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Myth-Busting FSA's New Revenue-Based Disaster and Pandemic Assistance Programs

In January, we announced two new programs designed to assist producers who experienced revenue losses from 2020 and 2021 natural disasters or the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs are revenue-based and feel a little different from our regular programs, but the goal is to better support farmers.

Both the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two and the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) offer a holistic approach to disaster assistance and provide economic support for producers who bear the financial brunt of circumstances beyond their control.

With the rollout of any new program, there is a learning curve for producers and employees alike. ERP Phase Two and PARP are no exception. To encourage producer participation in these valuable programs, I'm going to do my best to debunk some myths and misconceptions surrounding ERP Phase Two and PARP.

With a June 2, 2023, deadline to apply for both programs, it's important that we clear up confusion about how to apply, what documents are required for participation, insurance requirements and related misinformation making its way across the countryside.

Now, let's do some myth-busting.

Myth #1 – You need to submit a completed tax return to FSA to apply for ERP Phase Two or PARP.

While these programs are based on revenue losses, you do not need a tax return, completed or otherwise, to apply for assistance. In fact, we have an [ERP Phase 2 tool](#) and [PARP tool](#) that walk you through the process step by step.

We understand that you may have questions for your certified public accountant or tax preparer, who was likely hard to reach prior to the April 18 Internal Revenue Service tax deadline but we encourage you to download the program decision tools and get started. You'll probably discover that you already have on hand much of the information you need.

The following supporting materials will help you:

- Schedule F (Form 1040); and
- *Profit or Loss from Farming* or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 for ERP and for calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020 for PARP.

The only reason you *might* have to provide your tax returns to FSA is in the event of a spot check or a request from the FSA County Committee.

Producers can [register for a free webinar](#) hosted by USDA and members of the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee on Monday, May 1 at 2 p.m. eastern for a discussion on completing the ERP Phase Two application form.

Myth #2 – You cannot receive an ERP Phase Two payment if you received a payment under Phase One.

It's possible that you can still receive ERP Phase Two benefits if you received an ERP Phase One payment. There is also a possibility that your Phase Two payment may be offset.

Myth #3 – ERP Phase Two was intended to be an additional payment to those who received payment under Phase One.

ERP Phase Two was never designed or intended to be an additional payment. Instead, it was intended to assist those producers who did not receive relief in Phase One.

Myth #4 – The required insurance coverage for two years will cost more than your projected payments.

While this is a possibility depending on your projected payment amount, you won't know for sure until you inquire about one or both programs and determine which program might best address your losses. At the end of the day, you may decide to walk away, but on the other hand, if you don't visit with our staff about all your options, you could be leaving money on the table.

For underserved producers, FSA recently made a change to the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) that allows a producer's certification on Form CCC-860 Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification to serve as an application for basic NAP coverage for all eligible crops beginning with crop year 2022. These producers will have all NAP-related service fees for basic coverage waived, in addition to a 50% premium reduction for higher levels of coverage.

Crops that are not eligible for crop insurance or NAP are still eligible for ERP Phase Two, but producers must obtain [Whole Farm Revenue Protection](#) to meet linkage requirements.

Myth #5 – The application process is complicated.

Simply because something is different does not mean it's difficult. We worked extremely hard to reduce producer burden by streamlining our application process to allow producers to self-certify their losses. To reassure you that the process is simple, straightforward and transparent, maybe it's best if you hear directly from your peers.

In addition to assistance from FSA staff, we are working with partner organizations who can further support and assist with program applications. As these partners are fully onboarded, they will be added to fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/cooperative-agreements/index.

Program Eligibility

The [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\)](#) Phase Two applies to producers who experienced revenue losses from eligible natural disasters in 2020 and 2021.

The [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program \(PARP\)](#) applies to producers who experienced revenue losses in calendar year 2020 due to price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.

If you are interested in ERP Phase Two and PARP, please reach out to your local FSA office to inquire and request assistance. Half the battle is just getting the process started. I know that most of you have field prep and spring planting on your minds but please don't let rumors, myths and misconceptions prevent you from getting the assistance you need. Contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) today! You can also call the FSA call center at 877-508-8364.

