



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oregon FSA Newsletter - April 2023

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

In This Issue:

- [A Message from the State Executive Director](#)
- [Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend April Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)
- [Interest Rates - April 2023](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [USDA Seeking Applications to Expand Conservation Assistance to Underserved Producers](#)
- [USDA Provides Local Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](#)
- [NRCS Oregon Accepting Proposals for 2023 Conservation Innovation Grants](#)
- [USDA-NASS 2023 June Area Survey](#)
- [Photos Needed for the USDA in Oregon 2024 Calendars](#)

A Message from the State Executive Director

Greetings to you all! Oregon is experiencing quite a rainy and snowy spring which might be affecting our planting season but hopefully will benefit our farms and fields throughout the remaining year. If you do suffer damages due to inclement weather, a severe storm or drought, please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) to make a report and find out what programs might be available. Resources are also available on the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#).



Recently, USDA announced new assistance for distressed borrowers that beginning in April it will provide \$123 million in additional financial assistance for qualifying farm loan program borrowers who are facing financial risk, as part of the \$3.1 billion to help distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act. I encourage you to read the news release posted on our Oregon FSA website located at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Oregon/news-releases/index>.

On March 9, the 2023 State of Tribal Nations Address was broadcasted by the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF), and featured USDA Secretary Vilsack and FSA Administrator Ducheneaux. If you would like to view the broadcast visit <https://nativeamericanagriculturefund.org/state-of-native-agriculture/>.

We are excited to announce that our Urban Ag County Executive Director (CED), Amanda Welker was selected and will work out of the Clackamas/Multnomah County Office in Beavercreek! These new Urban Ag CED positions will help FSA direct and manage the urban and suburban Agriculture program and administer operations in those Urban Ag counties, as well as establishing policies, guidance, and visiting Urban Ag operations.

At a recent outreach event, Sarah Hanlon, Farm Programs Chief, and Derek Johnson (pictured below) Farm Loan Officer and our Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator, attended the [2023 Rogue Farm Corps Changing Hands Workshop](#) in Salem, and they got to tour the farm. These workshops help provide "education and networking on farmland transfer for new and beginning farmers."



Photo by Sarah Hanlon, OR FSA

Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend April Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

We're inviting urban producers, innovative producers, and other stakeholders to virtually attend a public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on **April 18 from 3-5pm (ET)**. Learn more and register at [Oregon News Releases \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/news-releases).



Interest Rates - April 2023

- Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 4.750%**
- Farm Operating – Microloans, 4.750%**
- Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 4.750%**
- Farm Ownership – Microloan, 4.750%**
- Farm Ownership-Direct, Joint Financing, 2.750%**
- 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, 4.000%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 4.000%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 3.875%**

See [Oregon FSA's website/News Releases](https://www.usda.gov/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

- **April 18, 2023, 7:30am-9:30am (PT), Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in the Know Event Webinar, Join Zoom Meeting at <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603709046>, Meeting ID: 160 370 9046.**

- **May 8, 2023:** NRCS 2023 Conservation Innovation Grant proposals due.
- **June 2, 2023:** Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2 and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) signups close.
- **June 19, 2023:** Juneteenth Federal Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **July 4, 2023:** Fourth of July Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **September 30, 2023:** [RMA Margin Protection Insurance Plan](#) sales closing date.
- **January 31, 2024:** [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program](#) deadline.
- **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.](#)

USDA Seeking Applications to Expand Conservation Assistance to Underserved Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking applications for projects that will improve outreach to underserved producers and underserved communities about conservation programs and services and opportunities for students to pursue careers in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering up to \$70 million in cooperative agreements with entities for two-year projects that encourage participation in NRCS programs, especially in underserved communities and among urban and small-scale producers. Proposals are due **April 27, 2023.** [For further information please click here.](#)



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.



To find your Oregon coordinator, visit farmers.gov/newfarmers/coordinators/. For more beginning farmer and rancher information, visit farmers.gov/newfarmers.

Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (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.

Join the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in the Know Event webinar event

April 18, 2023, 7:30am-9:30am (PT). You can join the Zoom Meeting at

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603709046>, Meeting ID: 160 370 9046.

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

NRCS Oregon Accepting Proposals for 2023 Conservation Innovation Grants

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oregon announced up to \$300,000 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 by **May 8, 2023**.



The CIG program supports the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies to solve conservation challenges. 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. For further information please visit [NRCS Oregon Accepting Proposals for 2023 Conservation Innovation Grants | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

USDA-NASS 2023 June Area Survey



The June Area survey is one of the largest annual NASS survey projects and provides significant utility for the entire NASS survey

program. The data collected are used to supply direct estimates of acreage and measures of sampling coverage.

This survey utilizes an area sampling frame. The area frame consists of all land, stratified by land use, in all states except Alaska. The primary sampling units (PSU), based on land area, provide complete coverage of all agriculture activity occurring on that land and, therefore, all operators in the state.

A sample of over 9,000 segments, smaller units of a PSU measuring roughly one square mile, is selected from each land use stratum for data collection. All farm operators operating within the boundaries of the selected segments are interviewed. In a given year, approximately 70,000 agricultural and non-agricultural land use tracts are identified within the sampled segments. From that identification, over 30,000 detailed interviews are conducted with farmers operating farms inside the segment boundaries or who have the potential to qualify as a farm.

Every five years, over 3,000 extra segments are sampled to supplement census coverage measures. For further information please visit the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service website at [USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - Surveys - June Area](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/JuneArea/).



FARM LOAN ASSISTANCE TOOL is available at farmers.gov at [Loan Assistance Tool / Home \(usda.gov\)](https://farmers.gov/loan-assistance-tool/).

Photos Needed for the USDA in Oregon 2024 Calendars



We need your photos for the 2024 USDA in Oregon calendar! If you would like to submit a photo for possible use in our 2024 USDA in Oregon calendar, please submit it by e-mail to susan.riffel@usda.gov. The 2023 USDA in OREGON calendars are still available! Stop by your local [USDA Service Center](#) to pick up your copy!



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

FARM PROGRAMS CHIEF

Sarah Hanlon
503-404-1116
sarah.hanlon@usda.gov

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Martin Nguyen
503-404-1127
martin.nguyen@usda.gov

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS CHIEF

Paul Long
503-404-1133
paul.e.long@usda.gov

**OREGON FSA
STATE COMMITTEE:**

Katherine Minthorn,
STC Chair
Bryan Harper, STC Member
Denver Pugh, STC Member
Anna Sullivan, STC Member
Vern Frederickson,
STC Member

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

Next STC Meeting:
June 21-22

You can sign up for Urban Ag email alerts by visiting farmers.gov/subscribe (select "ORUrbanAG-Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production") or text alerts by texting USDAFSARMERS_4113.

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



CONTACT US:

Farm Service Agency
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Risk Management Agency
Service Center Locator



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)



Farmers.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

