



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oregon FSA Newsletter - July 2021

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## SED Message- Disaster Assistance for Drought, Inclement Weather, Wildfires

I want to reach out again to our producers, farmers, ranchers, and foresters affected by the drought and extreme heat, and now potential devastation of wildfires and smoke damage in our state. From all of our Oregon Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff, our hearts go out to those affected by loss and tragedy and we are ready to assist you with available [disaster assistance programs](#).

Regardless of whether you have [NAP or Crop Insurance Coverage](#), we are encouraging producers who suffered a loss as a result of the heat/drought to file a [CCC-576 Notice of Loss](#). Please contact your local FSA office to request information to "file a notice of loss for heat and/or drought".



Below is a list of our Oregon FSA state office and county offices contact phone numbers (please contact your local FSA office to make an appointment). For up-to-date information, please visit our external Oregon FSA website/News Releases at [Oregon FSA News Releases \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/news-releases/oregon-fsa-news-releases).

Josh Hanning  
Acting State Executive Director

**Oregon FSA Contacts:**

- Baker FSA County Office: 541-523-7121, x2
- Deschutes/Jefferson/Crook FSA County Office: 541-923-4358, x2
- Clackamas/Multnomah FSA County Office: 503-655-3144, x2
- Coos/Curry FSA County Office: 541-396-4323, x2
- Douglas FSA County Office: 541-673-6071, x2
- Gilliam/Wheeler FSA County Office: 541-384-4251, x2
- Harney/Grant FSA County Offices: 541-573-6446, x2
- Jackson/Josephine FSA County Office: 541-423-6156, x2
- Klamath Falls FSA County Office: 541-883-6924, x2
- Lake FSA County Office: 541-947-2367, x2
- Lane County Office: 541-465-6443, x2
- Linn/Benton/Lincoln FSA County Office: 541-967-5925, x2
- Malheur FSA County Office: 541-889-9689, x2
- Marion/Polk FSA County Office: 503-399-5741, x2
- Morrow FSA County Office: 541-676-9011, x2
- Sherman FSA County Office: 541-565-3551, x2
- Umatilla FSA County Office: 541-278-8049, x2
- Union FSA County Office: 541-963-4178, x2
- Wallowa FSA County Office: 541-426-4521, x2
- Wasco/Hood River FSA County Office: 541-298-8559, x2
- Washington/Clatsop/Columbia/Tillamook FSA County Offices: 503-648-3174, x2
- Yamhill FSA County Offices: 503-472-1474, x2
- FSA Oregon State Office: 503-692-3688

**Additional Resources:**

- [Disaster Assistance Programs At A Glance](#) (printed brochures are available at local FSA service centers)
- [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#)
- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish \(ELAP\)](#)
- [Livestock Forage Program \(LFP\)](#)
- [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#)

- NRCS Programs: [Emergency Watershed Protection \(EWP\)](#), [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)'s Catastrophic Fire Recovery](#); [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) ; [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#)
- RMA: [Risk Management Agency \(RMA\) Agent Locator](#)
- [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)
- [USDA Service Center Locator](#)

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## Interest Rates

**Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 1.875%**  
**Farm Operating – Microloan, 1.875%**  
**Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 3.250%**  
**Farm Ownership – Microloan, 3.250%**  
**Farm Ownership-Direct, Joint Financing, 2.500%**  
**Farm Ownership-Down Payment, 1.500%**  
**Emergency Loans Actual Loss, 2.875%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 0.375%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 0.750%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 1.250%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 1.500%**

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## Important Dates

- [CFAP-2](#) Additional Enrollment Open
- [CRP General Signup](#) continues, extended signup deadline TBD.
- [Organic Cost Certification Share Program \(OCCSP\) Sign-up Period](#): FSA County Offices will begin accepting OCCSP applications for the 2021 program year on July 8, 2021. The 2021 program year covers eligible expenses paid by certified organic operations between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021.
- **July 16**: Applications due - Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP)
- **July 23**: CRP General signup 56 deadline
- **Aug. 2, 2021** - Final Date to submit FSA-669A Nomination Form for County Committee elections to the county office
- **August 6**: Sign-up for [CLEAR30](#)
- **August 20**: CRP Grasslands applications deadline
- **August 31**: Oregon NAP Deadline for beets, cabbage, canola, carrots for seed, Christmas Trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except mint), onions & radish
- **Sept. 17** Applications due Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP) (opens July 20),
- [Click here to learn more about local deadlines and ongoing programs.](#)

