

From: [USDA in Oregon](#)
To: [Riffel, Susan - FSA, Tualatin, OR](#)
Subject: Oregon FSA Newsletter - December 2022
Date: Monday, December 19, 2022 1:35:27 PM

[View as a webpage / Share](#)

US Department of Agriculture



Oregon FSA Newsletter - December 2022

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

In This Issue:

- [State Executive Director's Message](#)
- [Urban Ag Tips & Tools](#)
- [Interest Rates-December 2022](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs](#)
- [Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation](#)
- [Updated List of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities Available](#)
- [USDA Announces Details for the Upcoming Census of Agriculture](#)

State Executive Director's Message

Winter is such a lovely time of year as we honor many different traditions and celebrate with family and friends. Winter also means we get to engage with our wonderful stakeholders, you! *(Photo by Michelle Hamm, Linn Co.)*

November and December have been busy! In November, our Linn County Office staff attended the 2022 Willamette Valley Ag Expo, in Albany. I attended the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention in Couer d'Alene, ID where I spoke to our amazing wheat growers representing all areas of the state. I

was given the opportunity to provide an FSA update to the Oregon Department of Agriculture Board, and pay a visit to a Mulino operation, Campfire Farms.

December proved to be just as busy and fun! The month began with an amazing opportunity to attend the Intertribal Agricultural Council national convention held in Las Vegas where we were able to engage with staff from the FSA national office and more than 1400 producers. I attended a roundtable on urban agriculture hosted by Congressman Blumenauer and provided an update to the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission.

It's safe to say my favorite things about my job are the wonderful people I work with day in and day out. I get the honor every day to engage with our amazing team in our state office, get out and about throughout the state to meet with our rockstars in the field offices, or meet with the greatest producers ever! Our stakeholders will soon hear about a new series of events in 2023 that will build on the great outreach efforts done in 2022.

Last, but most certainly not least, congratulations to our amazing team who earned a national award from Administrator Ducheneaux for their outreach work towards USDA's Strategic Goal 5: Expand Opportunities for Economic Development and Improve Quality of Life in Rural and Tribal Communities. The award for outreach events with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs was made possible because of the efforts of so many. In an office that has been in temporary shared management since before my arrival in April, so many, from the State Office, Wasco, Central Oregon, Baker, Hines and Lake Service Centers, have gone above and beyond taking on additional workload in the busiest of seasons. This is a recognition well deserved.

Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2 and the new Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP): Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced plans for additional emergency relief and pandemic assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA is preparing to roll out the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\) Phase Two](#) as well as the new [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program \(PARP\)](#), which are two programs to help offset crop and revenue losses for producers. USDA is sharing early information to help producers gather documents and train front-line staff on the new approach. We are waiting for the final rules and deadline to be published and will share that information as soon as we receive it.

