

From: [USDA in Oregon](#)
To: [Riffel, Susan - FSA, Tualatin, OR](#)
Subject: Oregon FSA Newsletter - September 2022
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:00:11 PM

[View as a webpage / Share](#)

US Department of Agriculture



Oregon FSA Newsletter - September

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

In This Issue:

- [State Executive Director's Message](#)
- [Interest Rates-September 2022](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [New Guide Available for Underserved Farmers, Ranchers](#)
- [NRCS Oregon accepting applications for RCPP Nutrient Management Grants](#)
- [RMA Announces Greater Flexibilities for Crop Insurance Reporting](#)
- [Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers](#)
- [Upcoming NASS Surveys](#)

State Executive Director's Message

This week the [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#) funding opportunity was announced by USDA Secretary Vilsack. In his message he shared that the Biden-Harris Administration is investing \$2.8 billion through our Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities effort to help farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and our partners drive solutions to combat climate change.

These projects are looking at ways to build and expand market opportunities for American commodities produced using climate-smart practices through pilot projects, positioning American producers as global leaders in climate-smart agricultural production. Based on unprecedented demand and the potential for meaningful opportunities to benefit producers, we've almost tripled the investment from the \$1 billion the Secretary announced in February. For more information please see USDA's [September 14 Press Release](#).

Climate Smart



Portland's People's Garden: On August 29, Oregon's NRCS and FSA agencies held the ribbon cutting ceremony at [Our Village Gardens](#) located in North Portland, officially naming it a [USDA People's Garden](#). The garden sits in the largest affordable housing community in the Portland area and creates both economic and food resilience in Portland.

Most importantly, we got to hear directly from those growing food in the garden, and about 25-30 community garden farmers attended. Two growers used translators, one woman was from Mexico and a man from the DR of the Congo. Both had very similar messages that the garden allows them to grow native vegetables to their country that they could otherwise not or afford or find in the local area. There were many other moving stories and their words were directly from their heart and brought tears to my eyes. As I reflected on the drive back to the State Office, I thought to myself this must be part of the exact vision the Secretary has for USDA's Urban Ag initiative.

To learn more about People's Garden or to register one, visit the [People's Garden webpage](#). The location and information on each garden will be displayed on a map. USDA will send a "People's Garden" sign to each garden and invite continued engagement through photos and information sharing. Gardens on federal property, such as USDA offices, are required to donate produce. We invite these gardens to report how much is being donated.

September is Mental Health and National Suicide Prevention Awareness month.

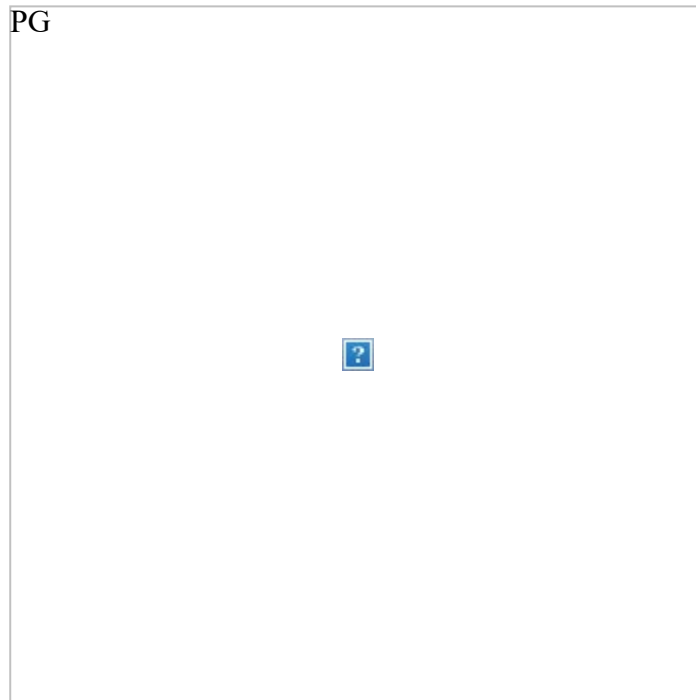
Stress and mental health issues can affect anyone and today's producers are under tremendous stress. If you or a family member are experiencing difficulties managing life challenges or feel overwhelmed and weighed down with burdens affecting your mental and physical health, please don't hesitate to reach out for professional help through available resources below.

The [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) provides free and confidential emotional support for anyone in a suicidal crisis or emotional distress. **The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is**

available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and may be reached by texting or calling 988, or [chat here](#). [Click here to obtain helpful tools](#), posters, and additional information about the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and their services.

