

December 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [A Message from our State Executive Director](#)
- [December Interest Rates](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [USDA Announces Opening Signup for Conservation Reserve Program on December 9, 2019](#)
- [New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting](#)
- [MAL and LDP Policy](#)
- [Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income \(AGI\) Certifications](#)
- [Beginning Farmer Loans](#)

Oregon FSA Newsletter

Oregon Farm Service Agency

7620 SW Mohawk St.
Tualatin, OR 97062

Phone: 503-692-3688

Fax: 855-824-6185

www.fsa.usda.gov/or

State Executive Director:
Barry Bushue

State Committee:
Anna Sullivan, Chair
Sam Asai, Member
Phil Hassinger, Member
TJ Hansell, Member
Denver Pugh, Member

Administration:
Martin Nguyen
Administrative Officer

A Message from our State Executive Director

The holiday season is upon us. Christmas brings people out to buy Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias and other ag products with which they decorate their homes. Like Thanksgiving, it is a time when families get together. It is a special time of year for kids and adults alike. No matter what is on your table for meals, if you didn't raise it yourself, some other farmer did. Farmers like you provide over 98 percent of the public with the food and other products they enjoy at Christmas and year around.

Christmas trees appear to be in short supply this year, with various iconic tree farms closed to let their trees grow. A shortage of seedlings for planting a few years back has exacerbated the supply and demand problems being experienced by some consumers.

There is never a slow time in agriculture, but winter for many means more time for maintenance, fabrication, painting and repairs on machinery and buildings. For some it provides for a less hectic and hopefully more predictable schedule than planting or harvesting. For others it means working in the cold and snow to cut

Farm Programs:
Kent Willett, Acting Chief

Christmas trees, feed and water livestock and protecting stored crops from freezing or deteriorating.

Farm Loan Programs:
Kathey Brucker, Chief

I know life on the farm is never simple, but I hope you can find time to visit your county FSA office.

Next STC Meeting:
December 18-19, 2019, STO.

FSA offices will be busy but ready for your visit. It's always nice if you call beforehand to set an appointment. Please pay particular attention to the important dates listed in this bulletin.

To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/or

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

Signup deadlines for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) and Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) have been extended until December 20, 2019. ARC/PLC 2019 ends March 15, 2020 and ARC/PLC 2020 ends June 30. General CRP signup ends Feb. 28, 2020, continuous is ongoing. It will be a busy winter and spring in your FSA county offices.

ASKFSA Are you looking for answers to your FSA questions? Then ASK FSA at askfsa.custhelp.com.

There are a lot of challenges in our farming and ranching communities right now. Take the time to reach out to a neighbor and say hello and let them know you are thinking of them. No one rises to the occasion of being a good neighbor like a farmer or rancher.

On behalf of Oregon FSA, I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

December Interest Rates

90 Day Treasury Bill: 1.750%
Direct Operating Loans: 2.500%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans: 3.125%
Farm Ownership Down Payment: 1.500%
Farm Ownership Joint Financing: 2.500%
Emergency Loans Actual Loss: 3.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 3 Year: 1.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 5 Year: 1.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 Year: 1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 Year: 1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 Year: 1.875%

Important Dates

Dec. 9: General CRP Signup opens; Closed Feb. 28, 2020.

Dec. 20: Signup Deadline Extension for [Dairy Margin Coverage \(DMC\)](#) and [Market Facilitation Program \(MFP\)](#) enrollment for 2020 calendar year.

Dec. 25: Closed for Christmas Day holiday.

Jan. 1, 2020: Closed for New Years Day holiday.

Within 15 Days – earlier of (A) when a disaster occurred or damage to the crop or commodity becomes apparent or (B) normal harvest date for reporting a Notice of Loss for NAP*

Within 30 Days – when loss is apparent for reporting a Notice of Loss for LIP and ELAP.

TAP - Eligible producers should file for TAP assistance by the later of these two dates - 90 days of the disaster or when damages from the disaster are noticed; or 60 days after the regulation is published on the Federal Register later this summer.

Applications accepted for WHIP+, milk loss, and loss of on-farm stored commodities resulting from eligible disaster (into 2020).

Feb. 28, 2020: Sign up for general CRP; Signup for continuous CRP is ongoing.

March 15, 2020: ARC-PLC Program Year 2019 signup ends.