Additional resources include:

- [PARP and ERP Phase Two Myth-Buster Fact Sheet](#)

- [Emergency Relief Program Phase Two Fact Sheet](#)
- [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program Fact Sheet](#)
- [ERP Phase Two/PARP Comparison Fact Sheet](#)
- [ERP Phase Two and PARP Translated Resources](#)
- [News Release](#) - *USDA Announces Major Program Improvements, Progress, and Investments to Benefit American Farmers, Ranchers, and Producers* (Jan. 9, 2023)

Zach Ducheneaux serves as the Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency.

NAP Coverage for 2024 Nursery Crops

For crops that are not insurable with catastrophic level coverage (CAT) through your crop insurance agent, the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is an available tool to help mitigate financial risk. NAP covers non-insurable crops which are damaged, lost or prevented from being planted due to a natural weather-related disaster condition. NAP can also cover certain species of nursery grown crops, grown in either containers or in the field, if Federal crop insurance coverage is not available for a particular species in the county which it is grown.

Under NAP, nursery crops are considered value loss crops. This means nursery crops can have inventory losses associated with a disaster event and may sustain a loss in value rather than production losses which sustain a loss in yield. The same coverage level options available under NAP for yield-based crops are also available for value loss crops. For value loss crops, NAP provides a catastrophic level (CAT) of coverage for losses that exceed 50 percent of the inventory value of the crop before a disaster. Under "buy-up" options, higher levels of coverage are available to cover 50 to 65 percent, in 5 percent increments, of the lesser of the total value of eligible crop inventory at the time of disaster or the maximum dollar value for coverage sought for the crop. In order to elect a higher level of coverage on value loss crops, producers must determine their maximum dollar value of coverage on the crop up front when applying for NAP coverage.

NAP service fee is \$325 per crop per county, up to \$825 per county, not to exceed \$1,950 per producer with NAP covered crops in multiple counties. A waiver of the NAP service fee is available to beginning, limited resource, and traditionally underserved farmers and ranchers. NAP service fees or waiver forms must be received by FSA by the application closed date for the crop in order to be considered timely. Producers with a waiver may also receive a 50 percent reduction on NAP premium fees.

Producers who elect a higher level of coverage must "buy-up" and pay a premium in addition to the service fee. Premiums are typically paid after NAP coverage is obtained. Premium costs for buy-up coverage on value loss crops will be calculated based on the lesser of either of the following:

- The applicable payment limitation (\$300,000 for buy-up) X 5.25% premium fee = \$15,750 maximum premium per individual or legal entity, or
- The maximum dollar value of coverage selected X coverage level X 5.25% premium fee for each NAP crop with buy-up coverage selected.

NAP payment limitation for basic coverage remains at \$125,000 per individual or legal entity.

NAP coverage for eligible 2023 crops should be purchased at least 1 day before the crop is planted, but no later than the established NAP application for coverage closing date. **The 2024 NAP application closing date for nursery crops is May 31, 2023.** Before applying for NAP coverage on nursery crops, check with your local county FSA office to verify that Federal crop insurance coverage is not available in your county and that the crop would not be considered under another crop category for FSA program purposes. Acreage reports are required for NAP coverage. The 2024 acreage reporting deadline for nursery crops is May 31, 2023.

NAP application for coverage deadlines are also posted on the Washington State FSA website located [here](#). Contact your local county FSA office if you are interested in applying for NAP coverage, or if you have any questions regarding NAP availability or application closing dates.

Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally funded projects before a project is approved.

For all FSA programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions, such as site preparation or ground disturbance are approved. These programs include, but are not limited to, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans.

If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. There are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies. It is important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

CRP Grassland Signup

Farmers and ranchers may continue to apply to enroll grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands signup through May 26th, 2023. The signup began on April 17th. Through CRP Grasslands, participants retain the right to graze, harvest hay, or harvest seed from the enrolled land, while receiving an annual rental payment for maintaining the existing permanent cover. Timing of haying may be restricted by the primary nesting season of birds but grazing generally will not be. Participants may also receive up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices such as cross fencing and livestock water developments.

