

March 2021



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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- [U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Key Leadership in Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area](#)
- [Interest Rates](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [USDA Service Centers Currently Closed to Visitors in Oregon](#)
- [USDA Supports Military Veteran's Transition to Farming](#)
- [USDA Encourages Completion of Cash Rents and Leases Survey](#)
- [USDA Expands Farm Loans for Native Americans Farming and Ranching on Tribal Land](#)
- [USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators](#)

Oregon FSA Newsletter

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U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Key Leadership in Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the appointment of Gloria Montañó Greene as Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) and the appointment of Zach Ducheneaux as Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). They began their positions on Monday, Feb. 22.

Montañó Greene is a former State Executive Director for FSA in Arizona from 2014-2017. With FSA in Arizona, Montañó Greene led implementation of the 2013 Farm Bill programs across the state. Currently, she serves as Deputy Director for Chispa Arizona, a program of the League of Conservation Voters focused on the empowerment of Latino voices in Arizona on issues including energy, public lands and democracy access. She served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff to Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva of Arizona. She is a graduate of the University of Arizona.

Ducheneaux is the current Executive Director of the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the largest, longest-standing Native

State Committee:
Anna Sullivan, Chair
TJ Hansell, Member
Sam Asai, Member
Phil Hassinger, Member
Denver Pugh, Member

Next STC Meeting: tbd

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American agriculture organization in the U.S. The Council represents all Federally Recognized Tribes and serves 80,000 Native American producers. He has been with the Council since the 1990s in various leadership positions, including as former tribal council representative for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Ducheneaux has spent his career educating people about the critical role of improved food systems, value-added agriculture, and foreign exports to respond to the enduring economic and social challenges facing Native Americans and reservations. He also serves on the board of directors for Project H3LP!, a nonprofit founded by his family to benefit his local community by providing life lessons and therapy through horsemanship. He operates his family's ranch on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in north central South Dakota with his brothers.

Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans - Direct: 1.375%
Farm Operating - Microloan: 1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans-Direct: 2.750%
Farm Ownership - Microloan: 2.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing: 2.500%
Farm Ownership-Down Payment: 1.500%
Emergency Loans Actual Loss: 2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 3 Year: 0.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 5 Year: 0.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 Year: 0.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 Year: 1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 Year: 1.375%

Important Dates

- **CRP General Signup** continues, extended signup deadline TBD.
- **2021 CRP Non-Emergency Grazing Period** (prior approval required)
- **March 31: Marketing Assistance Loans**
- **April 9: Quality Loss Adjustment** Signup Closes
- **April 23: CRP Grasslands** Signup 203 Closes
- **May 31: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** Ornamental Nurseries Only
- **May 31:** Memorial Day Federal Holiday-Offices Closed
- **Sept. 30:** Continuous and CREP Signup 55 Closes
[Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)

USDA Service Centers Currently Closed to Visitors in Oregon

Due to recent public health concerns, USDA Service Centers are open by phone appointment only. Farmers and ranchers working with USDA's Farm Service Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service can sign and share documents online by using Box or OneSpan.

Visit farmers.gov/mydocs to learn more about Box and OneSpan, or contact staff a [local USDA Service Center](#) by phone for assistance with the steps for getting started, and additional resources for conducting business with USDA online.

More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus. Click here to find a [local USDA Service Center](#).

USDA Supports Military Veteran's Transition to Farming

Are you a military veteran interested in farming? USDA offers resources to help you:

- **Fund Your Operation:** USDA's Farm Service Agency offers a variety of [funding opportunities](#) to help agricultural producers finance their businesses. Certain funds are targeted for veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers.
- **Conserve Natural Resources:** USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers [conservation programs and expert one-on-one technical assistance](#) to strengthen agricultural operations now and into the future. Veterans may be eligible for a cost share of up to 90 percent and advance payments of up to 50 percent to cover certain conservation practices.
- **Manage Risks:** USDA is here to help you prepare for and recover from the unexpected. Veterans who are beginning farmers may be eligible for reduced premiums, application fee waivers, increased insurance coverage, and other incentives for multiple [USDA programs that support risk management](#).

USDA wants to ensure that veterans transitioning to agriculture have the resources needed to succeed. While USDA offices are currently closed to visitors because of the pandemic, Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To conduct business, please contact your local USDA Service Center. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at [Coronavirus and USDA Assistance for Farmers | Farmers.gov](#). If you're a new farmer, you can also reach out to your [state Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator](#).

USDA Encourages Completion of Cash Rents and Leases Survey

You may have received a *Cash Rents and Leases* survey from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This survey provides the basis for estimates of the current year's cash rents paid for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and permanent pasture. Please complete your Cash Rents and Leases survey by June 21. This survey can be completed and returned by mail, over the phone, or at agcounts.usda.gov.

Information from this survey is used in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as an alternative soil rental rate prior to finalizing new rates each year. Survey responses from as many localities as possible help calculate more accurate rental rates. Completion of the survey ensures cash rental rates accurately represent your locality. Survey results will also give you a useful tool in negotiating your rental agreements, and financial planning for your agricultural operation.

In accordance with federal law, survey responses are kept confidential. Survey results will be available in aggregate form only to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified. NASS will publish the survey results on August 27 at quickstats.nass.usda.gov/.

If you have any questions about this survey, please call 888-424-7828, or visit: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide to NASS Surveys/Cash Rents by County/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide%20to%20NASS%20Surveys/Cash%20Rents%20by%20County/index.php).

USDA Expands Farm Loans for Native Americans Farming and Ranching on Tribal Land

The Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loan program (HFIL) provides revolving loan funds to qualified intermediary lenders that helps qualified tribes and individuals purchase tribal farmland that has multiple owners.

The first recipient, the Native American Community Development Corporation Financial Services, Inc. (NACDCFS) of Browning, Mont., will lend funds directly to tribal members through a \$10 million intermediary HFIL loan from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). NACDCFS addresses critical needs in Native American communities related to the growth of family assets, supports economic development, and enhances the quality of life for communities and residents located on or near Montana's seven Indian reservations. NACDCFS provides one-on-one technical assistance to Native American entrepreneurs and agricultural producers. NACDCFS is a 501(c) (3), certified Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), through the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Under the [1887 Dawes Act](#), Indian reservation land was divided and allotted to individual tribal members such that with the passing of each generation, title ownership was divided and parceled among heirs, while the land was not. As a result, land once owned by a single person could today be owned by hundreds or thousands of individuals, resulting in what is known as "highly fractionated Indian land." In many instances, landowners are unknown or cannot be located, which complicates the coordination of ownership or prevents the use of the property altogether. There are more than 245,000 owners of three million fractionated land interests, spanning approximately 150 Indian reservations.

Under HFIL, tribes and tribal members can submit an application directly to an intermediary lender. To participate, intermediary lenders first must be approved by USDA. The lenders may be private and tribal nonprofit corporations, public agencies, Indian tribes or lenders subject to federal or state regulation (such as a credit union or other financial institution). FSA will lend to the intermediary, which will relend to the applicant. The intermediary lender also will administer the loan for the applicant.

Click here to find a [local USDA Service Center](#) or visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators

Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit

Producers can apply for a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers EZ Guarantee Loans use a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved, and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

For more information about the available types of FSA farm loans, contact your [local County USDA Service Center at [local USDA Service Center](#) or visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

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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