



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oregon FSA Newsletter - April 2022

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

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State Executive Director's Message

Hello everyone,

My name is Gail Greenman, and I am the new State Executive Director for Oregon FSA. I come to Oregon FSA from the Westside Economic Alliance (WEA). As WEA's Executive Director I oversaw daily operations of the organization and brought together businesses and elected officials to further the advancement of transportation, workforce development, housing, and other infrastructure issues critical to the Portland metropolitan region.



Prior to WEA, I spent over 15 years as Oregon Farm Bureau's Director of National Affairs where I cultivated relationships with farmers and ranchers throughout the state as well as with Oregon's congressional delegation. In that capacity I was the federal lead on issues including, appropriations, broadband, conservation, disaster funding, energy, environment, farm bill, food safety, health care, hemp, labor, rural education tax, telecommunications,

transportation and water. I also had the privilege of representing Oregon Farm Bureau on the FSA/NRCS Oregon Technical Advisory Committee, the Oregon Department of Agriculture Food Safety Committee, and a national farm bill task force.

Additionally I sought and implemented opportunities to integrate public policy and public affairs to enhance awareness of agriculture among all Oregonians by working with groups and coalitions including Farmers Ending Hunger, Connect Americans Now, Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative, Travel Portland and The Bite of Oregon. I represented farming and ranching operations to US Forest Service, Animal Plan Health Inspection Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration, and of course, the Farm Service Agency. I'm most excited to get back out into the countryside and meet my colleagues with USDA, *The People's Department*, and our amazing farming and ranching families!

Also, USDA recently announced disaster assistance programs for producers and ranchers affected by wildfires and drought in 2021. For further information please see the article below. For further program information, the ELFP and ELAP news releases are available on the Oregon FSA website/State News Release at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Oregon/index>. For assistance with these programs, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).

Oregon FSA has been attending on-site Outreach events! We recently attended the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association's Annual Convention in Salem, the Oregon Future Farmers of America Convention in Redmond, the Grant County Natural Resources Fair in John Day, and presented our Farm Loan Programs at the Central Oregon Ag Show in Redmond. You can find other upcoming state events on the [Oregon FSA webpage](#).

Gail Greenman, State Executive Director
Oregon FSA



Pictured left: FFA Convention NRCS Outreach Booth, Julianne Robinson and Anna Burton, Engineers. Not pictured, Amanda Smith, FSA Program Technician, Deschutes County Office. Pictured right: Grant County Natural Resources Fair, FSA booth attended by Emma Gabriel, County Executive Director; Brenda Otley, Program Technician, Harney/Grant County Office; Shannon Brubaker, Program Technician, Grant County Office.

Interest Rates-April 2022

- Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 2.750%**
- Farm Operating – Microloans, 2.750%**
- 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, 3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 2.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 2.000%

FSA will permit a second Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) for COVID-19 and a second DSA for natural disaster for direct loan borrowers 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**. [Click here](#) for further information.

FSA also offers guaranteed loans through commercial lenders at rates set by those lenders. You can find out which of these loans may be right for you by using our [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#).

Important Dates

- **May 1, 2022:** Deadline for [Second Farm Loan Disaster Set-Aside \(DSA\)](#) requests.
- **May 13, 2022:** [Grassland CRP](#) signup ends.
- **May 30, 2022:** Offices Closed for Memorial Day, Federal Holiday.
- **June 20, 2022:** Offices Closed for Juneteenth, Federal Holiday.
- **July 4, 2022:** Offices Closed for Independence Day, Federal Holiday.
- **July 15, 2022:** Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial Forage, spring planted crops.
- **August 5, 2022:** CRP-CLEAR30 Signups end.
[Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)

USDA-FSA Disaster Assistance Programs Available

Payments to Producers Impacted by Drought or Wildfire

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that ranchers who have approved [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](#) (LFP) applications through 2021 for forage losses due to severe drought or wildfire, will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments for increases in supplemental feed costs in 2021 through the Farm Service Agency's [Emergency Livestock Relief Program](#) (ELRP).



Oregon FSA received more than 2,325 LFP applications, totaling nearly \$32,000,000 in payments to livestock producers for the 2021 year LFP. Oregon is slated to issue approximately \$26 million in ELRP payments, but this amount does not include any outstanding applications on existing 2021 LFP registers.

