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## State Executive Director's Message

Happy summer to you all! I hope you are all enjoying the gorgeous weather here in Oregon after enduring our rainy spring. While summer is moving forward, the COVID-19 Omicron virus seems to be moving states backwards again. Please check with your local [USDA Service Center](#) prior to visiting to make an appointment and find out about masking requirements when an office has to move to the high-risk level.



[USDA recognized National Pollinator Week](#) in late June. Pollinator species include birds, bats, bees, and even insects and they play an important role in over 100 crops grown in the U.S. If you would like to learn more about USDA pollinators at work please visit [www.usda.gov/pollinators](http://www.usda.gov/pollinators).

**Acreage Reporting:** It is very important to make sure you file your acreage reports. **Most Oregon crop reports are due by July 15** (see further information below).

**County Committee Elections:** It is also time for our County Committee Elections! County Committee members make important decisions about how Federal farm programs are administered locally. **The nomination period began June 15 and runs through August 1.**

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election, including if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an [FSA-669A](#) nomination form. Urban

Ag farmers should use an [FSA-669-A-3](#) for urban county committees. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

As always, we want to keep our producers informed so if you are looking for USDA program information, please check out the latest news releases on our [Oregon FSA website](#).

Gail Greenman, State Executive Director, Oregon FSA



## Interest Rates - July 2022

- Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 3.875%**
- Farm Operating – Microloans, 3.825%**
- Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 4.125%**
- Farm Ownership – Microloan, 4.125%**
- 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, 3.000%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 3.000%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 3.125%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 3.000%**

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 [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#).

## Important Dates

- **July 15, 2022:** Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial Forage, spring planted crops.
- **August 1, 2022:** County Committee Nomination Period Ends
- **August 5, 2022:** CRP-CLEAR30 Signup Ends.
- **September 5:** Offices Closed - Labor Day Federal Holiday
- **October 31, 2022:** Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) and Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) applications due.

[Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)  
[Click here to find state outreach events and trainings.](#)

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## Acreage Reporting Deadline - July 15

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after planting should make an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office before the applicable deadline. July 15 is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop. Producers with an eAuth account linked to their USDA customer record can now access their FSA farm records, maps and common land units by logging into [farmers.gov](#). A new feature will allow producers to export field boundaries as shapefiles and import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture boundaries. This will allow producers to view, print and label their own maps for acreage reporting purposes.

For more information about farm loans visit [fsa.usda.gov](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

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## USDA Provides Local Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The first 10 years of a farming or ranching operation are tough. USDA recognizes you need dedicated support to help make sense of all the information coming your way. Now each state has a Beginning Farmer and Rancher team headed up by a state coordinator. The coordinator helps producers who have operated a farm or ranch for less than 10 years navigate USDA and partner resources.

Click on these links to find information about [beginning farmer and rancher loans](#) or [how to find your State coordinator](#). For more information visit [farmers.gov/newfarmers](#).



Previously, cover crops could only be hayed, grazed or chopped after Nov. 1. Otherwise, the prevented planting payment was reduced by 65% if producers took those actions on the cover crop.

RMA added this flexibility starting with the 2021 crop year as part of a broader effort to encourage producers to use cover crops, an important conservation and good farming practice. Cover crops are especially important on fields prevented from being planted because they cover ground that would otherwise be left bare, which helps reduce soil erosion, boost soil health and increase soil carbon sequestration.

This change builds on the advanced research and identified benefits cover crops have supporting healthy soils and cropland sustainability efforts. Studies also show that cover crops provide increased corn and soybean yields. While results vary by region and soil type, cover crops are proven to reduce erosion, improve water quality and increase the health and productivity of the soil while building resilience to climate change. Additionally, RMA provided a premium benefit to producers who planted cover crops through the [Pandemic Cover Crop Program](#) to help producers maintain cover crop systems amid the financially challenging pandemic.

### **“1 in 4” Requirement Flexibilities**

For the 2020 crop year, RMA implemented a policy stating that for land to be eligible for prevented planting coverage, the acreage must meet the “1 in 4” requirement, which means the land must be planted, insured and harvested in at least one of the four most recent crop years. Now, RMA is adding flexibilities to recognize different farming practices and crops grown, as well as the availability of risk management options.

New flexibilities allowed in order to meet the “1 in 4” requirement include:

- The annual regrowth for an insured perennial crop, such as alfalfa, red clover, or mint, to be considered planted.
- Allow a crop covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to meet the insurability requirement.
- If crop insurance or NAP coverage was not available, allow the producer to prove the acreage was planted and harvested using good farming practices in at least two consecutive years out of the four previous years to meet the insurability requirement.

### **Aligning Organic Terms**

RMA is revising four organic definitions to be consistent with USDA’s National Organic Program. Consistency across USDA programs is important to eliminate the potential for confusion between the various programs that USDA is committed to providing to the producers.

This change builds on other RMA efforts to expand and improve current options for organic producers. In Sept. 2021, RMA announced several [updates to Whole-Farm Revenue Protection \(WFRP\)](#), including increasing farm operation growth limits for organic producers to the higher of \$500,000 or 35% over the five-year average allowable income, and to allowing a producer to report acreage as certified organic, or as acreage in transition to organic, when the producer has requested an organic certification by the acreage reporting date. In addition, RMA announced it will be offering the new Micro Farm policy through WFRP that specifically targets coverage for small, diversified farmers, including organic growers.

### **Other Changes**

RMA made other changes to Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions, Area Risk Protection Insurance Regulations, Coarse Grains Crop Insurance Provisions, and other insurance provisions, which published today:

- RMA is providing an option for producers to delay measurement of farm-stored production for 180-days through the Special Provisions, similar to flexibilities already available to grain crop producers.
- RMA added earlage and snaplage as an acceptable method of harvest for coarse grains. During the 2020 Derecho, many producers salvaged their damaged corn crop by harvesting as earlage or snaplage instead of grain or silage.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [rma.usda.gov](http://rma.usda.gov).

## Cash Rents and Leases Annual Survey

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and other USDA agencies rely on average cash rental rates in each county to help develop and administer federal farm programs. To collect this information, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) asks farmers and ranchers for information for the Cash Rents and Leases survey each year.



NASS will collect cash rent data through July 2022 and the state-level survey results will be released on August 5, and county-level results August 26, 2022, at [quickstats.nass.usda.gov](http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov).

For additional information about this survey please visit: [nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide to NASS Surveys/Cash Rents by County/index.php](http://nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide%20to%20NASS%20Surveys/Cash%20Rents%20by%20County/index.php).

## NASS's New Conservation Survey Reminder

NASS has mailed the [Conservation Practice Adoption Motivations Survey](#) out to farmers and producers. This survey is a joint project between the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) aimed at



assessing the adoption rates of different conservation practices. Survey data – which will be collected through August 19 – will be used to guide the implementation of NRCS programs in the future. Look out for data from the survey September 15. Each letter to landowners includes a unique survey code. If a landowner lost their survey code, they can call the national help line at 1-888 424-7828. Submitted by Lauren Bennett, NRCS Public Affairs Officer, Portland.

# Photos needed for the 2023 USDA in Oregon Calendar!

We need your great agriculture photos once again for the 2023 USDA in Oregon calendar! [Please see the attached flyer for further information](#) or stop by or call your local [USDA Service Center](#).



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.



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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

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



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