



In This Issue:

- [A Message from the State Executive Director](#)
- [County Committee Election Nominations Begin June 15](#)
- [Meet Amanda Welker, Urban County Executive Director](#)
- [Small Farm Tool Field Day Event - July 11](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Interest Rates - June 2023](#)
- [USDA is Providing \\$130 Million in Assistance to Help Farmers Facing Financial Risk](#)
- [USDA Unveils Efforts to Streamline Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#)
- [Photos Needed for the USDA in Oregon 2024 Calendar](#)

A Message from the State Executive Director

I was honored to be invited to attend the very first USDA Jewish American Heritage Month Celebration held in Washington, D.C in May. Pictured with me are Deb Tannenbaum, SED FSA Florida (far left), USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack, and Samantha Joseph, Director, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (far right).



The evening was full of speakers of Jewish faith who shared their efforts in combating hunger across the country. I had the privilege to introduce SJ Seldin, co-founder of the Jewish Farmers Network. They shared the historical contributions of Jewish farmers to U.S. agriculture and celebrated the stories of modern Jewish farmers who are shaping the U.S. food system today. In their remarks, SJ shared the following, "Judaism is one of the oldest agricultural traditions still practiced today. Through 5000 years of peoplehood, Jews have farmed in every land that we have been allowed to. We have grown food and medicine for ourselves, our communities, and for our hungry neighbors."

In early June, I attended an FSA Farm Bill Listening Session Forum at Linn Benton Community College with over 100 guests. House Agriculture Committee Chairman GT Thompson with Congresswoman Chavez-DeRemer (OR-5), Congresswoman Salinas (OR-6), Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-1), and Congressman David Valladao (CA-22) heard from 53 producers on a wide variety of farm bill issues. I appreciated hearing the challenges and thoughts of Oregon agricultural stakeholders. Comments regarding FSA

programs included increasing loan limits, constraints of the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), crop insurance and improving coverage for specialty crops, innovative approaches being made by urban agriculturalists, FSA County Committee structure, and FSA staffing.

I'm also excited to share the news that USDA is extending the deadline for the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\) Phase Two](#) and the [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program \(PARP\)](#) to July 14, 2023. This will give producers more time to apply for assistance (the original deadline was June 2). 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 15 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.

Last, but most certainly not least, June has so many important recognitions. We celebrate Pride, which began with the Stonewall riots, a series of riots for gay liberation that took place over several days beginning on June 28, 1969. The riots began after a police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar located within Lower Manhattan in New York City. The year after the riots, the first pride marches were held in several U.S. cities. Following the Stonewall riots and the first Pride marches, the number of LGBTQ+ groups rapidly increased, and, of course, the Pride movement spread across the United States after a few years.

We also celebrate African American Music Appreciation Month! Created by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, this month celebrates the African American musical influences that comprise an essential part of our nation's treasured cultural heritage. Formerly called National Black Music Month, this celebration of African American musical contributions is re-established annually by presidential proclamation.

Finally, June is National Safety Month where we recognize and educate ourselves of preventable injuries, commonly known as "accidents," which are the fourth leading cause of U.S. deaths. We all know that farming can be a dangerous business. Weather extremes, tractor safety are just the tip of the iceberg. As you, our wonderful producers, get underway for a busy time of year, I wish you a healthy, happy and safe production season.

Sincerely,

Gail Greenman Oregon
FSA State Executive Director



May 15 Salem-Keizer School District Career Outreach Event, attended by Oregon FSA. Photo by Sarah Hanlon with attendees Celeste Bonniksen, Kate Brauner & Alex Moreno.

County Committee Election Nominations Begin 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.



Meet Amanda Welker, Urban County Executive Director

Amanda Welker joins Oregon FSA as the new Urban County Executive Director at the [FSA Clackamas/Multnomah County Office](#) in Beavercreek. Amanda spent the last 18 years at the State of Oregon working in the Oregon Legislature, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Business Development Department.



Amanda is passionate about agriculture and bridging rural and urban Oregon. She sees an incredible opportunity for new and existing USDA programs to support urban agriculture production. Portland is a national leader in urban agriculture and has one of the most creative food scenes in the country!

Amanda brings broad experience marketing Oregon's food and agricultural products in local, national, and global markets through state and federal programs and is excited to develop this pilot in her community. "We have an outstanding urban county committee of experts who are on the cutting edge of urban agriculture and growing more equitable and healthy food systems." Together, we will identify gaps and opportunities for urban producers that are meaningful in developing USDA policy and programs. "Over the last three years, we've learned how important it is to have resilient and sustainable local supply chains, and at the same time we can contribute to beautification and carbon sequestration in urban settings."