This is only Phase One of ELRP relief for livestock producers, and FSA will continue to evaluate and identify impacts of 2021 drought and wildfire on livestock producers to ensure equitable and inclusive distribution of much-needed emergency relief program benefits.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)

USDA also recently announced the offering of additional relief through the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#)

ELAP to help ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling livestock to forage or other grazing acres. This policy enhancement complements previously announced ELAP compensation for hauling feed to livestock. It is important to note that, unlike ELRP emergency relief benefits which are only applicable for eligible losses incurred in the 2021 calendar year, this ELAP livestock and feed hauling compensation will not only be retroactive for 2021 but will also be available for losses in 2022 and subsequent years.

To calculate ELAP program benefits, an [online tool](#) is currently available to help producers document and estimate payments to cover feed transportation cost increases caused by drought and will soon be updated to assist producers with calculations associated with drought related costs incurred for hauling livestock to forage.

ERP Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Assistance for Crop Producers

FSA is also developing a two-phased process to provide assistance to diversified, row crop and specialty crop operations that were impacted by an eligible natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 or 2021, through the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\)](#).

For further program information, the ELFP and ELAP news releases are available on the Oregon FSA website/State News Release at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Oregon/index>. For assistance with these programs, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).

This program will provide assistance to crop producers and will follow a two-phased process similar to that of the livestock assistance with implementation of the first phase in the coming weeks. Phase one of the crop assistance program delivery will leverage existing [Federal Crop Insurance](#) or [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) data as the basis for calculating initial payments.

NRCS Oregon Accepting Proposals for 2022 Conservation Innovation Grants

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oregon announces up to \$300,000 of funding is available for eligible individuals, local and state government, non-governmental organizations and tribes through the [Conservation Innovation Grants](#) (CIG) program. Project proposals are due **May 13, 2022**.



In conjunction with agricultural production, CIG is intended to encourage the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Projects must be within Oregon and may be area based or state-wide in scope.

The CIG proposal must involve [Environmental Quality Incentive Program](#) (EQIP) eligible producers and should demonstrate the use of innovative technologies or approaches to address a natural resource concern.

Resource concerns addressed must fall into one of the following sub-categories: energy, air quality and atmospheric change, water quality or quantity, plant health/vigor, soil quality, and wildlife habitat.

Projects may be between one and three years in duration. Applicants should plan their projects based on an estimated project start date of September 1, 2022. The maximum award amount for a single award in 2022 is \$100,000.

Since 2009, the Oregon CIG program has awarded over one million dollars in competitive grants. Projects include designs, inventories, management practices or eco-market approaches on various landscapes. In 2021, [NRCS Oregon awarded a total of \\$348,040 across five grants](#).

View the Oregon CIG grant announcement here on [Grants.gov](#). Complete application packets must be received by 8:59 p.m., PST on May 13, 2022 through [Grants.gov](#).

Questions? Contact Misty Beals at 541-523-7121, ext. 115 or misty.beals@usda.gov.

USDA Announces Inaugural Federal Advisory Committee on Urban Agriculture

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack selected 12 members to serve on the USDA's inaugural Secretary's Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture to provide input on policy development and to help identify barriers to urban agriculture as USDA works to promote urban farming and the economic opportunities it provides in cities across the country.



The new Secretary's Advisory Committee is part of USDA's efforts to support urban agriculture, creating a network for feedback. Urban agriculture plays an important role in producing fresh, healthy food in areas where grocery stores are scarce, and also provides jobs and beautifies neighborhoods.

The Committee is made up of agricultural producers, and representatives from the areas of higher education or extension programs, non-profits, business and economic development, supply chains and financing.