## Oregon City USDA Service Center Moves



On **July 19**, the Oregon City USDA Service Center will officially be located at **22055 S Beaver Creek Rd, Suite 2, Beaver Creek, Oregon 97004**. Both FSA and NRCS staff are moving to this new location.

From **July 19 to July 23**, Service Center staff will be unavailable for in-person visits. To set up an appointment during this time, please call 503-655-3144.

We look forward to seeing you at our new office!

## Oregon USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher Program



The Oregon [USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher \(BFR\) Program](#) welcomes new team members Derek Johnson, farm loan officer with the Malheur County USDA Farm Service Agency in Ontario, Oregon, and Anastasia Griffin, risk management specialist with the USDA Risk Management Agency in the Spokane, Wash., Regional Office.

Other team members include Kathy Ferge, BFR state coordinator and state tribal liaison and outreach coordinator with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Portland, Oregon, and Erika Moellmer, business and cooperative programs specialist with USDA Rural Development in Portland, Oregon.

The USDA BFR program offers a variety of [farm loan](#), risk management, [disaster assistance](#) and [conservation programs](#) to support farmers, including beginning farmers and ranchers. Additionally, a number of these programs have provisions specifically for beginning farmers, including targeted funding for loans and conservation programs, as well as waivers and exemptions. The purpose of the program is to connect beginning farmers with these resources.

“The majority of the beginning farmers contacting me are what I call ‘pre-farmers’. They’re thinking about farming, may even have some land, but they’re not sure what their next move is. Our team helps guide them on their way,” said Ferge.

In addition to connecting these producers with USDA resources, the BFR team also links farmers with local resources such as Oregon State University Extension, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Small Business Development Centers. Ferge also partners with organizations such as the Beginning Farmer Rancher working group, part of the Oregon Community Food Systems Network, which has connections in every corner of Oregon.

There are also other ways beginning farmers and ranchers can engage with USDA, such as becoming a County Committee member with a local Farm Service Agency. County committee members are a critical component of FSA day-to-day operations and help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They also work to ensure FSA agricultural programs meet the needs of local producers.

The 2021 County Committee election nomination period begins June 15. The last day to file nomination forms is August 2 at your [local USDA Service Center](#). Oregon FSA encourages eligible agricultural producers take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The nomination form and resources are available at the [County Committee Elections webpage](#) or available at your [local USDA Service Center](#).

As part of the county committee process, Portland is one of 10 pilot cities for an Urban Agriculture FSA county committee. The nomination form and resources are available at the [County Committee Elections webpage](#). The urban and suburban county committees work to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices. Additionally, the urban committees may address areas such as food access, community engagement, support of local activities to promote and encourage community compost, and food waste reduction.

To learn more about the USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher Program visit [Beginning Farmers and Ranchers | Farmers.gov](#).

## USDA Partnership Requests Landowner Input on Drought Conditions

**Portland, Ore., July 1, 2021** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Climate Hubs, in collaboration with the National Drought Mitigation Center and the National Integrated Drought Information System, request input from states, tribes and others to collect Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) on droughts impacting landowners across the country.



The CMOR tool is used to collect on the ground observations from landowners to help inform drought monitoring research. These local drought observations are important, as they provide input into the U.S. Drought Monitor process and inform agencies that make decisions based on dry and wet conditions.

Landowners can provide input through the online [reporting form](#).

The reporting form is mobile friendly and accepts photos. Landowners can comment on crop impacts, livestock impacts such as poor pasture conditions, and whether they are observing low or dry wells.

