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## County Committee Elections

County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.



**The 2021 County Committee election nomination period beings June 15.** The last day to file nomination forms is August 2 at your [local USDA Service Center](#).

As part of the County Committee process, Portland is also one of 10 pilot cities for an Urban Agriculture FSA County Committee. The Clackamas/Multnomah County Committee is also seeking eligible applicants. The nomination form and resources are available at the [County Committee Elections webpage](#). The urban and suburban county committees work to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices. Additionally, the County Committees may address areas such as food access, community engagement, support of local activities to promote and encourage community compost, and food waste reduction.

Your local USDA Service Center will send out a GovDelivery bulletin with further information if your county will hold a County Committee Election. The nomination form and resources are available at the [County Committee Elections webpage](#) or available at your [local USDA Service Center](#).

## Interest Rates

**Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 1.875%**  
**Farm Operating – Microloan, 1.875%**  
**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, 2.875%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 0.375%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 0.875%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 1.250%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 1.625%**

## 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.

## Important Dates

- [CFAP-2](#) Additional Enrollment Open
- [CRP General Signup](#) continues, extended signup deadline TBD.
- [2021 CRP Non-Emergency Grazing Period](#) (prior approval required)
- **June 15:** County Committee Nomination Period Opens, through Aug. 2
- **June 15:** Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP) Report of Acreage form (FSA-578) due
- **July 5:** Independence Day Federal Holiday-Offices Closed
- **July 12:** EQIP Applications Due (NRCS)
- **July 23:** CRP General signup 56 deadline
- **August 6:** Continuous CRP Sign Up 55 revised deadline
- **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
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- [Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)

## USDA Offers Drought Impacted Oregon Farmers and Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist you in your recovery efforts following drought. Available programs and loans include:

- **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing).
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** – provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Drought is not an eligible adverse weather event, except when associated with anthrax, a condition that occurs because of drought and directly results in the death of eligible livestock.

- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs.
- **Emergency Loan Program** – available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Secretarial Disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, you must report prevented planting and failed acres (crops and grasses). Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form *FSA-576, Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For more information on these programs, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) or visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](https://fsa.usda.gov/disaster).

## USDA to Invest \$41.8 Million in Conservation Assistance for Producers in Drought-Impacted States

In response to historic drought conditions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering \$41.8 million through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) to help agricultural producers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Oregon alleviate the immediate impacts of drought and other natural resource challenges on working lands.

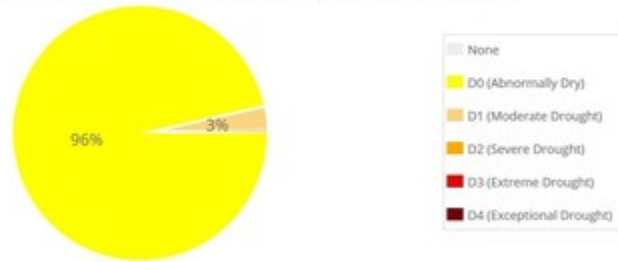


USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will make this funding available through Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC), a new option available through EQIP. Landowners are encouraged to apply by **July 12, 2021**.

## U.S Drought Monitor Now Searchable by Tribal Area

Date: < June 1, 2021 > Area type: Tribal Areas Area: Wind River

Wind River Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



Every Thursday morning, the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) provides the latest snapshot of evolving drought conditions across the United States and its territories. Now, USDM users can also search for drought conditions for tribal areas across the country.

When you visit the [Drought Monitor](#) and search the USDM's numerous data and mapping products, "Tribal Areas" now appears in the dropdown menu Data/Data Graphs, Area Types/Area - select Tribal area. Users can then view drought data or maps for 323 tribal areas. As with other defined territories, information and maps of the tribal areas can be cross-referenced with data from more than 20 years of USDM maps. For example, the searchable tools allow you to quickly find the highest percentage of exceptional drought that's been recorded on the Wind River Reservation during the USDM's history (28.3% in January of 2003), graphs that show what percentage of the Navajo Nation is currently experiencing exceptional (D4) to extreme (D3) drought (95%, with 64% in D4) and much more.

## Cover Crop Guidelines

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) worked together to develop consistent, simple and a flexible policy for cover crop practices.

Cover crops, such as grasses, legumes and forbs, can be planted: with no subsequent crop planted, before a subsequent crop, after prevented planting acreage, after a planted crop, or into a standing crop.



### Termination:

The cover crop termination guidelines provide the timeline for terminating cover crops, are based on zones and apply to non-irrigated cropland. To view the zones and additional guidelines visit [nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/) and click "Cover Crop Termination Guidelines."

The cover crop may be terminated by natural causes, such as frost, or intentionally terminated through chemical application, crimping, rolling, tillage or cutting. A cover crop managed and terminated according to NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines is **not** considered a crop for crop insurance purposes.

## Reporting:

The intended use of cover only will be used to report cover crops. This includes crops that were terminated by tillage and reported with an intended use code of green manure. An FSA policy change will allow cover crops to be hayed and grazed. Program eligibility for the cover crop that is being hayed or grazed will be determined by each specific program.

If the crop reported as cover only is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated properly, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop.

Crops reported with an intended use of cover only will not count toward the total cropland on the farm. In these situations, a subsequent crop will be reported to account for all cropland on the farm.

## Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

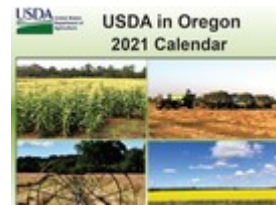
If you have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs), it may be because you have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*.

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 and 2021. Unlike the past, you must have the CCC-941 certifying your AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

## 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](#).**



## Oregon FSA State Office

7620 SW Mohawk St.  
Tualatin, OR 97062

**Phone:** 503-692-3688

**Fax:** 855-824-6185

[www.fsa.usda.gov/or](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or)

### Acting State Executive Director

JOSH HANNING, 503-404-1111  
[josh.hanning@usda.gov](mailto:josh.hanning@usda.gov)

### Administrative Officer

MARTIN NGUYEN, 503-404-1127  
[martin.nguyen@usda.gov](mailto:martin.nguyen@usda.gov)

### Farm Programs Chief

SARAH HANLON, 503-404-1116  
[sarah.hanlon@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.hanlon@usda.gov)

### Farm Loan Programs Chief

KATHEY BRUCKER, 503-404-1117  
[kathey.brucker@usda.gov](mailto:kathey.brucker@usda.gov)

### Oregon FSA State Committee:

Anna Sullivan, Chair  
TJ Hansell, Member  
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 FSNOW (372-669).**

**How can we help you?** Submit questions or requests for further information to [ASK.USDA.GOV](http://ASK.USDA.GOV) or 1-833-ONE-USDA

**Next STC Meeting:** June 16

### CONTACT US:

[Farm Service Agency](#)  
[Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)  
[Risk Management Agency](#)  
[Service Center Locator](#)



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