June 30, 2020: ARC-PLC Program Year 2020 signup ends.

USDA Announces Opening Signup for Conservation Reserve Program on December 9, 2019

USDA opened signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on December 9, 2019. The deadline for agricultural producers to sign up for general CRP is February 28, 2020, while signup for continuous CRP is ongoing.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands.

CRP has 22 million acres enrolled, but the 2018 Farm Bill lifted the cap to 27 million acres. This means farmers and ranchers have a chance to enroll in CRP for the first time or continue their participation for another term.

By enrolling in CRP, producers are improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, and restoring habitat for wildlife. This in turn spurs hunting, fishing, recreation, tourism, and other economic development across rural America.

CRP Enrollment Options

General Signup

CRP general signup will be held annually. The competitive general signup will now include increased opportunities for enrollment of wildlife habitat through the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

Continuous Signup

While some practices under SAFE will remain available through continuous signup, CRP continuous signup will focus primarily on water quality with the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative. The 2018 Farm Bill prioritizes water quality practices such as contour grass strips, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetlands and a new prairie strip.

USDA will also be working with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) partners to relaunch CREP continuous options in each state under new statutory provisions. CREP will continue to target high-priority local, state or regional conservation concerns.

Grasslands Signups

CRP Grasslands signup helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. A separate CRP Grasslands signup will be offered each year following general signup.

Pilot Programs

Later in 2020, (FSA will roll out pilot programs within CRP: CLEAR 30, which allows contracts expiring with CLEAR practices to be reenrolled in 30-year contracts and in the Soil Health and

Income Protection Program (SHIPP) in the prairie pothole region. More information on these programs will be announced in the new year.

Land Transition

The CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) is an option for producers interested in transitioning land to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants may have a lease less than five years with an option to purchase, and they have two years before the end of the CRP contract to make conservation and land improvements.

Previously Expired Land

Land enrolled in CRP under a 15-year contract that expired in September 2017, 2018 or 2019, may be eligible for enrollment if there was no opportunity for re-enrollment and the practice under the expired contract has been maintained.

CRP Rates and Payments

FSA recently posted updated soil rental rates for CRP. County average rates are posted on the [CRP Statistics webpage](#). Soil rental rates are statutorily prorated at 90 percent for continuous signup and 85 percent for general signup. The rental rates will be assessed annually. Under continuous signup, producers also receive incentives, including a signup incentive payment and a practice incentive payment.

To enroll in CRP, contact your local FSA county office or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

Update Lets Farmers and Ranchers Report Common Acreage Information Once

Farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location.

This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This interagency collaboration also includes participating private crop insurance agents and insurance companies, all working to streamline the information collected from farmers and ranchers who participate in USDA programs.

Once filing at one location, data that's important to both FSA and RMA will be securely and electronically shared with the other location avoiding redundant and duplicative reporting, as well as saving farmers and ranchers time.

Producers must still visit both their local FSA office and their insurance provider to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps, or provide program-specific information, including reporting uninsured crops to FSA. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report.

USDA has been working to streamline the crop reporting process for agricultural producers, who have expressed concerns with providing the same basic common information for multiple locations. In 2013, USDA consolidated the deadlines to 15 dates for submitting these reports, down from the previous 54 dates at RMA and 17 dates for FSA. USDA representatives believe farmers

and ranchers will experience a notable improvement in the coming weeks as they approach the peak season for crop reporting later this summer.

More than 93 percent of all annual reported acres to FSA and RMA now are eligible for the common data reporting, and USDA is exploring adding more crops. Plans are underway at USDA to continue building upon the framework with additional efficiencies at a future date.

Farmers and ranchers are also reminded that they can now access their FSA farm information from the convenience of their home computer. Producers can see field boundaries, images of the farm, conservation status, operator and owner information and much more.

The new customer self-service portal, known as **FSAFarm+**, gives farmers and ranchers online access to securely view, print or export their personal farm data. To enroll in the online service, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for details. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

MAL and LDP Policy

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2019 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. Producers must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please visit a nearby USDA Service Center or FSA's website fsa.usda.gov.

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers 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) because they have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*. No program payment can be issued to an eligible producer, including landowners who share in the crop, without a valid CCC-941 on file in the county office.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year 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 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

 SHARE



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#)