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State Executive Director's Message

The air is crisper, snow has begun to fall, days are a bit shorter, it must be November! November is a special time for so many reasons. This month we recognize and celebrate the many contributions and achievements of Native Americans. What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

[National Native American Heritage Month](#) is closely tied to the end of harvest season. Land-based agricultural resources are vital to the economic and social welfare of many Native American and Alaskan Tribes. The harmonies of man, soil, water, air, vegetation and wildlife that collectively make-up the American Indian agriculture community, influence our emotional and spiritual well-being. Indigenous Americans also play an integral role in agriculture today in various uses of sophisticated technologies. In Oregon we are so fortunate to have our FSA State Committee led by Chair Katherine Minthorn. Katherine is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation of Oregon, a leader in regenerative agriculture and a lifetime advocate for Indian country.

Please join me in honoring our Veterans this month. To all members past and present of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, thank you. Thank you for your service. Thank you for the risks you take. Thank you for the sacrifices you make. Thank you for your courage. We should also set aside time to recognize and express thanks to military spouses and children. Military service impacts the entire family and is something that has always been important to me both personally and professionally. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of our Oregon FSA veterans and their family members for their service.



Some good news to share for FSA Farm Loans, USDA recently launched a new online [Loan Assistance Tool](#) to help our farmers and ranchers apply for a farm loan. This new application process will help to ensure that all farm loan applicants receive equal support and have consistent customer experience with FSA regardless of their individual circumstances.

Also, as part of the [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#), distressed farm loan borrowers with qualifying USDA loans have received nearly \$800 million in assistance. The announcement is first step in USDA's efforts to provide assistance to distressed farm loan borrowers and respond to farmers and to improve the loan servicing efforts at USDA by adding more tools and relaxing unnecessary restrictions. Additional announcements and investments in assistance will be made as USDA institutes these additional changes and improvements. Further information is provided on our [Oregon FSA/State New Release web page](#).

This time of year, we find ourselves in many moments of reflection. As we gather this year for Thanksgiving, on behalf of Oregon FSA we want you all to know how thankful we are for each and every one of you.

Gail Greenman
State Executive Director

Oregon FSA Urban Ag Tools



Grants and Cooperative Agreements

Grants are available to initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Learn more on the website at [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants | USDA](#).

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](#). You can also view the video at [The USDA People's Garden Invites Community Gardens to Join Us! - YouTube](#)

Interest Rates-November 2022

- Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 4.375%**
- Farm Operating – Microloans, 4.375%**
- Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 4.500%**
- Farm Ownership – Microloan, 4.500%**
- 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, 4.250%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 4.125%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 4.000%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 3.875%**

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

- **Update: The Loss Adjuster Applications for the 2023 crop year due date is extended to Dec. 1, 2022, submitted to the Oregon FSA State Office.** For more information see the [News Release](#).
- **November 11:** Veterans Day Federal Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **November 24:** Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **December 5:** [County Committee Election](#) ballots due.
- **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. [Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs](#).

FSA November Guaranteed Lender Meetings

You are invited to Oregon FSA's Guaranteed Lender Meetings in November to be held at four locations: **Nov. 15**, Ontario, Malheur County Extension Office; **Nov. 16**, Pendleton, Blue Mt. Community College; **Nov. 17**, Salem, Chemeketa Community College; and **Nov. 18**, Redmond, USDA Service Center. All meeting times are 9:00am - Noon. Please [see the flyer](#) for locations and more information.



For further assistance please contact the Oregon FSA Farm Loan Team at the Oregon FSA State Office at 503-692-3688.

Financial assistance available to Oregon farmers, ranchers, forest owners

Opportunities are available for Oregon farmers, ranchers and forest owners to perform voluntary conservation activities with financial assistance from



Oregon's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

NRCS Oregon announces new sign-up deadlines for the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) and the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP).

Applicants must apply by **November 18, 2022**, to be considered for the first round of fiscal year 2023 funding.

