



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oregon FSA Newsletter - March 2023

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

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USDA Nationwide Farmer, Rancher and Forest Manager Prospective Customer Survey

Let your voice be heard! You can still participate in the [USDA Nationwide Survey for Prospective Customers](#) that closes March 31.

This nationwide survey for farmers, ranchers, forest managers, and prospective customers will provide vital feedback about the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).



Subscribe to Receive Email and Text Alerts on USDA Urban Ag Opportunities in Oregon



Did you know you can subscribe to receive free email and text message updates from USDA related to urban agriculture and innovative production here in Oregon?

Whether you're scrolling through emails on your break or checking a text message between tasks, USDA wants to keep you posted on the latest news in urban agriculture and innovative production. Subscribe now to receive emails and text messages about important program information, eligibility requirements and deadlines from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA) related to urban agriculture in Oregon.

Portland is one of the 17 USDA urban hubs, which are home to an FSA Urban County Committee as well as a flagship People's Garden (visit [Our Village Gardens, Portland](#)).

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

Urban agriculture is one of the many topics available to producers. If you subscribe online, you can also sign up for information on other topics, including disaster assistance, conservation programs, crop insurance and farm loans. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Interest Rates - February 2023

- Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 4.750%**
- Farm Operating – Microloans, 4.750%**
- Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 4.875%**
- Farm Ownership – Microloan, 4.875%**
- Farm Ownership-Direct, Joint Financing, 2.875%**
- Farm Ownership-Down Payment, 1.500%**
- Emergency Loans Actual Loss, 3.750%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 4.000%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 3.750%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 3.750%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 3.625%**

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

- **March 15, 2023:** [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Program \(PLC\)](#) enrollment for 2023 ends.
- **March 27, 2023:** [Urban Ag and Innovative Production Grants Applications Due](#).
- **March 15, 2023:** ARC and PLC programs for 2023 crops sign up due.
- **March 31, 2023:** [Farmers.gov/survey](#) due.
- **March 31, 2023:** [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#) applications due.
- **April 7, 2023:** General Conservation Reserve Program sign up ends.
- **April 7, 2023:** EQIP and RCPP applications due.
- **June 2, 2023:** Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2 and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) signups close.
- **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.](#)

Agricultural Producers Have Until March 15 to Enroll in USDA's Key Commodity Safety Net Programs

Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2023 crop year have **until March 15, 2023**, to elect and enroll a contract. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers these two safety net programs to provide vital income support to farmers experiencing substantial declines in crop prices or revenues.



For more information, please visit the [Oregon FSA News Releases](#), the [ARC and PLC webpage](#), or contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).

USDA Announces General Conservation Reserve Program Signups for 2023

USDA Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup starting **February 27 through April 7, 2023**. CRP is a cornerstone voluntary conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris administration's effort to address climate change and help agricultural communities invest in the long-term well-being of their land and natural resources.



For further information please visit [Oregon FSA News Releases](#) or contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).

Financial assistance available through Oregon's Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Funding is available for Oregon farmers, ranchers and forest owners to perform voluntary conservation activities on their privately-owned land with financial assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oregon.



NRCS Oregon announces a new sign-up deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Applicants must apply by **April 7, 2023**, to be considered for the second round of fiscal year 2023 funding.

To apply, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) or apply online at [farmers.gov](#). Find projects available in your county on the "[What's Available in My County](#)" webpage.

Ask the Expert: A Q&A on Farm Storage Facility Loans

In this Ask the Expert, Toni Williams answers questions about how Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFLs) provide low-interest financing to help producers build or upgrade commodity storage facilities. Toni is the Agricultural Program Manager for FSFLs at the Farm Service Agency (FSA).



Toni has worked for FSA for more than 32 years and is responsible for providing national policy and guidance for Farm Storage Facility Loans.

What are Farm Storage Facility Loans?

Farm Storage Facility Loans provide low-interest financing for eligible producers to build or upgrade facilities to store commodities.

The FSFL program was created in May 2000 to address an existing grain shortage. Historically, FSFLs benefitted grain farmers, but a change in the 2008 Farm Bill extended the program to fruit and vegetable producers for cold storage. An additional change extended the program to washing and packing sheds, where fresh produce is washed, sorted, graded, labeled, boxed up, and stored before it heads to market. Since May 2000, FSA has made more than 40,000 loans for on-farm storage.

Eligible facility types include grain bins, hay barns, bulk tanks, and facilities for cold storage. Drying and handling and storage equipment including storage and handling trucks are also eligible. Eligible facilities and equipment may be new or used, permanently affixed or portable.

To read the full blog visit farmers.gov/blog/ask-the-expert-qa-on-farm-storage-facility-loans-with-toni-williams.

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

For more information, contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.usda.gov/service-center) or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture

USDA -NASS is continuing to collect information for the [2022 Census of Agriculture](https://www.usda.gov/2022-census-of-agriculture). There is still time to respond! Producers may receive a second mailing or reminder calls since the first due date has passed.



- You can respond online or by mail.
- All data reported are Confidential by Federal Law.

- County level results are used to support Agriculture and Rural America programs such as Broadband Access.
- Many USDA disaster/aid program decisions rely on having accurate totals from the data you report.
- Oregon State University Research and Extension use the data to design projects to benefit you.
- Respond Now and help ensure that Agriculture Counts in Oregon!



HAS YOUR AGRICULTURAL OPERATION BEEN IMPACTED BY A WINTER STORM? Visit the [Winter Storm Preparation and Recovery Resources Farmers.gov](#).

USDA in Oregon 2023 Calendars



THE 2023 USDA in OREGON CALENDARS ARE HERE! Stop by your local [USDA Service Center](#) to pick up your copy! 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.



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

Next STC Meeting: March 16

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



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