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Together We Can End COVID-19

Locate a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Near You

Across the country, the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating, but the light is at the end of the tunnel. The United States now has safe, highly effective vaccines that protect you and your family from getting sick. They offer an opportunity to return to normalcy in our everyday lives. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine gives you an added layer of protection and could protect your coworkers, family, and friends.

Some may have concerns, and that is perfectly reasonable. USDA believes we can trust what doctors and scientists are saying. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and will save lives. Millions of people have already safely received these life-saving vaccines.

USDA is encouraging our employees to get the vaccine as soon as they have access to one, and as our offices begin to reopen, we also encourage customers our staff may encounter in the workplace to get one. More and more states are increasing the number of COVID-19 vaccines available to their residents.

If you want to know more about COVID-19 vaccines or search for vaccine providers near you, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

Help be a part of the solution. You are a key player in our nation's effort to end this pandemic for good. Together, we can do this.

USDA Pandemic Assistance to Producers

Please visit www.farmers.gov for information and announcements under the **USDA Pandemic Assistance to Producers** initiative, which will help to expand and more equitably distribute financial assistance to producers and farming operations during the COVID-19 national emergency.



USDA also recently announced the availability of a new webpage at farmers.gov/AmericanRescuePlan that provides information on the debt payments and [frequently asked questions](#). Also see a new Oregon FSA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program video for further assistance at [farmers.gov YouTube](#).

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, 0.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 0.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 1.625%

Important Dates

- [CFAP-2](#) Additional Enrollment Open
- [CRP General Signup](#) continues, extended signup deadline TBD.
- **2021** CRP Non-Emergency Grazing Period (prior approval required)
- **May 31:** [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) Ornamental Nurseries Only
- **May 31:** Memorial Day Federal Holiday-Offices Closed
- **Sept. 30:** Continuous and CREP Signup 55 Closes
- [Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)

USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change

USDA will open enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with higher payment rates, new incentives, and a more targeted focus on the program's role in climate change mitigation. Additionally, USDA is announcing investments in partnerships to increase climate-smart agriculture, including \$330 million in 85 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects and \$25 million for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials.



Conservation Reserve Program

USDA's goal is to enroll up to 4 million new acres in CRP by raising rental payment rates and expanding the number of incentivized environmental practices allowed under the program. CRP is one of the world's largest voluntary conservation programs with a long track record of preserving topsoil, sequestering carbon, and reducing nitrogen runoff, as well as providing healthy habitat for wildlife.

CRP is a powerful tool when it comes to climate mitigation, and acres currently enrolled in the program mitigate more than 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). If USDA reaches its goal of enrolling an additional 4 million acres into the program, it will mitigate an additional 3 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent and prevent 90 million pounds of nitrogen and 33 million tons of sediment from running into our waterways each year.

New Climate-Smart Practice Incentive

To target the program on climate change mitigation, FSA is introducing a new **Climate-Smart Practice Incentive** for CRP general and continuous signups that aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-Smart CRP practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat, and wetland restoration. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice type.

Higher Rental Rates and New Incentives

In 2021, CRP is capped at 25 million acres, and currently 20.8 million acres are enrolled. Furthermore, the cap will gradually increase to 27 million acres by 2023. To help increase producer interest and enrollment, FSA is:

- **Adjusting soil rental rates.** This enables additional flexibility for rate adjustments, including a possible increase in rates where appropriate.
- **Increasing payments for Practice Incentives from 20% to 50%.** This incentive for continuous CRP practices is based on the cost of establishment and is in addition to cost share payments.
- **Increasing payments for water quality practices.** Rates are increasing from 10% to 20% for certain water quality benefiting practices available through the CRP continuous signup, such as grassed waterways, riparian buffers, and filter strips.
- **Establishing a CRP Grassland minimum rental rate.** This benefits more than 1,300 counties with rates currently below the minimum.

To learn more about updates to CRP, download our "What's New with CRP" [fact sheet](#). For further assistance please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit [farmers.gov](#).

USDA-NASS 2021 June Area Survey



One of the most important surveys conducted by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is the June Area Survey. This survey is used to measure incompleteness in our list of farm operators and make our estimates more accurate.

The survey will primarily target winter wheat growing areas. Data from this survey will go directly into estimates of planted and harvested acreage that will be released nationally and at the state level on June 30.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all contact with potential operators for the 2021 survey will be made by phone. Phoning for the prescreening phase of the survey was completed April 23. Phoning for the data collection phase of the survey will begin on May 21 and continue through June 16.

NASS Regional offices use National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) enumerators to contact farm operators for this survey. Part of the process for this survey (the prescreening phase) requires that the NASDA enumerator determine the operator of all tracts of land within a randomly selected segment of land, approximately one square mile in size. If you receive a map in the mail, we also ask that you please fill it out to use as a reference if you are contacted to take the survey.

For further assistance or information contact Dave Losh, Oregon State Statistician USDA NASS, Northwest Region at Dave.Losh@usda.gov or by phone at 503-326-2136.

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 further assistance please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit farmers.gov.

Showcasing Oregon Agriculture!

To receive your copy of the *USDA in Oregon 2021* calendar please call your local USDA Service Center to make an appointment or if you would like a copy mailed to you. [Click here to find a local USDA Service Center.](#) Also, don't forget to send in 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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Sam Asai, Member
Phil Hassinger, Member
Denver Pugh, Member

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

Next STC Meeting: June 16

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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