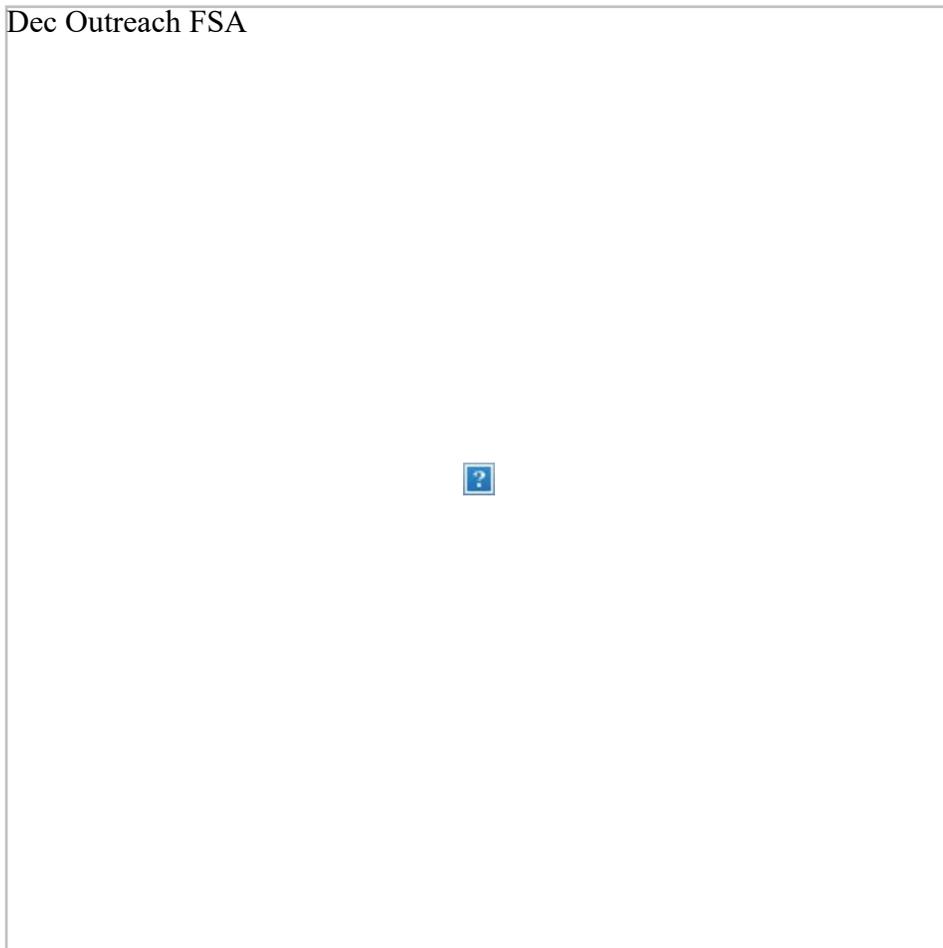
Holiday



I would like to wish everyone the happiest, safest and healthiest of holidays, a wonderful close to 2022 and a warm welcome to 2023!

Gail Greenman
State Executive Director

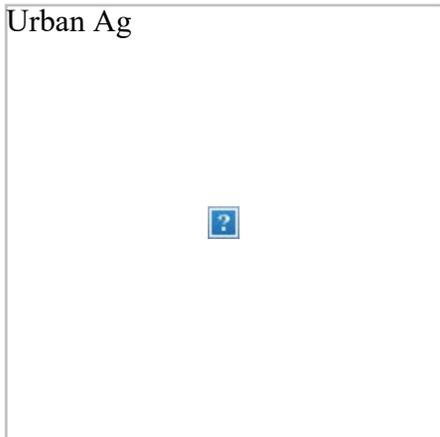
Dec Outreach FSA



December Outreach Events: Gail Greenman, Oregon FSA SED and John Boyes, Oregon FSA Outreach Coordinator (in photo) Intertribal Agriculture Council Convention, Las Vegas. Celeste Bonnicksen, FSA Farm Loan Officer, (in photo) and Sarah Hanlon, FSA Farm Programs Chief Salem Oregon Annual Seed League Meeting.

Urban Ag Tips & Tools

Urban Ag



Sign-up for Urban Ag email Updates at [Farmers.gov/Urban Ag](https://Farmers.gov/UrbanAg)

The USDA People's Garden: Do you have a community farm or garden that you would like to designate as a People's Garden? To learn more about People's Garden or to register one, visit the People's Garden webpage at the website, [The People's Garden | USDA](https://www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden). You can also view the video at [The USDA People's Garden Invites Community Gardens to Join Us! - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

Cover Crops for Home Gardens, by Miles McCoy,

Oregon FSA Urban Ag County Committee member.

Cover crops are an old agricultural process that has been revived in the past decade as part of a more sustainable approach to growing crops. These cover crops have several key advantages, even for the home gardener's vegetable beds, according to Oregon State University (OSU). "Planting cover crops increases soil organic matter and biological activity," stated Dr. James Atland in his OSU Extension publication, *Herbicide Residues in Field Soils*. While cover cropping does degrade herbicides, there are many other advantages."

