 30.
- **The County Ag. Production Survey** (September 3-October 8) provides the data needed to estimate acreage and production of small grains crops in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington **at the county level. This data directly impacts growers** as the information is one of the sources of data for county level estimates used to determine payments in the ARC/PLC payment programs. If there are not enough responses to publish county data, a surrounding county's data may have to be used instead. This may have a negative effect on producer payments because of local yield difference between counties. USDA's Farm Service Agency also uses the estimates to administer disaster assistance programs.



Dave Losh, Oregon State Statistician can be reached at Dave.Losh@usda.gov with questions or assistance with finding [NASS survey results](#).

FSA Implements Set-Aside Loan Provision for Customers Impacted by COVID-19

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will broaden the use of the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) loan provision, normally used in the wake of natural disasters, to allow farmers with USDA farm loans who are affected by COVID-19, and are determined eligible, to have their next payment set aside. In some cases, FSA may also set aside a second payment for farmers who have already had one payment set aside because of a prior designated disaster.



FSA direct loan borrowers will receive a letter with the details of the expanded Disaster Set-Aside authorities, which includes the possible set-aside of annual operating loans, as well as explanations of the additional loan servicing options that are available. To discuss or request a loan payment Set-Aside, borrowers should call or email the farm loan staff at their local FSA county office.

The set-aside payment's due date is moved to the final maturity date of the loan or extended up to twelve months in the case of an annual operating loan. Any principal set-aside will continue to accrue interest until it is repaid. This aims to improve the borrower's cashflow in the current production cycle.

FSA previously announced it was relaxing the loan-making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need. Direct loan applicants and borrowers are encouraged to contact their local FSA county office to discuss loan making and servicing flexibilities and other needs or concerns. Customers participating in FSA's guaranteed loan programs are encouraged to contact their lender. Information on these flexibilities, and office contact information, can be found on farmers.gov/coronavirus.

FSA will be accepting most 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 portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and certain 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.

Showcasing Oregon Agriculture



Reminder! Send us your photos of Oregon agriculture during 2021 for use in the 2022 *USDA in Oregon* photo calendar! [Click here to view the flyer and consent form.](#)



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How can we help you? Submit questions or requests for further information to ASK.USDA.GOV or 1-833-ONE-USDA

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