

Oklahoma

Natural Resources Conservation Service



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A Message from the Acting State Conservationist

Oklahomans!!!

Serving as your Acting State Conservationist has been an amazing experience that I will remember and treasure. I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed my time here with you. You have been gracious, welcoming and honest with me from the git go. My hope in coming here as your Acting for the last four months was to "do no harm"; and if possible leave things just a little better when I go. You can all be the judge of that. I have enjoyed meeting the producers of Oklahoma and seeing their operations, especially the way they've adapted to this land and it's unique climate, geology, and history!



I welcome your feedback and suggestions, but highly recommend that the NRCS employees complete that FEVS survey so the new State Conservationist, Jeanne Hamilton, will be able to assess your needs and respond for herself along with your leadership team. All of you can be proud of the fantastic work you do, the outstanding customer service you provide and the skills you continue to hone. You, our partners, and our producers are an amazing group of folks and I hope to come and visit over the years if you'll have me!

Have a fantastic 4th of July, summer and year!

Take care,

Tina

Program Updates

There are several FSA program deadlines to remember this month:

- July 14: Sign up deadline for Pandemic Revenue Assistance Program (PARP) and Emergency Relief Program Phase 2 (ERP2)
- July 17: Acreage Reporting deadline: perennial grass, alfalfa, soybeans, corn and other spring-planted feed grains, CRP and all other crops
- August 31: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program: Alfalfa, Aquaculture, Barley, Canola, Christmas Trees, Clover, Floriculture, Grass, Oats, Peas (Austrian Winter) Rye, Triticale or Wheat for Forage, Turfgrass sod, Rapeseed

Interested producers should reach out to their [local service center](#) for additional information and application details.

USDA Reminds State Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports



Agricultural producers in State who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after planting should make an appointment with their U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center before the applicable deadline.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

How to File a Report

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable in State:

July 17, 2023: perennial grass, alfalfa, soybeans, corn and other spring-planted feed grains, CRP, all other crops

July 31, 2023: Hemp

To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.

- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If crops are covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, acreage reports should be submitted by the applicable state, county, or crop-specific reporting deadline or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to because of a natural disaster.

Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

FSA offers continuous certification for perennial forage. This means after perennial forage is reported once and the producer elects continuous certification, the certification remains in effect until a change is made. Check with FSA at the local USDA Service Center for more information on continuous certification.

New Option to View, Print and Label Maps on Farmers.gov

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.

Producers who have authority to act on behalf of another customer as a grantee via form FSA-211 Power of Attorney, Business Partner Signature Authority, along with other signature types, or as a member of a business can now access information in the farmers.gov portal.

Producers can learn how to use the farmers.gov Farm Records Mapping functionality with this [fact sheet](#) and these [video tutorials](#).

More Information

Producers can make an appointment to report acres by contacting their local USDA Service Center.

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Intended Investment of Approximately \$300 Million in 50 Projects

Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access for Underserved Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced its selection of 50 projects for potential award, totaling approximately \$300 million. These innovative projects will help improve access to land, capital, and markets for underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. The Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access (Increasing Land Access) Program, which is funded by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, works to increase access to farm ownership opportunities, improve results for those with heirs' property or fractionated land, increase access to markets and capital that affect the ability to access land, and improve land ownership, land succession and agricultural business planning.

Examples of selectees for potential award include:

- **The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin** will work to establish an equity capital fund to provide support for Tribal producers' land, equipment, and operational needs. Additionally, this project will work to provide targeted technical assistance to Tribal producers in developing comprehensive farm and food business plans, including conservation plans to support expanded production and access to the full suite of USDA and other support resources.
- **Maine Farmland Trust** will work with low-income farmers on access to low-interest capital for land purchase or business operations, farm upgrades and infrastructure investments that promote viability, technical assistance in the areas of real estate and business planning, and more.

The tentative selectees include national, regional, and local projects that cover 40 states and territories including Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. USDA will work with the selected applicants to finalize the scope and funding levels in the coming months.

Environmental Assessment

These projects will likely result in the purchase of land, construction of farm infrastructure and other activities that could have potential impacts on environmental resources. USDA has developed a Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Increasing Land Access Program to evaluate the program's overarching environmental impacts as they relate to the National Environmental Policy Act.

The environmental assessment is available [online for public review](#). USDA is requesting comments on the program's potential impact on the environment. The feedback will be incorporated into the final assessment, as appropriate, prior to a decision.

USDA will consider comments received by Friday, July 14, 2023, at 5 p.m. EDT. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent possible. Comments may be submitted:

- Electronically at: Access@usda.gov
- By mail at: Attn: Michael Mannigan, Grants Management Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, Outreach Office, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC, 20250-0506

For more information, contact Michael Mannigan at Land.Access@usda.gov. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice).

More Information

The Increasing Land Access Program was [originally announced in August 2022](#) as part of a broader investment to help ensure underserved producers have the resources, tools, programs and technical support they need to succeed and is being funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Increasing Land Access Program is part of USDA's commitment to equity across the Department and steps it has taken under Secretary Vilsack's direction to improve equity and access, eliminate barriers to its programs for underserved individuals and communities, and build a workforce more representative of America. Earlier in the year, the [USDA Equity Commission](#), which is comprised of independent members from diverse backgrounds, released its interim recommendations to remove barriers to inclusion and access at USDA. The program is also an important component of the Department's and President Biden's vision to [Advance Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

USDA Expands Wildlife Conservation with New Investments in Working Lands for Wildlife

Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is expanding its work on wildlife conservation, leveraging a suite of voluntary, incentive-based tools. Leveraging resources of the Conservation Reserve Program and the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), the five-year commitment includes significant funding and staff resources, focusing their delivery to working lands in key geographies across the country through a series of new Frameworks for Conservation Action.

For more information: [Oklahoma News Releases \(usda.gov\)](#)

Management and Strategy | Job Postings

Upcoming Vacancy Announcements:

- Civil/Ag Engineer- The vacancy has 3 Oklahoma locations listed, but has the flexibility for us to hire in alternate locations (announcement has language to hire more than locations listed):
 - McAlester TSO
 - Perry TSO
 - Pauls Valley TSO
 - <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/732093400>

Photo of the Month



Photo by Mattie Alewine, Waynoka, OK. To enter a photo in this month's contest, email the full resolution photo to NRCSinfo-OK@usda.gov

Dates to Remember



June

OSU Extension - AgricultHER Women in Agriculture Conference

Date: Friday, June 30, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Wilburton, OK

RSVP through OSU Extension

July

Offices are closed for Independence Day

Date: July 4, 2023

Workshop: "Gathering Drought Data, Brush Management of Cedars is a Benefit to Pollinators, Managing Cattle during a Drought"

Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. -- lunch is provided

Location: Altus, OK

RSVP: [registration form](#)

FlowerHill Institute Workshop - CCC-860 Disadvantage Certification

Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: virtual

RSVP: [registration form](#)

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