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## A Message from the State Executive Director

Last week USDA announced the opening of the financial assistance application process for eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to



January 2021. Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) directs USDA to provide this assistance. Since the law’s passage, USDA has worked diligently to design the program in accordance with significant stakeholder input. Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination by USDA in its farm loan programs prior to January 1, 2021, and/or are currently debtors with assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt that was the subject of USDA discrimination that occurred prior to January 1, 2021, are eligible for this program.

The program website, [22007apply.gov](https://22007apply.gov), is now open. 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.

To apply, borrowers have the option to apply via the e-filing portal at [22007apply.gov](https://22007apply.gov) or submit paper-based forms via mail or in-person delivery to the program’s local offices. The application process will be open from July 7 to October 31, 2023. Under the planned timeline, applications will be reviewed in November and December, with payments reaching recipients soon thereafter. Importantly, applicants should know that the application process is not on a first come, first served, basis. All applications received or postmarked before the October 31 deadline will be considered.

Vendors operating four regional hubs are also providing technical assistance and working closely with these and other community-based organizations to conduct outreach using digital and grassroots strategies, to ensure potential applicants are informed about the

program and have the opportunity to apply. These hubs are operating a network of [brick-and-mortar program offices](#) and will conduct extensive outreach about the program.

In addition to the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) opening today, the Inflation Reduction Act also created several other programs that are helping USDA rebuild trust, address systemic issues and improve service to people who may have been underserved by USDA in the past. Information about USDA's equity agenda and progress is available at [www.usda.gov/equity](http://www.usda.gov/equity).

Additional resources include:

[Avoid Scams Related to USDA Financial Assistance for Farmers Facing Discrimination](#)  
[Farmers.gov](http://Farmers.gov)

On June 17<sup>th</sup> NRCS and FSA participated in Outreach at the 8 Seconds Juneteenth Rodeo in Portland. The Rodeo was a great opportunity to expose youth in the Pacific Northwest to the traditions, athleticism and gift of Black cowboys in America. The Rodeo and other events throughout the year will create a platform for Black cowboys to compete and gain exposure, while encouraging youth to explore their own passions and create the next generation of Black cowboys. To learn more about the Juneteenth Rodeo check out the [website here](#).

As a reminder, the deadline for the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\) Phase Two](#) and the [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program \(PARP\)](#) is **July 14, 2023**. In addition, FSA offers an online [ERP tool](#) and [PARP tool](#) that can help producers determine what is considered allowable gross revenue for each respective program. You should contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) to make an appointment to apply for ERP Phase Two and PARP assistance.

Please also keep in mind that **July 17** (July 15 is a Saturday) is a major deadline to complete acreage reports for most crops. FSA encourages producers to complete the ERP Phase Two application, PARP application and acreage reporting during the same office visit.

Sincerely,

Gail Greenman Oregon  
FSA State Executive Director



*Pictured above, Lucille Ausman and Adriana Campagna attended from NRCS. (Not in photo) Kate Brauner and Amanda Welker attended from FSA.*

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## County Committee Election Nominations Began June 15



**County Committee Elections:** If your county will be holding County Committee elections this year, the nomination period begins **June 15** and runs through **August 1**.

Please see the [County Committee website](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) for more information.



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## Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend August Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

We're inviting urban producers, innovative producers, and other stakeholders to virtually attend a public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on August 1 from 3-6pm. [Learn more and register.](#)



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## Important Dates

- **July 11, 2023:** [Small Farm Tool Field Day Event](#), 9am-5pm.
- **July 14, 2023:** Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2 and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) signups close.
- **July 15, 2023:** Nominations due for [Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#).

- **July 18, 2023:** [NRCS Beginning Farmer & Rancher Webinar](#), Noon-2pm (PT).
- **July 26, 2023:** Applications due for [Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program](#).
- **July 31, 2023:** [USDA CLEAR30](#) sign-up ends.
- **August 1, 2023:** [County Committee Election](#) nominations due to local FSA offices.
- **August 18, 2023:** Applications due for [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#).
- **September 4, 2023:** Labor Day Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **September 30, 2023:** [RMA Margin Protection Insurance Plan](#) sales closing date.
- **October 31, 2023:** Applications due for [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](#).
- **January 31, 2024:** [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program](#) deadline.
- **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.](#)

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## Interest Rates - July 2023

**Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 4.500%**  
**Farm Operating – Microloans, 4.500%**  
**Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 4.850%**  
**Farm Ownership – Microloan, 4.850%**  
**Farm Ownership-Direct, Joint Financing, 2.875%**  
**Farm Ownership-Down Payment, 1.500%**  
**Emergency Loans Actual Loss, 3.750%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 4.125%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 3.875%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 3.750%**  
**Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 3.750%**

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](#).