The minimum CRPG rental rate is \$13 per acre. CRPG annual rental payments are subject to the same payment limitation as regular CRP and will be enrolled for either a 10 or 15 year contract period.

FSA will rank applications using a number of factors including existence of expiring CRP land, threat of conversion or development, existing grassland, and predominance of native species cover, and cost. The 2018 Farm Bill set aside 2 million acres for CRP Grassland enrollment within the overall CRP acreage cap.

Please contact your local office for more information on CRPG and how to make an offer by the deadline of May 26th, 2023.

Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

CRP contract holders are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). TIP provides annual rental payments to the landowner or operator for up to two additional years after the CRP contract expires. Offers can be accepted through August 15th for contracts expiring in 2023.

CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants must agree to sell, have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long term (at least five years) land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not a family member.

Beginning, veteran or social disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning two years before the expiration date of the CRP contract. The TIP application must be submitted prior to completing the lease or sale of the affected lands, but all documents must be filed prior to September 30th of the contract expiration year to meet eligibility for approval. New landowners or renters that return the land to production must use sustainable grazing or farming methods.

For more information, contact your local County USDA Service Center at or visit fsa.usda.gov.

FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) continues to accept offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Continuous Signup](#). Offers for the 2023 program year can be accepted through July 31st, 2023.

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, producers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program's long-term goal is to re-

establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in Continuous CRP are 10-15 years in length depending on practice.

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead, they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, contact your County USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Important Deadline: Production Due for 2022 ARC-IC Farms

Producers who elected to participate in the 2022 ARC-IC program are required to provide their harvested yields for planted covered commodities for each year of the benchmark period (2016-2020) and for the 2022 crop year. **The deadline to submit production evidence for the 2022 contract year is July 15, 2023.**

Producers may submit production records by:

- Self-certification on the CCC-863
- Commercial receipts, warehouse settlement sheets, load summaries, etc.
- RMA production and yield data
- Measurement service or appraisal records

While yield certification will be accepted solely upon producer self-certification, producers are expected to be able to provide production records to FSA upon request from COC or in the event they are selected for review.

Report Damage or Loss of NAP Covered Crops Immediately

If spring weather causes damage to or loss of your 2023 NAP covered crops, you must report this to your local FSA county office.

NAP notices of loss can be initiated by phone, email, or fax, but must be submitted in writing, to your local FSA county office for weather related events or adverse natural occurrences that cause damage to or loss of the NAP covered crop. To report crop damage or loss you must complete, sign, and file the loss portion of form CCC-576 with your FSA office by the earlier of either of the following:

- **15 calendar days** after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop or commodity first becomes apparent or

- **15 calendar days** after the normal harvest date.

Please note, producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA **within 72 hours** of when a loss becomes apparent.

FSA county offices can take initial NAP notice of loss notifications via phone, email, or fax. Offices will assist producers in completing the official CCC-576 Notice of Loss form as best as possible, sending the form to producers via email, fax, or mail for final review and signature. The completed and signed CCC-576 should then be returned to the county office as soon as possible via email, fax, or mail. **A CCC-576 is not considered filed until it has been signed and returned to FSA.**

As the 2023 crop year progresses, it is imperative that a notice of loss is filed (for all affected NAP covered crops) within the timeframe noted above for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence. This will ensure FSA is notified that your NAP covered crop or crops have been damaged or lost. If the loss event is approved, remember to provide your crop production to your local FSA county office within 60 days after harvest or request an appraisal within 60 days of the normal harvest date so that the payment portion of form CCC-576 can be filed timely.

When a covered crop is lost or damage is significant, replanting is required if feasible and the final planting date has not passed. **When you determine that a NAP covered crop will be destroyed, abandoned, or not taken to harvest as intended, you must report this to your local FSA office as soon as possible** so a field visit can be conducted by a certified loss adjuster. Once the crop appraisal has been completed, the loss adjuster will release the field and you can destroy the covered crop acres and replant to a different crop or harvest the acres for a different use.

Remember, failure to timely notify your FSA county office of NAP covered crop damage or loss will result in denial of NAP payment benefits. Destroying NAP covered crop acres or harvesting for a different use without a loss adjuster appraisal will result in those acres being determined ineligible for NAP payment benefits.

