



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oregon FSA Newsletter - September 2021

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Acting State Executive Director's Message

I would like to commend our Oregon FSA county offices for their continued outreach efforts this year, coming up with unique and creative ways to connect with their local agriculture communities.

We have been busy attending outreach events in person, collaborating with the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) and other USDA agencies at fairs, trade shows, and other events.



We also continue to share USDA programs through meetings, radio, and informational sessions. Lissa Biehn, our County Executive Director (CED) at the [Wasco/Hood River Service Center](#) joins the [Soil and Water Conservation District](#) (SWCD) Planner on their monthly radio spot focusing on [Conservation](#) for the district. This helps to reach a broader audience to share about FSA programs. Also, since becoming a new CED in the [FSA Malheur County Office](#), Deborah Arntz has been making the extra effort to meet and greet as many people as possible during meetings, office visits, and outreach events. Nice job!

My staff and I have also attended some of the Oregon Ag Associations' conferences and producer meetings in person this year, even though some of those meetings were due to the inclement weather events and disasters Oregon experienced. But we are always willing to provide you with up-to-date resources about [Disaster Assistance](#), [Farm Programs](#), [Farm Loans](#), and we truly enjoy meeting you all.

I would also like to thank you for stopping by USDA outreach booths! Pictured above is our Program Technician, Emily Trumbull at the USDA Klamath County Fair booth. The [FSA Klamath Falls Service Center](#) staffed the booth throughout the fair with Laura Hall, CED; Mary Alcorn, Farm Loan Officer Trainee; and Program Technicians Christina Goss and Josie Ross; and two employees from the Klamath County SWCD, Will Natividad and Brian Quick. Thank-you!

As a reminder, the CFAP-2 Signup deadline is October 12. The original application period for CFAP 2 ended Dec.11, 2020. USDA reopened CFAP 2 signup beginning April 5, 2021, and signup will end on October 12, 2021. **Please note that all types and varieties of grass seed are eligible for CFAP-2 benefits.** For further specifics on eligibility and payments, please refer to the [CFAP-2 Fact Sheet](#), or visit [Farmers.gov/cfap](#). For further assistance please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#), or contact the CFAP call center at 1-877-508-8364.

Josh Hanning
Acting State Executive Director

Interest Rates

- Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 1.875%**
- Farm Operating – Microloan, 1.875%**
- 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, 2.875%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 0.375%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 0.750%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 1.000%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 1.250%**

Important Dates

- **CLEAR30** is available to producers with CRP contracts expiring September 30, 2021.
- [CRP General Signup](#) continues, extended signup deadline TBD.
- **Oct. 11:** Columbus Day Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **Oct. 12:** [CFAP-2](#) applications due.
- **Oct 12:** Applications due [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program \(PLIP\)](#).
- **Oct. 15:** Applications due for [Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program \(PATHH\)](#).
- **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.
- [Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs](#).

Streamlining How You Find Information on Farmers.gov

If you've been to [Farmers.gov](#) before, things may look a little different from the last time you were here. We've made some changes, to improve how you find information so that you can find what you need even more easily and efficiently.



The big, green navigation bar near the top of every page – it's different now. It opens up, to show descriptions and subtopics, making it quicker and easier to figure out what's where and reduce guessing. Why? Two reasons: First, farmers.gov has grown a lot over the years and the old navigation wasn't designed for the load. Second, because you asked for it. We analyzed your comments through the "Feedback" button on the site and tested our new designs and information organization with real farmers and ranchers through surveys and live testing sessions.

Along with the new website navigation, we restructured how our pages and topics are grouped and organized to help you easily access the information you need. We also relabeled some of our existing pages using more direct language. This means that pages or information you've used before may have different labels or be in new places.

Important changes:

- The old Fund page is now called Loans. The Loans page has information and resources about USDA loans, including the Farm Loan Programs.

- The Recover page is now Protection and Recovery. This page has information to help you prepare and recover from natural disasters, and to mitigate risk for your operation.
- The Conserve page is now Conservation. This page hasn't changed much and still has information on how to implement conservation practices, improve and preserve natural resources, and address conservation concerns.
- The Manage page is now Working With Us. This page connects you with resources that tell you how USDA can help you start, expand, enhance, or improve your agricultural operation.
- The Connect page has been replaced with Your Business, a guide to USDA resources that cater to your specific operation. Information that was on the Connect page has been moved to the Contact Us page and the Get Involved page.

We are always updating Farmers.gov based on your feedback and to stay up-to-date with important USDA announcements. We've recently created some new webpages, and updated some existing ones, to better equip you with the vital information you need. There are even more new pages coming soon, so stay tuned!

For Farmers.gov, we don't guess what farmers and ranchers want from a website. We start by asking, then test our designs with volunteers who are also farmers and ranchers.

There's a feedback button on every page of Farmers.gov. Based on your feedback, we looked for ways to make our site easier to use and to build the information that you're looking for. Live user testing sessions provide data, such as this heatmap, showing where testers tended to click during an exercise.

You helped us create the new navigation design, the new information organization, and told us how to speak using your words, and not legalese. Check out [Farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) today!

