

Oklahoma

Natural Resources Conservation Service



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A Message from the State Conservationist

Hello Oklahoma friends in conservation! My name is Jeanne Hamilton and I am excited to be your new State Conservationist. I got here on July 2nd and have hit the ground running with meetings with partners and NRCS Leadership. I have been with NRCS for just over 25 years, starting as a Student Intern and continuing on as a Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, Area Resource Conservationist for Programs, State Financial Assistance Program Manager and as an Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Pierre, SD for the last six and a half years before moving to Oklahoma.



I was raised in Northeast Montana and graduated from Montana State University with a BS in Plant Sciences. You may recall that a few years back I was acting as your ASTC-Management & Strategy, however, due to the pandemic and the October ice storms that you were experiencing, I completed that detail from SD and was never able to be in OK with you. I have worked full time in Montana, Arizona and South Dakota, and in addition to my detail with Oklahoma, I have had the opportunity to complete long term details in the Colorado and Idaho State Offices and have served as the Acting State Conservationist in South Dakota and Kansas and the Acting EQIP Branch Chief at the National Office. I am an active member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

We have a lot of opportunity to increase our reach with the conservation funding levels that we are expecting in the next few years, but with that increase in funding comes an increase in our responsibility and we need to be proactive now. We are working to hire additional staff and get them the training opportunities and tools that they need, and we need you to help us too. If you are an agricultural producer and you would like to have a conservation plan developed that can eventually be considered for potential funding opportunities, please visit with your local field offices now.

I look forward to meeting the farmers and ranchers of this great state.

Jeanne Hamilton, Oklahoma State Conservationist

NRCS Programs

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) participants need to turn in any required documentation for practices completed in 2023 by September 29th in order to receive payment after October 1, 2023.

Conservation Practice-of-the-Month

Residue or Tillage Management (No Till) 329



There are several conservation practices that farmers and ranchers are already doing that are tied to Climate-Smart Agriculture. The benefits from [Residue and Tillage Management \(No-Till\) 329](#) include increasing organic matter, improving soil health and increase productivity. This practice among other conservation practices are part of solutions for farmers and ranchers to help mitigate climate change.

Looking for more information about [NRCS Conservation Practices](#).

Management and Strategy | Job Postings

Upcoming Vacancy Announcements:

- Soil Conservation Technician early Sept.
- Civil Engineering mid to late Sept.
- General Natural Resource Management and Biological Sciences late Sept. to early Oct.
- Student Pathways positions will be posted in October.

The best way to stay updated on job postings is to check [USA Jobs](#) often and sign up for notifications for job announcements.

All jobs with NRCS are listed and posted on USAJobs.