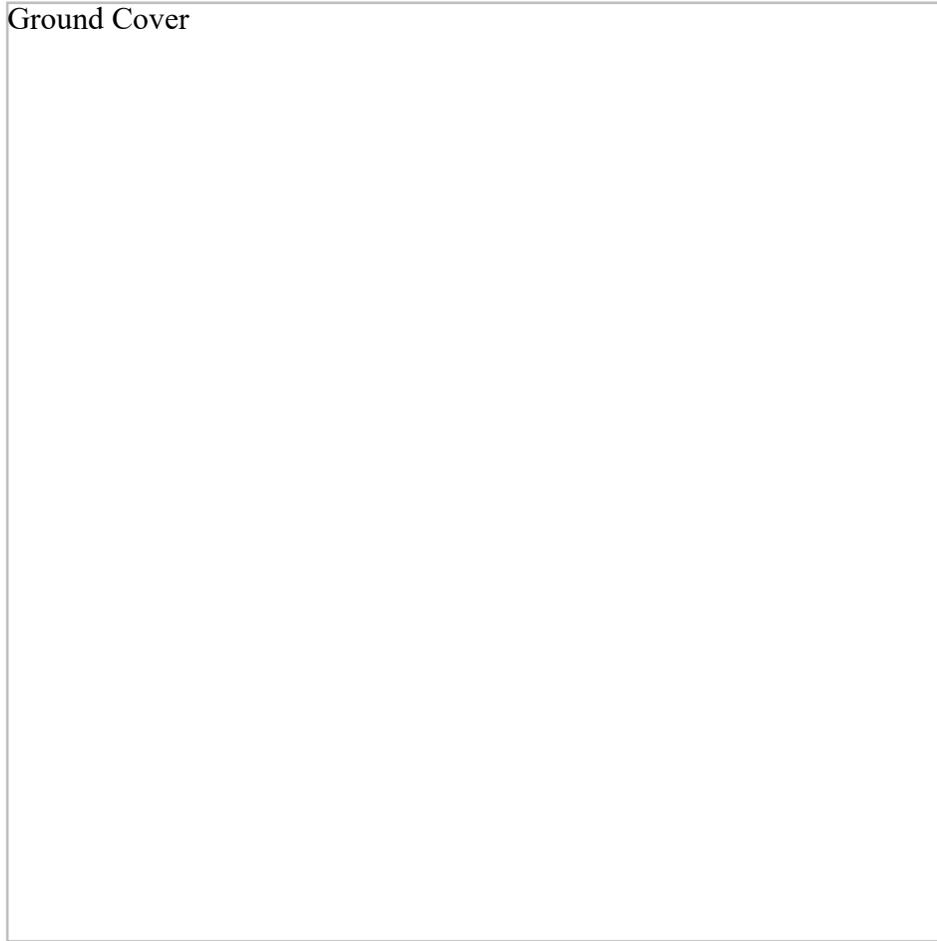
These benefits, besides adding organic matter to the soil, include rebuilding soil structure, increasing soil aggregates, improving water-holding capacity, preventing weed growth, and adding significant nitrogen to the soil.

Yet, most research work has focused on larger agricultural and horticultural operations as growers begin to look more seriously at cover crops to improve soils and their bottom line. But the use of cover crops can provide the same benefits to the home garden. Planted mainly in the fall, the cover crops germinate and then go somewhat dormant through the winter months. Then, as temperatures begin to warm in the late winter, they begin growing again. By May, the crops will be maturing and can be turned over to create a lush, friable soil for spring planting. Some cover crops can be planted in early spring and turned in the early summer but fall planted varieties will give maximum benefits.

The process is simple. After summer crops are harvested, the open beds can be cleaned, old plant material removed (and composted), and then rakes to rough up the soil surface. For even coverage, make two seeding passes over the garden at right angles to each other. Lightly rake the seed into the top 1/4 inch of soil. The seed must be covered and be in firm contact with the soil for best germination. If it's dry, an initial watering helps with germination, though fall/winter rains usually are enough to keep the crops watered.

Common fall crop choices are crimson and dutch white clover, annual ryegrass, austrian peas, vetches, buckwheat, alfalfa, and mustard varieties. If there are problems with clay soils, there are now oil seed radish and fava bean choices, which are both very deeply rooted and will help break up the soil. Generally, they are applied at around one pound per 200-250 sq. ft. So, a few pounds should cover most home gardens. These seeds are readily available at local nurseries and garden centers.