Gail Greenman
State Executive Director (SED), Oregon FSA

(Pictured below are the Our Village Gardens Community Organizers, with Congressman Blumenauer and SED Gail Greenman during the ribbon cutting ceremony.)



Interest Rates-September 2022

Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 4.125%
Farm Operating – Microloans, 4.125%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 4.375%
Farm Ownership – Microloan, 4.375%
Farm Ownership-Direct, Joint Financing, 2.500%
Farm Ownership-Down Payment, 1.500%
Emergency Loans Actual Loss, 3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 2.750%

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

- **September 30:** CRP – Deadline to sign all contract forms with FSA for General CRP Signup 58, Continuous Signup 57, CREP, and Grasslands CRP SU204
- **September 30:** ARC/PLC -Deadline
- **October 10:** Offices Closed - Columbus Day Holiday
- **October 31:** Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) and Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) applications due.
- **October 31:** RCPP nutrient management grants due (see article below).
- **LFP (2022)** - Deadline January 30, 2023 - **Please make sure to have any grazing leases reported and CCC-855's completed for 2022 LFP.**
- **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.](#)

New Guide Available for Underserved Farmers, Ranchers

A new multi-agency guide for USDA assistance for underserved farmers and ranchers is now available. If you are a farmer or rancher and are a minority, woman, veteran, beginning, or limited resource producer, you can use this booklet to learn about assistance and targeted opportunities available to you. This includes programs offered through the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency. The guide is also available in Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai and Chinese on farmers.gov/translations. A copy is available at [your local USDA Service Center](#) or [click here to print the guide](#).

Get Started



NRCS Oregon accepting applications for RCPP Nutrient Management Grants

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oregon is currently accepting applications

RCPP

for Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) nutrient management grants. Apply on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 9 p.m. PST on October 31, 2022.

NRCS's [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) Critical Conservation Area (CCA) Nutrient Management Grants are a limited and targeted grant funding opportunity for eligible applicants to co-invest in impactful and innovative solutions to on-farm, watershed and regional natural resource concerns.



In Oregon, project proposals must be located in the Columbia Basin and Klamath Basin. View the designated Western Waters Critical Conservation Areas [here](#). Proposals must focus one or more priority resource concerns specific to the CCA and achieve conservation benefits through more efficient nutrient management primarily by utilizing NRCS 590 practice standards and associated practice standards. Project proposals may request between \$250,000 to \$10 million. **Only seven projects will be awarded nationally.**

This RCPP Grants opportunity is intended to support project structures and approaches that cannot be carried out as effectively through RCPP Classic projects. RCPP Grants applicants must describe the innovative nature of the conservation approach they are proposing to justify potential funding through RCPP Grants rather than previously awarded RCPP Classic projects. Eligible applicants can be:

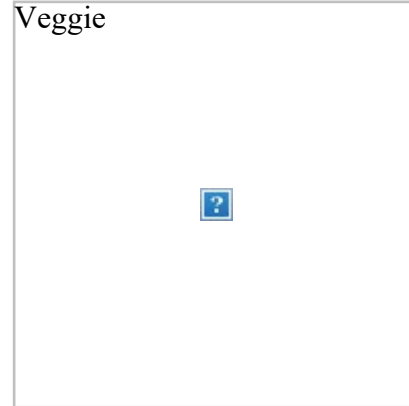
- a. An agricultural or silvicultural producer association or other group of producers;
- b. A State or unit of local government, including a conservation district;
- c. An Indian Tribe;
- d. A farmer cooperative;
- e. An institution of higher education;
- f. A water district, irrigation district, acequia, rural water district or association, or other organization with specific water delivery authority to producers on agricultural land;
- g. A municipal water or wastewater treatment entity;
- h. An organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers on agricultural land, as determined by the Secretary, to address -
 - i. Local conservation priorities related to agricultural production, wildlife habitat development, and NIPF management; or
 - ii. Critical watershed-scale soil erosion, water quality, sediment reduction, or other natural resource concerns; or
- i. An eligible entity as identified by NRCS pursuant to 7 C.F.R. part 1468.

Applicants should review the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) which is available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). The NFO can also be found through a search on Grants.gov for RCPP. This opportunity is federal financial assistance and it is recommended that applicants take the Grants 101 online course. Grant course information is available in the NFO.

NRCS held an RCPP grant webinar on August 30 and recorded it. Check the [National RCPP page](#) for the webinar link or reach out to RCPP@usda.gov.