If you have any questions about NAP policy requirements, contact your local [county FSA office](#) for more information.

Report Your Spring Planted and Perennial Forage and Grazed Crops

Most USDA programs require producers to file an accurate crop acreage report by the final crop reporting deadline. Producers are encouraged that once planting is complete, call your local FSA office to make an appointment to report your acreage. Our FSA staff can assist producers in completing acreage reports, including providing maps.”

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

The Acreage Reporting Date (ARD) for spring planted crops is July 15, 2023. To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide the following information:

- Crop and crop type or variety
- Intended use of the crop
- Number of acres of the crop
- Map with approximate boundaries of the crop
- Date the crop was planted.
- Producer shares
- Irrigation practice

Producers who suffer crop losses during the winter to achieve planted history credit with FSA for the crop must report the crop before destroying or planting the area to a different crop. Producers should also report acreage they intended to plant, but due to a natural disaster, were unable to. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and the Risk Management Agency.

FSA offers continuous certification for perennial forage. This means after perennial forage is reported once and the producer elects continuous certification, that certification remains in effect until a change is made. Work with your local FSA office for more information on continuous certifications.

Producers with an eAuth account linked to their USDA customer record can access their FSA arm records, maps and common land units by logging into www.farmers.gov. A new feature allows producers to export field boundaries as shapefiles and import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture boundaries. This will allow producer to view, print and label their own maps for acreage reporting purposes.

Producers who have authority to act on behalf of another customer as a grantee via form FSA-211 Power of Attorney, Business Partner Signature Authority, along with other signature types, or as a member of a business can now access information in the farmers.gov portal.

Producers are encouraged to make an appointment at their earliest convenience to report your 2023 crop acreages.

ERP Phase Two and PARP

- Signup began Jan. 23, 2023, and ends June 2, 2023, for additional emergency relief and pandemic assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\)](#) Phase Two as well as the new [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program \(PARP\)](#).
- These new, revenue-based programs apply a holistic approach to emergency assistance that acknowledges the myriad of crises that producers have faced in recent years, from the ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic to the more

frequent and intense natural disasters that have devastated communities across rural America.

- As we look to better understand and respond to producers' overall losses rather than provide assistance solely based on a single disaster or a targeted commodity, we are taking important steps toward providing producers with the support and resources they need to continue feeding our communities.

ERP Phase Two

- The Emergency Relief Program is part of the *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act* which provides \$10 billion for necessary expenses related to losses of crops (including milk, on-farm stored commodities, and crops prevented from planting) due to adverse weather events occurring in calendar years 2020 and 2021.
- USDA implemented the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) as a two-phased program
 - Phase One, announced in May 2022, used existing data from crop insurance and the Noninsured Crop Insurance Disaster Assistance Program to expedite relief:
 - Phase Two, announced Jan. 2023 targets the gaps in previous emergency assistance.
- ERP provides payments to producers who suffered eligible revenue losses due to qualifying disaster events, which include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions occurring in calendar years 2020 and 2021.
 - "Qualifying drought" means an area within the county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a drought intensity of D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or D3 (extreme drought) or higher level for any period during the applicable calendar year.
- ERP Phase Two will assist agricultural producers who suffered crop losses, measured through decreases in revenue, due to wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture and qualifying droughts occurring in calendar years 2020 and 2021.
- Phase Two builds on ERP Phase One, which was [rolled out in May 2022](#) and has since paid more than \$7.1 billion to producers who incurred crop losses that were covered by federal crop insurance or the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.
- To be eligible for Phase Two, producers must have suffered a loss in allowable gross revenue as defined in forthcoming program regulations in 2020 or 2021 related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event.
- In general, ERP Phase Two payments are expected to be based on the difference in certain farm revenue between a typical year of revenue (benchmark revenue) as will be specified in program regulations for the producer and the disaster year.

- ERP Phase Two assistance is targeted to the remaining needs of producers impacted by qualifying natural disaster events and avoids windfalls or duplicative payments. Details will be available when the rule is published later this year.

