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Acting State Executive Director's Message

2021 was yet another dry year, but as the rain moves in it will be time to start fall plantings for seeding crops, trees, shrubs, perennials, and other fall crops. As the weather starts to turn colder, cattle will be moved off pasture and home for the winter. We are hoping for some much needed precipitation to help decrease these drought conditions we've been in most of the year. (Photo of Oregon's Columbia River Gorge.)



With the recent passing of the Continuing Resolution budget through December 3, FSA can continue to offer the assistance programs needed to help recover from the effects of the pandemic, extreme weather events, drought, and wildfires experienced in our state this year. Stay tuned for further updates on the fiscal year 2022 budget and FSA programs.

The selection of the new FSA State Executive Directors (SEDs) has begun, and SEDs have been selected in Georgia, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, and South Carolina so far. We may know before the end of the year who will be selected for Oregon,

and the selection of Oregon's State Committee members should follow at the beginning of next year.

USDA continues to offer program relief for our farmers, producers, and ranchers. The latest announced this week is the **Feed Transportation & Water Hauling Assistance** program covered under the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#). This [ELAP Feed Transportation Producer Tool](#) is a Microsoft Excel workbook that will help you document and estimate payment to cover feed transportation costs due to drought. The workbook tool will require use of Microsoft Excel, and a tutorial video is available at fsa.usda.gov/elap. FSA will begin accepting applications later this fall and ranchers should contact their local FSA county office to apply. **The deadline to apply for ELAP, including feed transportation costs for 2021 is January 31, 2022.** We have posted the news release for further details about this program at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Oregon/news-releases/index> For assistance with this program and new tool, please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Josh Hanning
Acting State Executive Director

Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 1.775%
Farm Operating – Microloan, 1.750%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 2.875%
Farm Ownership – Microloan, 2.875%
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, 0.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 1.375%

Important Dates

- **Oct. 25:** [NRCS Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Coop Agreements due.](#)
- **Nov. 1:** [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.
- **Nov. 11:** Veterans Day Federal Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **Nov. 25:** Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **Jan. 31, 2022:** [Assistance for Feed Transportation Costs \(ELAP\)](#)
- [Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)

USDA Invests \$4.7 Million to Provide Outreach and Technical Assistance to Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an investment of \$4.7 million to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to historically underserved farmers and ranchers. The partnerships will support participation in Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, including those that are part of USDA's [Pandemic Assistance for Producers](#) initiative.

Fifty-six project proposals, covering all states and territories, are being finalized to assist historically underserved farmers and ranchers in accessing FSA programs. Programs include outreach for pandemic assistance programs, including the signup re-opening of the [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#) (CFAP 2). These proposals will also assist in outreach for FSA's farm programs, [conservation programs](#), [farm loans](#), [county committee elections](#), [disaster programs](#), the [Heirs' Property Relending Program](#), heirs' property succession planning and the Agricultural Marketing Service's [Pandemic Response and Safety Grant](#) program.

Read about the 56 funded projects and organizations on [FSA's cooperative agreements webpage](#).

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income Certifications

If you 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), it may be because you have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*.

If you don't have a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year you 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 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Unlike the past, you must have the CCC-941 certifying your AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

For further assistance please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA Announces Implementation of Improvements to Livestock Risk Protection Insurance Program

Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced that further changes to its [Livestock Risk Protection](#) (LRP) insurance plan will take effect on January 20 for crop year 2021 and succeeding crop years.



The improvements to LRP include:

- Increasing livestock head limits for feeder and fed cattle to 6,000 head per endorsement/12,000 head annually and swine to 40,000 head per endorsement/150,000 head annually.
- Modifying the requirement to own insured livestock until the last 60 days of the endorsement.
- Increasing the endorsement lengths for swine up to 52 weeks.
- Creating new feeder cattle and swine types to allow for unborn livestock to be insured.

For more information, please see the [livestock insurance plans page](#) on the RMA website.

RMA is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA Announces Implementation of Improvements to Prevented Planting Coverage and the Beginning and Veteran Farmer and Rancher Program

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) improvements to prevented planting coverage and to the beginning and veteran farmer and rancher program took effect on November 30 for crop year 2021.



These improvements, among others, were made to the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions.

Improvements to prevented planting coverage include:

- Expanding the "1 in 4" requirement nationwide, requiring producers to plant, insure and harvest acreage in at least one of the four most recent crop years.
- Making modifications to ensure that producers' prevented planting payments adequately reflect the crops the producer intended to plant.
- For more information, see the [previous announcement](#) and these [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

The improvement to the beginning and veteran farmer and rancher program will allow participants with farming experience to use the Actual Production History (APH) of the previous producer, with permission, on newly acquired land. Previously, the APH could only be used if the beginning or veteran farmer or rancher was involved on the specific acreage acquired.

RMA is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA Unveils New Climate Partnership Initiative, Requests Public Input

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to partnering with agriculture, forestry and rural communities to develop climate solutions that strengthen rural America. The Department has outlined and requested public comments on a new climate partnership initiative designed to create new revenue streams for producers via market opportunities for commodities produced using climate-smart practices.



Guided by science, USDA will support a set of pilot projects that provide incentives to implement climate-smart conservation practices on working lands and to quantify and monitor the carbon and greenhouse gas benefits associated with those practices. The Department published a Request for Information (RFI) seeking public comment and input on design of the new initiative. **Stakeholders interested in providing comments may do so on or before 11:59 p.m. EST on November 1, 2021**, via the [Federal Register](https://www.federalregister.gov), [Docket ID: USDA-2021-0010](https://www.federalregister.gov/docket/USDA-2021-0010).

Higher Loan Limit Now Available for USDA Guaranteed Farm Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a higher loan limit will be available for borrowers seeking a guaranteed farm loan starting Oct. 1, 2021, from \$1.776 million to \$1.825 million.



FSA farm loans offer access to funding for a wide range of producer needs, from securing land to financing the purchase of equipment.

Guaranteed loans are financed and serviced by commercial lenders. FSA provides up to a 95% guarantee against possible financial loss of principal and interest. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

In fiscal year 2021, FSA saw continued strong demand for guaranteed loans. FSA obligated more than \$3.4 billion in guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans. This includes nearly \$1.2 billion for beginning farmers. The number of guaranteed borrowers has grown by 10% to more than 38,750 farmers and ranchers over the last decade. FSA expects the increasing demand for farm loans to continue into fiscal year 2022.

Disaster Set-Aside Extension

USDA has additional support available to producers given the recent outbreaks of the COVID-19 Delta variant and has extended the availability of COVID-19 Disaster Set-Aside

(DSA) for installments due through Jan. 31, 2022. In addition, FSA will permit a second DSA for COVID-19 and a second DSA for natural disasters for those who had an initial COVID-19 DSA. Requests for a COVID-19 DSA or a second DSA must be received no later than May 1, 2022.

Last year, FSA broadened the use of the DSA. Normally used in the wake of natural disasters, the DSA can now allow farmers with USDA farm loans who are affected by COVID-19 and determined to be eligible, to have their next payment set aside. 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 will improve the borrower's cashflow in the current production cycle.

More Information

Producers can explore available options on all FSA loan options at fsa.usda.gov or by contacting their [local USDA Service Center](#). Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some [USDA Service Centers](#) are open to limited visitors. Contact your Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your local USDA Service Center. To find a USDA Service Center visit [USDA Service Center Locator](#).

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

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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[Risk Management Agency](#)
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