RMA Announces Greater Flexibilities for Crop Insurance Reporting

Specialty crop producers can now benefit from greater flexibility to use their own records to meet crop insurance reporting requirements. USDA announced revisions that will make it easier for specialty crop producers and others who sell through direct marketing channels to obtain insurance, report their annual production, and file a claim.



Changes include:

- A new marketing certification that allows producers to self-identify if they will not have disinterested third-party records, when required, and enables them to use their own supporting production records. This will benefit direct marketers and vertically integrated producers since they often do not have disinterested third-party records.
- Allowing producers to use their own records, thereby limiting the need for Approved Insurance Providers (AIP) preharvest appraisals as a supporting record.

Before these changes, RMA generally required disinterested third-party records and AIPs may have conducted preharvest appraisals as a supporting production record.

These updates also improve transparency in the producer's policy by adding production reporting definitions, listing the 30-day appeal deadline for good farming practice determinations, clarifying where a producer can find information in the policy, and updating terminology to be consistent across the policy.

These revisions and other updates come through the [Crop Insurance Reporting and Other Changes Final Rule](#) published by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. This Final Rule will update the Common Crop Insurance Provisions Basic Provisions, Area Risk Protection Insurance Basic Provisions, and includes changes to individual Crop Provisions. Twenty Crop Provisions will be publicly released on June 30, 2022.

More Information

[Specialty crops](#) and their producers are a priority at RMA. Federal crop insurance coverage for specialty crops has grown steadily over the past 15 years with individual crop insurance programs now available for dozens of specialty crops.

These latest updates and flexibilities build on other RMA efforts to simplify reporting requirements for specialty crop producers and better serve those who sell through direct marketing. RMA implemented changes to Whole-Farm Revenue Protection for the 2021 crop year that streamline revenue reporting for producers who direct market two or more commodities. Additionally, the new Micro Farm option was rolled out beginning with the

2022 crop year specifically for producers who sell locally, including direct marketing. It reduces reporting requirements, providing more access to the program.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov.

Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has several loan programs to help you start or continue an agriculture production. Farm ownership and operating loans are available. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.



A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

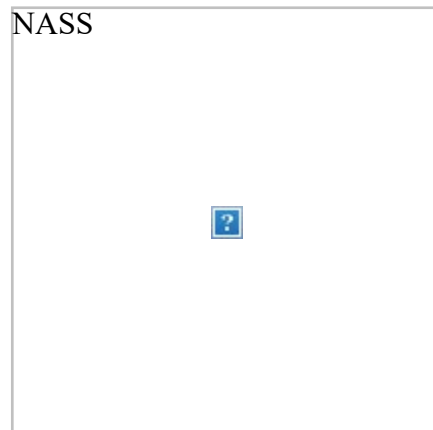
FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

For more information contact, contact [your local USDA Service Center](#) or visit farmers.gov/loans.

Upcoming NASS Surveys

[USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\) County Ag. Production Survey](#) (September 3-October 8) provides the data needed to estimate acreage and production of small grains crops in Oregon [at the county level](#).

This data directly impacts growers as the information is one of the sources of data for county level estimates used to determine payments in the ARC/PLC payment programs. If there are not enough responses to publish county data, a surrounding county's data may have to be used instead. This may have a negative effect on producer payments because of local yield difference between counties. USDA's Farm Service Agency also uses the estimates to administer disaster assistance programs.



Oregon State Statistician, Dave Losh can be reached at Dave.Losh@usda.gov with questions or for help with finding NASS survey results.



Oregon FSA State Office

7620 SW Mohawk St.
Tualatin, Oregon 97062
Phone: 503-692-3688
Fax: 855-824-6185

State Executive Director
GAIL GREENMAN, 503-404-1112
gail.greenman@usda.gov

Administrative Officer
MARTIN NGUYEN, 503-404-1127
martin.nguyen@usda.gov

Farm Programs Chief
SARAH HANLON,
503-404-1116
sarah.hanlon@usda.gov

Farm Loan Programs Chief
KATHEY BRUCKER, 503-404-1117
kathey.brucker@usda.gov

Oregon FSA State Committee:
Katherine Minthorn, STC Member
STC Meeting: Dec. 15, STO

How can we help you? Submit questions or requests for further information to ASK.USDA.GOV or 1-833-ONE-USDA.

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

SMS



CONTACT US:

[Farm Service Agency](#)

[Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

[Risk Management Agency](#)

[Service Center Locator](#)

[twitter](#)



[flickr](#)



[youtube](#)



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)



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).

This email was sent to susan.riffel@or.usda.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Farmers.gov · 1400 Independence Avenue SW · Washington, D.C. 20250