Ground Cover



Photos by Miles McCoy.

Interest Rates-December 2022

- Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 5.125%**
- Farm Operating – Microloans, 5.125%**
- Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 5.000%**
- Farm Ownership – Microloan, 5.000%**
- Farm Ownership-Direct, Joint Financing, 3.000%**
- Farm Ownership-Down Payment, 1.500%**
- Emergency Loans Actual Loss, 3.750%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 4.375%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 4.125%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 4.125%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 4.000%**

See [Oregon FSA's website/News Releases](#) for information on USDA's Secretarial natural disaster designations to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through [emergency loans](#).

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

Important Dates

- **December 26:** Christmas Day Federal Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **January 2, 2023:** New Year's Day Federal Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Election Period Extended to January 31, 2023.**
- **LFP (2022) -** Deadline January 30, 2023 - **Please make sure to have any grazing leases reported and CCC-855's completed for 2022 LFP.**
- **NAP** (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program): Report losses within 15 days of event. Notify FSA of event within 72 hours for hand-harvested crops.
- **March 31, 2023:** [Farmers.gov/survey](#) due.

[Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)

Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs

Agricultural producers can now change election and enroll in the [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Coverage](#) programs for the 2023 crop year, two key safety net programs offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Producers have until March 15, 2023, to enroll in these two programs. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has started issuing payments totaling more than \$255 million to producers with 2021 crops that have triggered payments through ARC or PLC. *(Photo by Emma Lee Demianew, Umatilla County Office).*



2023 Elections and Enrollment

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2023 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2023, they must sign a new contract.

If producers do not submit their election by the March 15, 2023, deadline, their election remains the same as their 2022 election for crops on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Web-Based Decision Tools

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:

- [Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator](#), a tool available through the University of Illinois allows producers to estimate payments for farms and counties for ARC-CO and PLC.
- [ARC and PLC Decision Tool](#), a tool available through Texas A&M that allows producers to obtain basic information regarding the decision and factors that should be taken into consideration such as future commodity prices and historic yields to estimate payments for 2022.

2021 Payments and Contracts

ARC and PLC payments for a given crop year are paid out the following fall to allow actual county yields and the Market Year Average prices to be finalized. This month, FSA processed payments to producers enrolled in 2021 ARC-CO, ARC-IC and PLC for covered commodities that triggered for the crop year.

For ARC-CO, producers can view the [2021 ARC-CO Benchmark Yields and Revenues](#) online database, for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For PLC, payments have triggered for rapeseed and peanuts.

For ARC-IC, producers should contact their local FSA office for additional information pertaining to 2021 payment information, which relies on producer-specific yields for the crop and farm to determine benchmark yields and actual year yields when calculating revenues.

By the Numbers

In 2021, producers signed nearly 1.8 million ARC or PLC contracts, and 251 million out of 273 million base acres were enrolled in the programs. For the 2022 crop year signed contracts surpassed 1.8 million, to be paid in the fall of 2023, if a payment triggers.

Since ARC and PLC were first authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, these safety-net programs have paid out more than \$34.9 billion to producers of covered commodities.

Crop Insurance Considerations

ARC and PLC are part of a broader safety net provided by USDA, which also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

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.

About Farmers.gov

In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.



The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

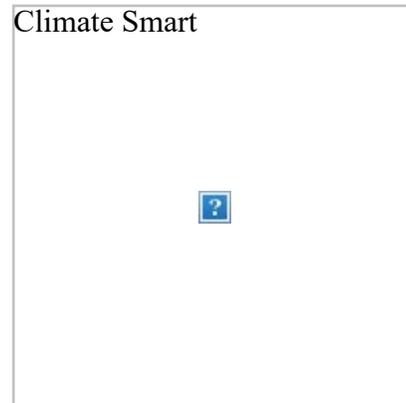
USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1 to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters or contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.usda.gov/service-center) or fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

Updated List of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities Available

NRCS recently updated the list of conservation practices that are considered to be **Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities**. These climate-smart conservation practices are delivered through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

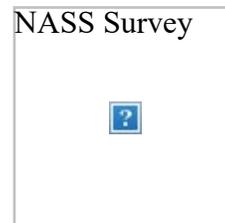
While NRCS offers a broad suite of voluntary conservation activities, the agency identifies a sub-set as critical to climate change mitigation. When applied appropriately, these activities may deliver quantifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and/or increases in carbon sequestration. Many offer co-benefits and ancillary benefits that help operations build climate change resilience while addressing other natural resource concerns such as soil health, water quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat and air quality.