Landowners are not required to send in data on all aspects but can choose from the impact areas where they have the most direct knowledge. Contact information will not be shared publicly. View examples of submitted drought reports [here](#).

Please note that this form is **not part of the process to apply for drought assistance**.



Learn more about the [Drought Monitor](#) and how the USDA uses the map as a trigger for programs that help agricultural producers recover from drought and other natural disasters.

Read more about [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports](#) (CMOR) and what to report.

### **Drought Assistance – Available Funding**

To learn more [contact your local NRCS field office](#).

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## **Pollinators Need Your Help!**



A bee-less future would sting us all. The decline of bees and other pollinator populations threatens our global food security and here's why.

Pollinators contribute to ecosystem health and a sustainable food supply. Honeybees, native bees, birds, bats, butterflies, and other animals are all required for more than 80% of the world's flowering plants to reproduce. This includes food crops.

Who's in a better position to benefit from safeguarding pollinators than agricultural producers, forest landowners and beekeepers?

Caring for pollinators also helps protect our ability to grow food and producers' bottom lines while ensuring the marketability of other agricultural goods throughout the nation.

No single issue can be blamed for the pollinator decline. But here are five tips you can include in your daily land management as part of the solution.

1. **Diversify and beautify your land:** Offer your land as an oasis for pollinators by planting a diverse mix of flowering plants that sustain and enhance pollinators. This way, you can assist the production of healthy fruits and vegetables to improve your bottom line.
2. **Protect nesting sites:** Protect flowering plants and potential pollinator nesting sites, such as areas of undisturbed ground and native vegetation.
3. **Carefully use chemicals:** Pollinators can be sensitive to chemicals. So, try a natural, pollinator-friendly alternative on your land. Or when using pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides, please do so carefully.
4. **Support Bee Better Certified producers:** Become a [Bee Better Certified](#) producer or buy produce from farms that support bees. Products that are Bee Better Certified are grown on farms that use pollinator-friendly conservation practices.
5. **Buzz on:** Spread the word about these tips and the conservation programs available to help you and your neighbors implement pollinator-friendly practices on your land.

And before you take that third bite of food a pollinator has gifted you, see how the conservation resources offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) can help you implement those tips on your land.

USDA works closely with agricultural producers and forest landowners to help increase pollinator habitat in targeted areas.

USDA offers conservation programs that provide financial incentives and technical assistance to farmers and forest landowners through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

NRCS programs like the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) help improve pollinator habitat and their food sources by assisting with planting cover crops, wildflowers, and native plants in buffers and areas not in production.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) also helps producers enhance pollinator habitat on their land through the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP). Producers and forest landowners voluntarily convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive land to permanent vegetative cover like perennial grasslands, which are full of native forbs and legumes that are critical to the health of honeybees and wild pollinators.

FSA also supports livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers with emergency assistance through its [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish](#) (ELAP) program. ELAP provides financial assistance to producers who are experiencing honeybee losses from their hives for honey production, pollination or honeybee breeding.

For more information about pollinators and what you can do to help, please contact your local [USDA service center](#).

[Jocelyn Benjamin](#) is a Public Affairs Specialist with the FPAC Business Center.



## Oregon FSA State Office

7620 SW Mohawk St.  
Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Phone: 503-692-3688  
Fax: 855-824-6185

### Acting State Executive Director

**JOSH HANNING, 503-404-1111**  
[josh.hanning@usda.gov](mailto:josh.hanning@usda.gov)

### Farm Programs Chief

**SARAH HANLON, 503-404-1116**  
[sarah.hanlon@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.hanlon@usda.gov)

**Oregon FSA State Committee:**  
Acting SED, Josh Hanning

### Administrative Officer

**MARTIN NGUYEN, 503-404-1127**  
[martin.nguyen@usda.gov](mailto:martin.nguyen@usda.gov)

### Farm Loan Programs Chief

**KATHEY BRUCKER, 503-404-1117**  
[kathey.brucker@usda.gov](mailto:kathey.brucker@usda.gov)

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