Amanda graduated from Portland State University and lives in NE Portland with her family where they enjoy outdoor recreation, gardening, photography, music, soccer, and adventure travel.

Small Farm Tool Field Day Event - July 11



Join the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) on July 11, 9am-5pm, at Headwaters Farm, 28600 SE Orient Drive, Gresham, OR, 97080, for a free event to explore tools and strategies for the successful small farm. The event will include live demonstrations and hands-on opportunities.

Register for the event at <https://attra.ncat.org/events>. Contact Amy Hendershot at amy.hendershot@usda.gov for more details about this event.

Important Dates

- **June 15, 2023:** 2023 County Committee Elections nomination period begins.
- **June 19, 2023:** Juneteenth Federal Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **July 4, 2023:** Fourth of July Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **July 11, 2023:** [Small Farm Tool Field Day Event](https://attra.ncat.org/events), 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](https://www.usda.gov/our-work/programs/federal-advisory-committee-for-urban-agriculture-and-innovative-production).
- **July 18, 2023:** [NRCS Beginning Farmer & Rancher Webinar](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/beginning-farmer-rancher-webinar), Noon-2pm (PT).
- **July 26, 2023:** Applications due for [Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program](https://www.usda.gov/our-work/programs/organic-dairy-marketing-assistance-program).
- **July 31, 2023:** [USDA CLEAR30](https://www.usda.gov/our-work/programs/clear30) sign-up ends.
- **August 1, 2023:** [County Committee Election](https://www.usda.gov/our-work/programs/county-committee-election) nominations due to local FSA offices.
- **August 18, 2023:** Applications due for [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](https://www.usda.gov/our-work/programs/regional-conservation-partnership-program).
- **September 4, 2023:** Labor Day Holiday, Offices Closed.
- **September 30, 2023:** [RMA Margin Protection Insurance Plan](https://www.usda.gov/our-work/programs/rma-margin-protection-insurance-plan) sales closing date.
- **October 31, 2023:** Applications due for [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](https://www.usda.gov/our-work/programs/organic-certification-cost-share-program).
- **January 31, 2024:** [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program](https://www.usda.gov/our-work/programs/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.

Interest Rates - June 2023

Farm Operating Loans – Direct, 4.500%
Farm Operating – Microloans, 4.500%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct, 4.750%
Farm Ownership – Microloan, 4.750%
Farm Ownership-Direct, Joint Financing, 2.750%
Farm Ownership-Down Payment, 1.500%
Emergency Loans Actual Loss, 3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 3 Years, 3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 5 Years, 3.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Years, 3.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Years, 3.500%

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](#).

USDA is Providing \$130 Million in Assistance to Help Farmers Facing Financial Risk

USDA announced that nearly \$130 million in additional, automatic financial assistance has been obligated for qualifying farm loan program borrowers who are facing financial risk. The announcement is part of the \$3.1 billion to help distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).



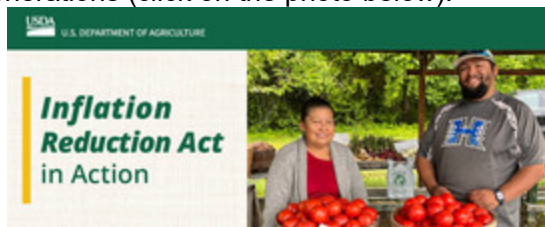
Since the IRA was signed by President Biden in August 2022, including the payments announced today, USDA is providing approximately \$1.1 billion in immediate assistance to more than 20,000 distressed borrowers.

Borrowers who received these automatic payments include Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct loan borrowers whose interest exceeded principle owed on outstanding debts; borrowers who had a balance up to 60 days past due as of Sept. 30, 2022 and remained delinquent; and borrowers with a recent restructure between Feb. 28, 2020, through March 27, 2023, or who had accepted an offer to restructure on or before March 27, 2023, but had not yet closed that restructure.

Individual Applications for Farmers Seeking Assistance

In May, FSA will begin accepting and reviewing individual distressed borrower assistance requests from direct loan borrowers who missed a recent installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment. All FSA borrowers should have received a [letter](#) detailing the process for seeking this type of assistance even before they become delinquent. As the letter details, borrowers who are within two months of their next installment may seek a cashflow analysis from FSA using a recent balance sheet and operating plan to determine their eligibility. Also in May, FSA borrowers will receive a letter detailing a new opportunity to receive assistance if they took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their loans, such as taking on or refinancing more debt, selling property, or cashing out retirement or college savings accounts. FSA also plans to begin working through these types of cases in May.