PARP

- PARP will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced a 15% or greater decrease in allowable gross revenue in calendar year 2020 as compared to:
 - The 2018 or 2019 calendar year, as elected by the producer, if they received allowable gross revenue during the 2018 or 2019 calendar years, or
 - The producers' expected 2020 calendar year allowable gross revenue if the producer had no allowable gross revenue in 2018 or 2019.
- PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses, and avoid windfalls or duplicative payments.
- PARP is authorized and funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.
- To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a 15% or greater decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to 2018 or 2019. Exact details on the calculations and eligibility will be available when the forthcoming rule is published.

Supporting Documentation for Both ERP and PARP

- ERP Phase Two and PARP will use revenue information that is readily available from most tax records.
- Producers will need similar documentation to what was needed for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Phase Two, where USDA allowed a producer to use 2018 or 2019 as the benchmark year relative to the disaster year. Producers are encouraged to begin gathering supporting documentation including:
 - Schedule F (Form 1040); and
 - *Profit or Loss from Farming* or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for ERP and for calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020 for PARP.
- Producers should also have the following forms on file for both PARP and ERP program participation:
 - Form AD-2047, *Customer Data Worksheet* (as applicable to the program participant);
 - Form CCC-902, *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity;
 - Form CCC-901, *Member Information for Legal Entities*;
 - Form AD-1026 *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*; and

- Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*, if applicable.
 - Certain existing permanent and ad-hoc disaster programs provide increased benefits or reduced fees and premiums for underserved producers.
 - Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm should contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](#).
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FSA Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans of up to \$5,000 to eligible individual youths ages 10 to 20 to finance income-producing, agriculture-related projects. The project must be of modest size, educational and initiated, developed and carried out by youths participating in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, tribal youth organizations or similar agricultural-affiliated groups. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture-related skills.

To qualify for a loan, the applicant must comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements, and conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work.

These loans can finance many kinds of income-producing agricultural projects. Some examples include:

- Buy, raise and sell livestock
- Purchase inputs such as seed, fuel and fertilizer to raise and sell a crop
- Purchase or repair tools or equipment needed to support an eligible project
- Purchase breeding stock

To apply, the applicant must submit completed plans and budgets signed by the project advisor and parent or guardian along with the FSA application for loan assistance.

These loans:

- Have an aggregate maximum loan amount of \$5,000;
- Have a fixed interest rate that is determined at the time of closing (4.75% for April, 2023);
- Are secured with a promissory note, and by liens on the products produced for sale and on chattel property, including crops, livestock, equipment and fixtures purchased with loan funds; and
- Have a repayment schedule that varies depending on the type of project for which the loan is made.

For additional information on the Youth Loan program, or to submit an application, contact your local FSA office at <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Vacancy Announcements for Permanent FSA Positions in WA State

Douglas-Chelan County - Program Technician

The Farm Service Agency offices located in Wenatchee, WA and Waterville, WA are accepting applications for a Full-Time Permanent Program Technician position. Duties include carrying out office activities related to farm programs. The full vacancy announcement which includes qualifications, eligibility requirements are posted on USA Jobs at www.usajobs.gov. The salary ranges from \$34,584 to \$60,703 per year. The vacancy announcement closes May 9, 2023.

Franklin County - Farm Loan Program Technician

The Farm Service Agency office located in Pasco, WA is accepting applications for a Full-Time Permanent Farm Loan Program Technician position. Duties include carrying out office activities related to farm loan programs. The full vacancy announcement which includes qualifications and eligibility requirements are posted on at www.usajobs.gov. The salary ranges from \$37,696 to \$60,703 per year. The vacancy announcement closes May 10, 2023.

Franklin County - Program Technician

The Farm Service Agency office located in Pasco, WA is accepting applications for a Full-Time Permanent Program Technician position. Duties include carrying out office activities related to farm programs. The full vacancy announcement which includes qualifications, eligibility requirements are posted on USA Jobs at www.usajobs.gov. The salary ranges from \$34,584 to \$60,703 per year. The vacancy announcement closes May 9, 2023.

