



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Arkansas USDA Newsletter - October 2021

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Message from Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Acting State Executive Director

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced an investment of \$4.7 million to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to historically underserved farmers and ranchers. Fifty-six project proposals are being finalized. The partnerships will support participation in Farm Service Agency (FSA)

programs, including those that are part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. The organizations and projects impacting [Arkansas](#) include:

- **Arkansas Land and Community Development (ALCDC)** providing support on FSA Loans in Arkansas and the Delta Region of Mississippi.
- **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB)** providing support on Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Farm Numbers, FSA Loans, and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (BFRs) in Arkansas.

Read about all 56 funded projects and organizations on FSA's cooperative agreements webpage.

FSA has announced that a higher loan limit is now available for borrowers seeking a guaranteed farm loan. Beginning October 1, 2021, the loan limit increased from \$1.776 million to \$1.825 million.

Agricultural producers in the State are encouraged to sign up to receive free email and text messages for information related to loans, farm disaster assistance, conservation programs, crop insurance and other USDA programs. Producers can subscribe online in minutes by visiting www.farmers.gov/subscribe.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced a Request for Applications for the new Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant program and encourages eligible entities to apply now for funds. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants.

An online tool is now available to help ranchers document and estimate payments to cover feed transportation costs caused by drought, which are now covered by the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#). The program was updated this year to include feed transportation costs as well as lowering the threshold for when assistance for water hauling expenses is available. FSA started taking applications October 13, 2021.

FSA County Offices are still available to customers. Please contact your local office to determine whether in-person or phone appointments are available. Our Staff is available to continue helping Producers with program signups, loan servicing and other important actions. Our Staff will also continue to work with our customers by phone, email and by using online tools whenever possible.

For more information, contact your [local USDA service center](#) or visit www.farmers.gov.

Until next time...

Message from Arkansas NRCS State Conservationist Mike Sullivan

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is committed to delivering USDA programs and services to Arkansas's farmers, foresters and ranchers while taking safety measures in response to COVID-19. We encourage you to [check the status of your local USDA Service Center](#) and make an appointment to discuss conservation needs on your

operation. Visitors are required to wear a face covering during their appointment. NRCS staff are always available to help guide farmers to the best USDA assistance based on their unique goals, whether they be conservation programs, conservation plans or technical and financial assistance.

I'm proud of the work Arkansas NRCS has done to assist producers in taking care of the land. NRCS has worked on collaborative urban agriculture projects, placed an emphasis and commitment to climate-smart agriculture, and worked with our conservation partners and community-based organizations in on-going discussions to ensure equity with our historically underserved customers, among other accomplishments. In FY21, Arkansas NRCS:

- Developed more than 1,500 **conservation plans** covering over 300,000 acres.
- **Helped producers apply conservation practices** on more than 600,000 acres.
- Received 5,824 **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** applications, obligated 1,347 contracts for \$51.4 million.
- Received 1,571 **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** applications, obligated 221 contracts on 146,000 acres for \$22.9 million
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP)**: \$820,000 obligated, three new projects selected.
- **Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)**: \$9.1 million obligated in EQIP, \$2.1 million obligated in CSP, five new projects approved for implementation.
- **Easements**: \$19.9 million enrolled/obligated, five easements, 5,796 acres. closed 21 easements, restored 14 easements, 5,931 acres. Monitoring 100%.
- **Watersheds**: Preliminary investigations in five watersheds including three Historically Underserved watersheds. Active project work in Grand Prairie (construction underway), Bayou Meto, Lake Bennett, Departee Creek.
- Received **National Civil Rights Team Award** for program delivery.
- Increased Historically Underserved participation in EQIP and CSP.
- Conducted successful **Climate Smart Agriculture/Forestry** pilot with emphasis on Historically Underserved producers in nine counties.
- Collaborated with local conservation districts and other partners to provide high quality customer service to producers and communities.

As we begin another successful fiscal year, Arkansas NRCS, our partners and landowners will once again lead conservation efforts to increase water availability, improve soil health, make our water cleaner, and improve wildlife habitat.

State Technical Committee Meeting

The NRCS Service State Technical Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. on November 16, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting will be conducted in a virtual environment. Details on how to access the meeting will be posted to the NRCS Website.

State Technical Committee meetings are open to the public. If you require special accommodations, contact Amanda Mathis at (501) 301-3162.

2021 CSP Payments

Producers with active CSP contracts should receive a letter from their local USDA Field Service Center soon. The letter will instruct the producer to contact their local field offices and notify them of when they would like to receive their 2021 CSP payments. If the producer would like to receive their payment in calendar year 2021, then the payment will need to be approved by NRCS no later than December 15, 2021. Producers electing to receive payment in calendar year 2022 will need to have their payments approved by NRCS no later than February 26, 2022. If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to your CSP payment(s), please contact your local Field Service Center.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

The USDA Arkansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to educating producers on available programs and loans. FSA representatives will be available at the following workshops and conferences. Producers interested in attending these conferences/workshops should follow the registration or RSVP instructions listed below.

Nov 10th – ALCDC Community Economic Development Symposium Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) is partnering with Lafayette School Restoration Incorporated (LSRI) to host a Community Economic Development Symposium.

An FSA Representative will present on FSA Programs. The conference will be held Wednesday, November 10, 2021, and is free to attend. The opening session begins at 3:00pm. Pre-registration is only required if joining virtually. For those wishing to attend the conference in person, the meeting will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church, 247 Buchanan Street, Camden, Arkansas. For those wishing to attend the conference virtually, please register and join the meeting at the following Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvce-vqz0iE9UxYo3S2WHjqol-1DS689f>

Please contact ALCDC at 870.734.3005 or alcdc1934@yahoo.com for additional information. Their website is <https://alcdc.webs.com>.