As USDA learns more about the types of situations financially distressed farmers are facing, the Department will continue to update borrowers and the public about new eligibility criteria. USDA will also provide regular updates about its progress in deploying this funding to farmers who need it. Read more about the Inflation Reduction Act in Action: Supporting Multiple Generations (click on the photo below).



USDA Unveils Efforts to Streamline Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The USDA is streamlining its Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to ultimately better help agricultural producers and private landowners conserve wetlands, productive farmlands and at-risk grasslands.



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is rolling out several improvements to this important program, which has more than 5 million acres of land enrolled, in response to feedback from producers, landowners and conservation partners.

Specifically, NRCS is updating its processes around appraisals, land surveys, as well as certifying eligible entities who help NRCS and producers enroll land into easements. These changes are for ACEP [Agricultural Land Easements](#) (ALE) as well as [Wetland Reserve Easements](#) (WRE).

Key program changes include:

- **Appraisals for ALE:** The threshold for national review of ALE appraisals is now \$3 million, raised from \$1 million. NRCS raised the threshold to align program requirements with increased land values, enabling the agency to better target staff resources and speed up implementation. Appraisals help ensure cost-effective and appropriate use of federal funds that are contributed to a conservation partner for their purchase of the ALE from the farmer or rancher.
- **Land Surveys for WRE:** NRCS plans to encourage procurement of land surveys earlier in the acquisition timeline, such as when an application has been tentatively

selected for a WRE. These surveys help with locating land boundaries, which is needed to purchase and manage the easement. NRCS is also increasing its use of partnerships to assist with acquiring the land surveys and has simplified the review process for producer-acquired land surveys. This will speed up the time it takes producers and landowners to enroll.

- **Certification of Entities for ALE:** For ALE, NRCS works with eligible entities, such as American Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations, to conserve prime farmland and at-risk grasslands. NRCS is working to expand the number of entities by launching a certification initiative to proactively notify potentially eligible entities that they qualify for administrative flexibilities. Certified entities have greater independence and less oversight in their purchase of easements funded under ALE. Information for entities on how to get certified is available on the [ALE webpage](#).

These improvements are the first step in an ongoing effort to streamline ACEP as well as other NRCS conservation programs to ensure that they are easier and more convenient to utilize, and it will strengthen implementation of the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA), which included \$1.4 billion in additional funding for ACEP over five years.

ACEP is administered by NRCS and aids landowners and eligible entities with conserving, restoring, and protecting wetlands, productive agricultural lands, and grasslands at risk to conversion to non-grassland uses. Healthy wetlands, grasslands and farmlands sequester carbon and provide many other natural resource benefits.

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs – including ACEP – year-round. Producers interested in easements should contact their [local Service Center](#) or view their [state application ranking dates](#).

How to Document Wildfire Losses

If you suffer excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to a wildfire, you may be eligible for disaster assistance programs through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) offers payments to you for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and the 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.

To participate in LIP, you will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event, and you must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. To participate in ELAP, you must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

You should record all pertinent information regarding livestock losses due to the eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including:



- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses;
- Rendering truck receipts by kind, type and weight - important to document prior to disposal;
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
- Documentation from Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Natural Resources, or other sources to substantiate eligible death losses due to an eligible loss condition;
- Documentation that livestock were removed from grazing pastures due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition;
- Costs of transporting livestock feed to eligible livestock, such as receipts for equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal;
- Feed purchase receipts if feed supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed;
- Number of gallons of water transported to livestock due to water shortages.

For more information on these programs and documentation requirements, contact your [local Service Center](#) or visit fsa.usda.gov/disaster.

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 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!



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

FARM PROGRAMS CHIEF

Sarah Hanlon
503-404-1116
sarah.hanlon@usda.gov

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Martin Nguyen
503-404-1127
martin.nguyen@usda.gov

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS CHIEF

Paul Long
503-404-1133
paul.e.long@usda.gov

**OREGON FSA
STATE COMMITTEE:**

Katherine Minthorn,
STC Chair
Bryan Harper, STC Member
Denver Pugh, STC Member
Anna Sullivan, STC Member
Vern Frederickson,
STC Member

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

Next STC Meeting:
June 21-22

You can sign up for Urban Ag email alerts by visiting farmers.gov/subscribe (select "ORUrbanAG-Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production") or text alerts by texting USDAFSARMERS_4113.

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



CONTACT US:
[Farm Service Agency](#)
[Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
[Risk Management Agency](#)
[Service Center Locator](#)



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)



Farmers.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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).