Please [click here](#) to visit the NRCS website and read more.



USDA Announces Details for the Upcoming Census of Agriculture

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to be represented in the nation's only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county and territory. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will mail the 2022 Census of Agriculture to millions of agriculture producers across the 50 states and Puerto Rico this fall.



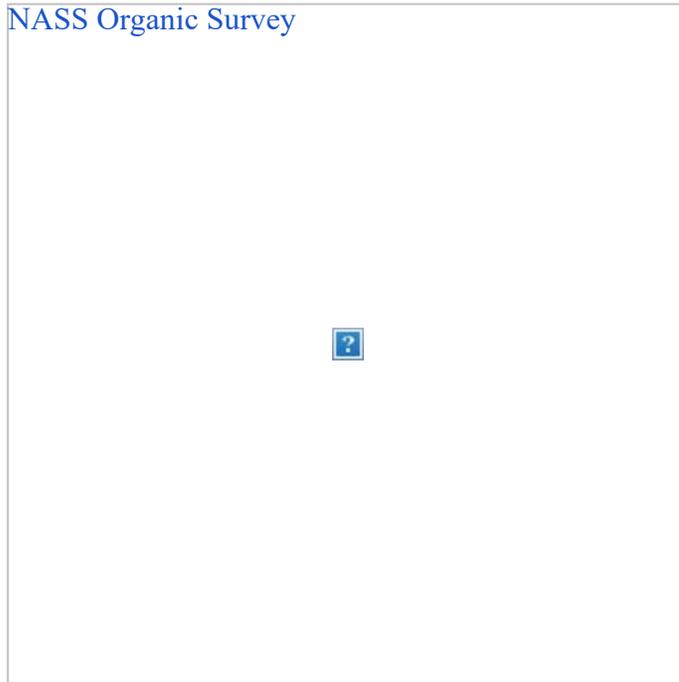
The 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed in phases, starting with an invitation to respond online in November followed by paper questionnaires in December. Farm

operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural product in 2022 are included in the ag census.

Collected in service to American agriculture since 1840 and now conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census of Agriculture tells the story and shows the value of U.S. agriculture. It highlights land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, among other topics. Between ag census years, NASS considers revisions to the questionnaire to document changes and emerging trends in the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep, and updates to internet access questions.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus or call 800-727-9540. On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, [partner tools](#) to help spread the word about the upcoming ag census, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information on the upcoming Census of Agriculture, follow USDA NASS on twitter [@usda_nass](#).

[NASS Organic Survey](#)



Calendar Cover



The 2023 USDA in Oregon will be arriving soon in December! Stop by your local [USDA Service Center](#) to pick up your copy!



Oregon FSA State Office

7620 SW Mohawk St.
Tualatin, Oregon 97062
Phone: 503-692-3688
Fax: 855-824-6185

State Executive Director
GAIL GREENMAN, 503-404-1112
gail.greenman@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:

Katherine Minthorn, STC Chair
Vern Frederickson, STC Member
Bryan Harper, STC Member
Denver Pugh, STC Member
Anna Sullivan, STC Member
Next STC Meeting: tbd

How can we help you? Submit questions or requests for further information to ASK.USDA.GOV or 1-833-ONE-USDA.

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

SMS



CONTACT US:

[Farm Service Agency](#)

[Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

[Risk Management Agency](#)

[Service Center Locator](#)

[twitter](#)



[flickr](#)



[youtube](#)



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)



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).

This email was sent to susan.riffel@or.usda.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Farmers.gov · 1400 Independence Avenue SW · Washington, D.C. 20250