Linkage Requirements for Payments Received Under WHIP+ and/or QLA

If you received a payment under the Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program+ (WHIP+) or the Quality Loss Adjustment Program (QLA) for crop production and/or quality losses occurring in 2018, 2019, or 2020 crop years, you are required to meet linkage requirements by obtaining federal crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at the 60/100 level, or higher, for both the 2022 and 2023 crop years.

When applying for WHIP+ or QLA, form FSA-895 (Crop Insurance and/or NAP Coverage Agreement) was submitted acknowledging the requirement to obtain federal crop insurance, if available, or NAP coverage if federal crop insurance is not available. The coverage requirement is applicable to the physical location county of the crop that received WHIP+ and/or QLA benefits.

Producers should not delay contacting their federal crop insurance agent or local county FSA Office to inquire about coverage options, as **failure to obtain the applicable coverage by the sales/application closing date will result in the required refund of WHIP+ benefits received on the applicable crop, plus interest.** You can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by [visiting the RMA website](#).

For more information, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Progression Lending from FSA

Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loans are considered progression lending. Unlike loans from a commercial lender, FSA loans are intended to be temporary in nature. Our goal is to help you graduate to commercial credit, and our farm loan staff is available to help borrowers through training and credit counseling.

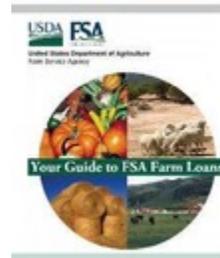


The FSA team will help borrowers identify their goals to ensure financial success. FSA staff will advise borrowers on developing strategies and a plan to meet your goals and graduate to commercial credit. FSA borrowers are responsible for the success of their farming operation, but FSA staff will help in an advisory role, providing the tools necessary to help you achieve your operational goals and manage your finances.

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](#).

Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:



- Leases of any kind
- Easements of any kind
- Subordinations
- Partial releases
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](#).

Report Your Dry Wells to the Oregon Water Resources Department

(Salem, OR) – The Oregon Water Resources Department is asking Oregonians who rely on wells for their water use to report their dry wells or low producing wells online. Visit our Dry Well webpage at www.oregon.gov/owrd/drywell and click on the link to report your dry well.



Reported information helps the Department understand changes in aquifers across the state and how the drought is impacting groundwater supplies and those that rely on groundwater. In addition, the reported information helps state and local agencies to identify where assistance may be needed. The Department will utilize the information to understand the scope of people affected and distribute information to affected well owners if any assistance becomes available.

During drought, a combination of factors such as increased groundwater pumping and reduced groundwater recharge can lead to significantly reduced production or no production of water from wells. Regardless of drought conditions, it is important for well owners to use water wisely and conserve groundwater in order to preserve it for future use. Some groundwater reservoirs, called aquifers, only store small quantities of water and require annual rainfall or surface water for recharge, which can lead to annual seasonal water supply challenges. Other aquifers may store greater quantities of water but do not recharge very quickly, which can lead to declining groundwater levels with time.

If you do rely on a domestic well and you are experiencing water supply shortages, it is important to conserve that water for essential household uses such as drinking, bathing, cooking, or sanitation. Practice water conservation both inside and outside of the home and reduce or eliminate all outdoor water use. For more tips on how to use water wisely, visit www.drought.oregon.gov.

If your well does go dry, or you begin to experience water supply shortages due to significantly lower production from the well, see our Water Wells and Drought handout and our Water Well Owner's Handbook at www.oregon.gov/owrd/drywell.

The Oregon Water Resources Department is the state agency charged with studying, allocating, and distributing water in Oregon. Visit us at www.oregon.gov/owrd.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Assistance

USDA Rural Development has been working with our partners to address the need for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance for ag producers and rural small businesses through the [Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant](#) (EA-REDA) under the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#).

With the EA-REDA program, USDA Rural Development funds efforts to deliver technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses interested in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects on their operations.

Currently, two such programs are offering technical assistance to producers in Oregon. [Clackamas Community College](#) is helping with renewable energy development for their

region. Also, starting this year, the [Oregon Department of Energy](#) will also be offering energy audits statewide. Producers receiving the technical assistance may also be eligible to apply for USDA [REAP](#) grants and guaranteed loans to assist with the cost of project implementation.

NASS to Mail 2021 Hemp Acreage and Production Survey in October



USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail its first **Hemp Acreage and Production Survey** that will arrive around October 20.

The survey will collect information on the total planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in Oregon and the United States.

The Domestic Hemp Production Program established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp Acreage and Production survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities.

Producers will receive an individual/confidential code to complete the survey online at agcounts.usda.gov or they may complete and return the survey by mail using the return envelope provided.

For questions, please contact Dave Losh, Oregon State Statistician at 503-326-2136, or by e-mail at Dave.Losh@usda.gov.

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.](#)



Oregon FSA State Office

7620 SW Mohawk St.
Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Phone: 503-692-3688
Fax: 855-824-6185

Acting State Executive Director

JOSH HANNING, 503-404-1111
josh.hanning@usda.gov

Administrative Officer

MARTIN NGUYEN, 503-404-1127
martin.nguyen@usda.gov

Farm Programs Chief

SARAH HANLON, 503-404-1116
sarah.hanlon@usda.gov

Farm Loan Programs Chief

KATHEY BRUCKER, 503-404-1117
kathey.brucker@usda.gov

Oregon FSA State Committee Chair:
Acting SED, Josh Hanning

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