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# USDA Announces Historic Investment in Wildlife Conservation, Expands Partnership to Include Additional Programs

USDA is expanding its work on wildlife conservation by investing at least \$500 million over the next five years and by leveraging all available conservation programs, including the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP), through its [Working Lands for Wildlife](#) (WLFW) effort. These commitments will ramp up the conservation assistance for farmers, ranchers, private forest owners and tribes with a focus on working lands in key geographies across the country as well as hiring for key conservation positions.



The funding will help deliver a series of cohesive [Frameworks for Conservation Action](#), which establish a common vision across the partnership of public and private interests and goals for delivering conservation resources in a given ecosystem, combining cutting-edge science with local knowledge.

The new funding includes \$250 million from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and \$250 million from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This announcement builds off more than a decade of growing Farm Bill investments in wildlife habitat, and serves as a roadmap to leveraging both Farm Bill funding and the historic investments from the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) to guide conservation efforts. USDA's [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) and [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) will coordinate this work through WLFW, which focuses on voluntary, locally-led efforts that benefit wildlife and agricultural communities.

This funding will immediately benefit two of WLFW's newest priorities. In the western U.S., at least \$40 million of EQIP and ACEP funding will go toward USDA's ongoing efforts to help conserve migratory big game habitat, allowing a continuation of an existing partnership with the state of Wyoming and an expansion to the neighboring states of Idaho and Montana. In 25 central and eastern U.S. states, an additional \$14 million in new EQIP funding will be dedicated to conservation of bobwhite quail and associated species in the grasslands and savannas of the central and eastern U.S. Additionally, Inflation Reduction Act funding will also build outcomes for northern bobwhite recovery as over 3.5 million acres will help mitigate greenhouse gases.

## About USDA's Working Lands for Wildlife

WLFW is USDA's premier approach for conserving American working lands to benefit people, wildlife and rural communities. While NRCS and FSA work every day at all levels to assist producers, states, tribes and other conservation partners with their conservation priorities, WLFW steps in to facilitate their work on cross-cutting, national priorities that can only be addressed through coordination at an ecosystem scale.

Established in 2010, WLFW has teamed up with leading scientists and conservation partners as well as more than 8,400 producers to conserve or restore nearly 12 million acres of working lands, with tremendous benefits. WLFW has helped many sensitive species in their recovery, including the greater sage-grouse in the West, New England cottontail in the Northeast, golden-winged warbler in Appalachia and gopher tortoise in the Southeast. In large part because of the voluntary conservation efforts on private lands through WLFW, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has in some cases determined that species listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was no longer warranted thanks to recoveries made possible by these WLFW efforts.

To learn more about NRCS and FSA programs, landowners and operators can contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

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## USDA Offers Wildfire Recovery Assistance

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist you in your recovery efforts following wildfires or other qualifying natural disasters.

Available programs and loans include:

- **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing).
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs.
- **Emergency Loan Program** – available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Presidential or Secretarial disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters; includes fence loss.

For more information on these programs, contact your [USDA Service Center](#) or visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](https://fsa.usda.gov/disaster).

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## Photos Needed for the USDA in Oregon 2024 Calendar

We need your photos for the 2024 USDA in Oregon calendar! If you would like to submit a photo for possible use in our 2024 USDA in Oregon calendar, please submit it by e-mail to [EmmaLee.Demianew@usda.gov](mailto:EmmaLee.Demianew@usda.gov) by September 30. [See the flyer on the Oregon FSA webpage also!](#)

The 2023 USDA in OREGON calendars are still available! Stop by your local [USDA Service Center](#) to pick up your copy!





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questions or requests for further  
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or 1-833-ONE-USDA.**

**Next STC Meeting:**  
TBD

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