[NRCS Recruitment Video](#) - Your Field, Your World, Your Future

Photo of the Month

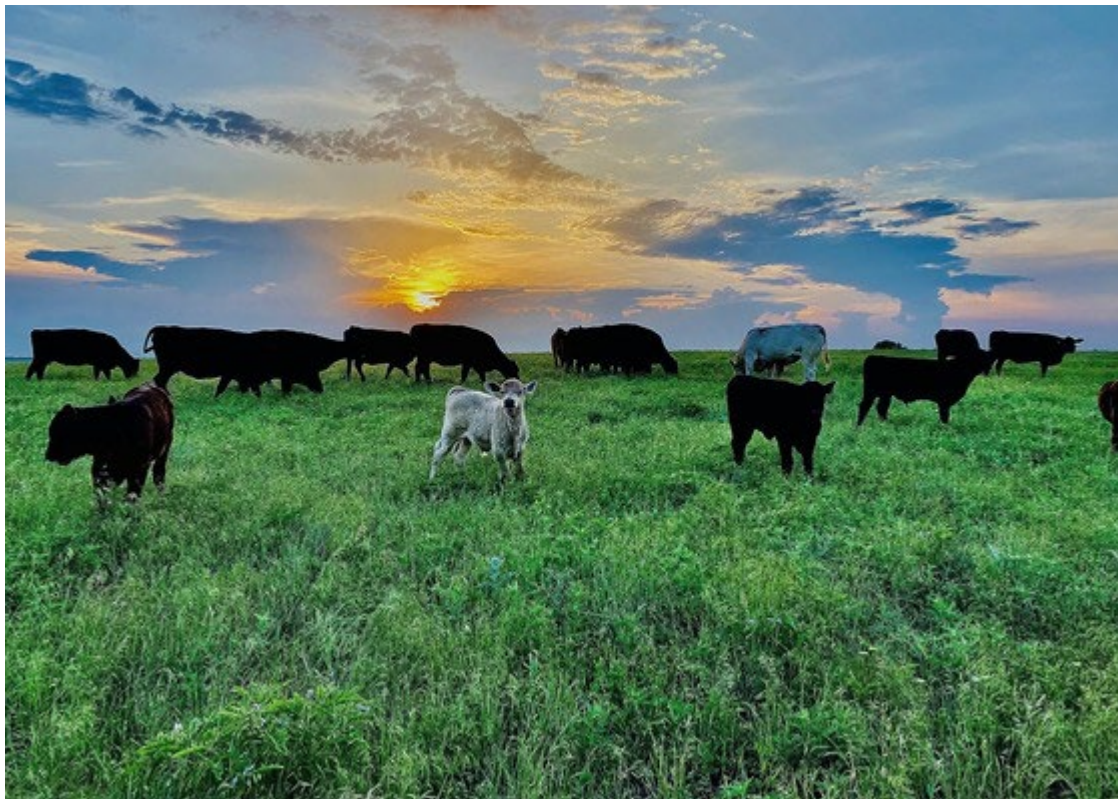


Photo by Crystal Clary, Caddo County . To enter a photo in this month's contest, email the full resolution photo to NRCSinfo-OK@usda.gov

Dates to Remember

NRCS and FSA will have representatives at the following events/meetings if you have questions or want to visit.

August

- [Grazing Beyond the Drought, Alva, OK Aug. 21 at 5:30 pm](#) RSVP by Aug. 17 to (580) 515-9691
- [FSA Crop Insurance and NAP office hours, Aug. 23 at 3:00 pm](#)
- [Western Oklahoma Local Agriculture Collaboration meeting in Duncan, Aug. 24](#)
- [Be Ready for the Next Drought, Vici, OK Aug. 24 at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm](#) RSVP by Aug. 21 to deweyccd@conservation.ok.gov or call (580) 328-5366

September

- [To Which We Belong \(film screening\), Oklahoma City, OK Sept. 7 at 5:30 pm](#) RSVP required to nicolragland@okconservation.org
- [Johnston County Fire Field Day, Milburn, OK. Sept. 9th at 9:00 am](#) RSVP by Sept. 1st to (580) 219-3002
- [OSU Career Fair, Sept. 21 Gallagher-Iba Arena 11:30am - 4:30 pm](#)
- [Langston University Career Fair, Sept. 28 Langston University Campus 10:00 am - 2:00 pm](#)

October

- [Central Oklahoma Local Agriculture Collaboration meeting in Shawnee, Oct. 18](#)

Inflation Reduction Act 22007– financial assistance for discriminated producers

The application period is now open for a new financial assistance program under Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to January 2021. The application process will close on October 31. Borrowers will have the option to apply for assistance online via 22007apply.gov or through a paper-based form.

Details about the program, including an application and e-filing portal, are available at 22007apply.gov. The website includes an English and Spanish language application that applicants can download or submit via an e-filing portal, information on how to obtain technical assistance in-person or virtually, and additional resources and details about the program. Applicants can also call the free call center at 1-800-721-0970, or visit one of several dozen brick-and-mortar offices the program has set up around the country. Locations are provided on the program website and vendors will update the local events schedule with more information as it becomes available. It is important to note that filing an application is FREE and does not require a lawyer.

If you want to get weekly updates on the program's events and progress, you can go to <https://22007apply.gov>, and subscribe to a weekly newsletter.

FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) can help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

There are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a joint financing loan is \$600,000, and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

The operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about farm loans, contact County USDA Service Center or visit fsa.usda.gov.

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).



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