Members include:

- Jerry Ann Hebron, Mich., Urban Producer
- Bobby Wilson, Ga., Urban Producer
- Viraj Puri, N.Y., Innovative Producer
- Kaben Smallwood, Okla., Innovative Producer
- Sally Brown, Wash., Higher Education
- John Erwin, Md., Higher Education
- Carl Wallace, Ohio, Non-Profit Representative

- John Lebeaux, Mass., Business and Economic Development Representative
- Zachari Curtis, D.C., Supply Chain Experience
- Allison Paap, Calif., Financing Entity Representative
- Tara Chadwick, Fla., Related Experience
- Angela Mason, Ill., Related Experience

USDA and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production peer reviewed more than 300 nominees, and Vilsack made the final selections. Selections ensured geographic, racial and gender diversity and a broad range of agricultural experience. The new members will serve terms of one to three years. More information is available at farmers.gov/urban and the new Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture website at www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-urban-ag-innovative-production.

USDA Updates Farm Loan Programs to Increase Equity

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is updating its farm loan programs to better support current borrowers, including historically underserved producers. These improvements are part of USDA's commitment to increase equity in all programs, including farm loans that provide important access to capital for covering operating expenses and purchasing land and equipment.



The 2018 Farm Bill authorized FSA to provide equitable relief to certain direct loan borrowers, who are non-compliant with program requirements due to good faith reliance on a material action of, advice of, or non-action from an FSA official. Previously, borrowers may have been required to immediately repay the loan or convert it to a non-program loan with higher interest rates, less favorable terms, and limited loan servicing.

Now, FSA has additional flexibilities to assist borrowers in such situations. If the agency provided incorrect guidance to an existing direct loan borrower, the agency may provide equitable relief to that borrower. FSA may assist the borrower by allowing the borrower to keep their loans at current rates or other terms received in association with the loan which was determined to be noncompliant or the borrower may receive other equitable relief for the loan as the Agency determines to be appropriate.

USDA encourages producers to reach out to their local loan officials to ensure they fully understand the wide range of loan and servicing options available that can assist them in starting, expanding or maintaining their operation.

Additional Updates

Equitable relief is one of several changes authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill that USDA has made to the direct and guaranteed loan programs. Other changes that were previously implemented include:

- Modifying the existing three-year farming experience requirement for Direct Farm Ownership loans to include additional items as acceptable experience.
- Allowing socially disadvantaged and beginning farmer applicants to receive a guarantee equal to 95%, rather than the otherwise applicable 90% guarantee.

- Expanding the definition of and providing additional benefits to veteran farmers.
- Allowing borrowers who received restructuring with a write down to maintain eligibility for an Emergency loan.
- Expanding the scope of eligible issues and persons covered under the agricultural Certified Mediation Program.

Additional information on these changes is available in the March 8, 2022 [rule on the Federal Register](#).

More Background

FSA has taken other recent steps to increase equity in its programs. Last summer, USDA announced it was providing \$67 million in competitive loans through its new Heirs' Property Relending Program to help agricultural producers and landowners resolve heirs' land ownership and succession issues. FSA also invested \$4.7 million to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to historically underserved farmers and ranchers, which contributed to a fourfold increase in participation by historically underserved producers in the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2), a key pandemic assistance program, since April 2021.

Additionally, in January 2021, Secretary Vilsack announced a [temporary suspension of past-due debt collection and foreclosures](#) for distressed direct loan borrowers due to the economic hardship imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Producers can explore available loan options using the [Farm Loan Discover Tool on farmers.gov](#) (also available in Spanish) or by contacting their local [USDA Service Center](#). Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Due to the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Producers can [contact their local Service Center](#) to set up an in-person or phone appointment to discuss loan options.

Showcase Your Season with #Plant2022

Are you growing more with fewer inputs? Show us!

This planting season let's highlight the innovation and leadership demonstrated by conservation-minded farmers in our #Plant2022 campaign. We'll share your photos and stories on social media, blogs, and a nationwide story map. Learn more at (<https://go.usa.gov/xuTqj>).



Get Your Copy of the 2022 USDA in Oregon Calendar!

The USDA in Oregon calendars provide how to sign up for USDA's GovDelivery service for electronic newsletters and/or text messages, [Farmers.gov](#) resources, program and deadline reminders, and great photos from Oregon producers and FSA staff. Stop by or call your local [USDA Service Center](#). **If you would like to submit a photo for use in the 2023 USDA in Oregon calendar, please e-mail it to susan.riffel@usda.gov.**





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Oregon FSA State Committee:
Katherine Minthorn, STC Member
STC Meeting: TBD

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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