Franklin County – Farm Loan Officer Trainee

The Farm Service Agency office located in Pasco, WA will be accepting applications for a Farm Loan Officer Trainee position. This is a paid position that offers 2-year classroom and on-the-job training to develop competencies required to be a successful Farm Loan Officer (FLO). The full vacancy announcement which includes qualifications, eligibility requirements, and closing date will be posted on USA Jobs at www.usajobs.gov in May.

Lewis County - Farm Loan Program Technician

The Farm Service Agency office located in Chehalis, WA is accepting applications for a Full-Time Permanent Farm Loan Program Technician position. Duties include carrying out office activities related to farm loan programs. The full vacancy announcement which includes qualifications and eligibility requirements are posted on at www.usajobs.gov. The salary ranges from \$41,925 to \$67,514 per year. The vacancy announcement closes May 10, 2023.

Okanogan-Grant County – Farm Loan Officer Trainee

The Farm Service Agency offices located in Okanogan and Ephrata, WA will be accepting applications for a Farm Loan Officer Trainee position. This is a paid position that offers 2-year classroom and on-the-job training to develop competencies required to be a successful Farm Loan Officer (FLO). The full vacancy announcement which includes qualifications, eligibility requirements, and closing date will be posted on USA Jobs at www.usajobs.gov in May.

FSA Looking for Temporary Part-time or Fulltime Assistance in Various Locations

Washington State Farm Service Agency (FSA) is hiring part-time, Temporary Program Technician (PT), positions in **Chelan County, Okanogan County, Skagit County, Spokane County, Walla Walla, and Yakima County**. This is a great opportunity for students or those that can only commit to a part-time schedule.

Duties include general office activities supporting FSA programs administered at the field level. Successful applicants must be reliable, have a professional attitude, enjoy working with the public. The Spokane position will require a valid driver's license for day travel to local offices in Lincoln, Adams, and Whitman counties. The hourly rate depends on education and experience and ranges from \$16.14 to \$32.35.

Applicant closing dates will vary by location. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please share this information with them. To apply please submit a copy of your resume to the following. You may also contact the number listed for specific questions regarding the position:

- Chelan County limon@usda.gov 509-415-3689
- Okanogan County gaston@usda.gov 509-381-6719
- Skagit County chamberlain@usda.gov 360-488-4814
- Spokane County martin@usda.gov 509-323-3036
- Walla Walla County betts@usda.gov 509-404-3081
- Yakima County delamora@usda.gov and jose.limon@usda.gov 509-415-3689

Important Dates and Deadlines

May 26, 2023 – Deadline to submit offers for Grasslands CRP.

May 29, 2023 – Memorial Day. USDA Service Centers will be closed.

May 31, 2023 – Final date to request a MAL for 2022 corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, rice, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans, and sunflower seeds.

May 31, 2023 – Deadline to obtain 2024 crop year NAP coverage for nursery crops and to file a 2024 acreage report on nursery crops (full list of Washington State NAP dates posted [here](#)).

June 2, 2023 – Deadline for 2022 livestock applications.

June 2, 2023 – Final date to file Emergency Relief Program 2 Applications

Final date to file Pandemic Assistance Relief Program Applications.

July 15, 2023 – Final date to file 2023 Acreage Reports

June 15, 2023 – Nominations open for 2023 FSA County Committee Elections.

June 19, 2023 – Monday observance of Juneteenth. USDA service centers will be closed.

July 4, 2023 – Independence Day. USDA service centers will be closed.

July 15, 2023 – Final acreage reporting date for perennial forage, CRP, and spring seeded crops.

July 15, 2023 – Deadline to report actual harvested production of 2022 NAP covered grass seeds, forages, and annually planted spring crops for actual production history (APH) purposes.

July 15, 2023 – Final date to report 2022 production for ARC-IC.

July 31, 2023 – Deadline to submit continuous CRP offers.

Washington State / FSA Office

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Suite 303
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Phone: 509-323-3000
Fax: 855-843-1172

Jon Wyss
State Executive Director

State Committee

Bernard "Butch" Ogden, Chair
Brett Blankenship, Member
Jackie Richter, Member

Jose Ramirez, Member
Sam Ledgerwood, Member

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