To apply for EQIP, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) or apply online at farmers.gov. To apply for RCPP, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).

The November 18 deadline applies to the following funding pools:

- **General EQIP:** In Oregon, general EQIP dollars are available to producers within a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) area. CIS's are locally led projects developed by farmers and partners through the NRCS Local Work Group process.
- **Organic EQIP:** Offers assistance to USDA certified organic producers and to producers wishing to transition their operation to obtain an organic certification.
- **Seasonal High Tunnel EQIP:** Offers assistance to install a seasonal high tunnel (hoop house) to extend seasonal crop production to strengthen local and regional food markets while reducing pesticide use and energy inputs.
- **On-Farm Energy EQIP:** Assists producers to conserve energy on their farms through an on-farm energy audit and provides assistance to implement various recommended measures identified in an energy audit.
- **Sage Grouse Initiative EQIP:** Focuses on making measurable and significant progress toward treating threats to rangeland health including sage grouse habitat on private lands.
- **Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Initiative:** These projects focus on reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire on private forestlands and adjacent federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Funding is available in Deschutes, Jefferson and Lake counties.
- **National Water Quality Initiative:** NRCS works closely with conservation partners to select priority watersheds where on-farm conservation investments will deliver the greatest water quality improvements.
- **National Air Quality Initiative (NAQI):** In Oregon, NAQI funding is available to farmers in Hood River County to help orchard producers reduce the use of high-emission, diesel-fuel smudge pots which are commonly used to protect crops from damaging spring frosts. NRCS is providing a financial incentive to help growers remove smudge pots from their operations, so they can be replaced with cleaner, more efficient systems. Funding is available in Hood River and Wasco counties.
- **WaterSMART:** Through the WaterSMART Initiative, NRCS Oregon collaborates with the Bureau of Reclamation to coordinate investments in priority areas for improving our cumulative impact in water conservation and drought resilience.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** RCPP promotes the coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Farmers, ranchers and forest owners who manage property within a current RCPP project area may be eligible for conservation assistance from NRCS and other partners.

Learn More & Apply

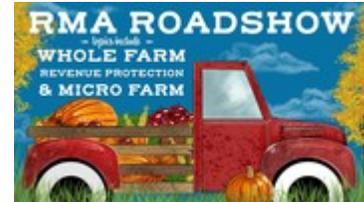
Visit the [Oregon EQIP webpage](#) for more information about NRCS Oregon EQIP funding opportunities and program eligibility. Learn more about [Oregon RCPP and how to apply](#)

[here](#). Search for current projects and funding opportunities specific to your county by visiting the [“What’s Available in My County?”](#) webpage.

Interested applicants can also contact their [local USDA Service Center](#) to inquire about active projects in their county and apply for assistance.

RMA Announces Virtual Workshops Highlight Improvements to Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will continue offering virtual workshops Nov. 15, and Dec. 13 – for agricultural producers and stakeholders to learn about the latest updates and improvements to the [Whole-Farm Revenue Protection](#) (WFRP) and the [Micro Farm](#) insurance options, two of the most comprehensive risk management options available.



These insurance options are especially important to specialty crop, organic, urban, and direct market producers, and this is part of the USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) efforts to increase participation in these options and crop insurance overall.

RMA will host these workshops for agricultural producers via Microsoft Teams events:

- Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. PT ([click to join](#))
- Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. ET ([click to join](#))

RSVP is not required. Attendees will have a chance to submit written questions during the event. [Learn 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/AqCensus 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](#).



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



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Oregon FSA State Committee:
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Vern Frederickson, STC Member

Bryan Harper, STC Member
Denver Pugh, STC Member
Anna Sullivan, STC Member
Next STC Meeting: Dec. 15

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

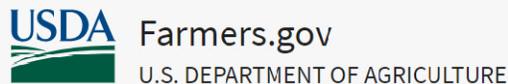
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