Nov 18th – ALCDC Community Economic Development Symposium Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) is partnering with the City of West Memphis to host a Community Economic Development Symposium. **An FSA Representative will present on FSA Programs.** The conference will be held Thursday, November 18, 2021, and is free to attend. The opening session begins at 3:00pm. Pre-registration is only required if joining virtually. For those wishing to attend the conference in person, the meeting will be held at the West Memphis Public Library and Innovation Center, Murphy Smith Room, 500 East Broadway, West Memphis, Arkansas. For those wishing to attend the conference virtually, please register and join the meeting at the following Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82887411230?pwd=cnNjNFNYeTdJVGVCZTBlcDBtSUZaZz09>

Please contact ALCDC at 870.734.3005 or alcdc1934@yahoo.com for additional information. Their website is <https://alcdc.webs.com>.

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

USDA Farm Service Agency
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County Committee Elections 2021

Jun. 15 2021
Beginning of nomination period.
Forms available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Aug. 2 2021
Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA county office.

Nov. 1 2021
Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6 2021
Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA county office.

Jan. 1 2022
Newly elected county committee members take office.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

The 2021 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 1, 2021, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 6, 2021.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

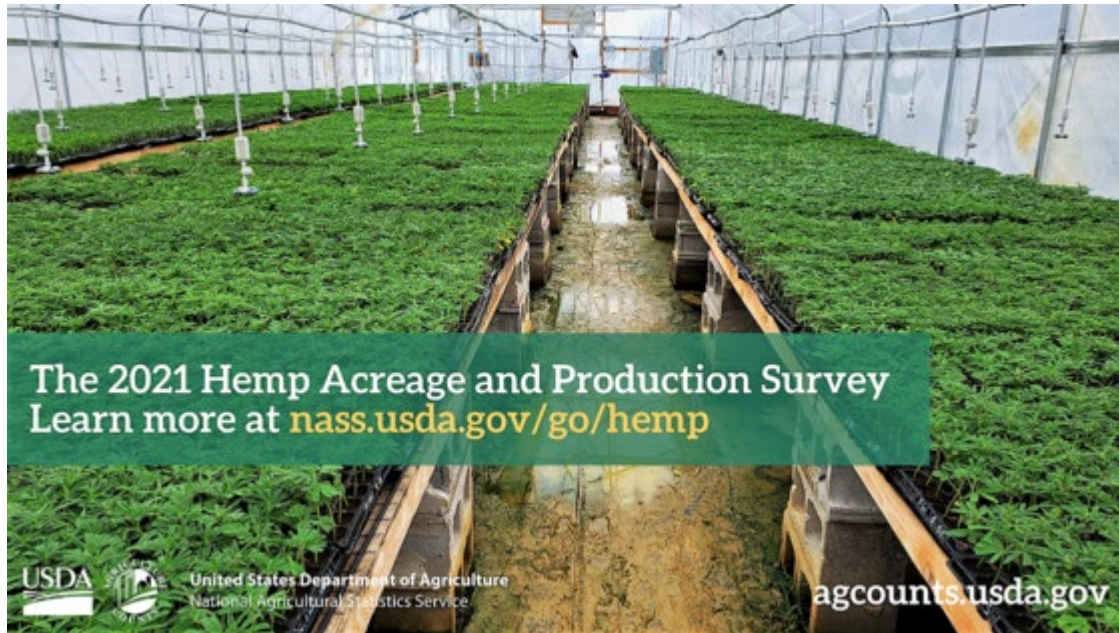
To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.

Eligible voters in local administrative area for elections are being held in, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2022.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2021 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

NASS to send 2021 Hemp Acreage and Production survey this fall



This October, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail its first **Hemp Acreage and Production Survey**. The survey will collect information on the total planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in the United States.

The Domestic Hemp Production Program established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp Acreage and Production Survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities.

Producers may complete the survey online at agcounts.usda.gov or they may complete and return the survey by mail using the return envelope provided.

Learn more about the survey at nass.usda.gov/go/hemp.

Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits.

The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman must sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from the minor's parent

Note, by signing a document with a minor, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.

When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.

FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents not approved for FAXED signatures include:

- Promissory note
- Assignment of payment
- Joint payment authorization
- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.

Spouses cannot sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Likewise, a spouse cannot sign a document on behalf of the other in order to affirm the eligibility of oneself.

Any member of a general partnership can sign on behalf of the general partnership and bind all members unless the Articles of Partnership are more restrictive. Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office. Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts must consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

FSA Outlines MAL and LDP Policy

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide you with interim financing after harvest to help you meet cash flow needs without having to sell your commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if

such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

FSA is now accepting requests for MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, you must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at your local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that if your total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000, then you're not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. You must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Maintaining ARC/PLC Acreage

If you're enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. By signing ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts, you agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If you fail to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on your farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate your contract for the program year.

Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation

Farmers and ranchers can use the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* on farmers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the "Start" button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

About Farmers.gov

In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1 to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.

For more information, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit farmers.gov.

Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented pre-authorized debit (PAD) for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers. PAD is a voluntary and alternative method for making weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments on loans.

PAD payments are pre-authorized transactions that allow the National Financial and Accounting Operations Center (NFAOC) to electronically collect loan payments from a customer's account at a financial institution.

PAD may be useful if you use nonfarm income from regular wages or salary to make payments on loans or adjustment offers or for payments from seasonal produce stands. PAD can only be established for future payments.

To request PAD, customers, along with their financial institution, must fill out form RD 3550-28. This form has no expiration date, but a separate form RD 3550-28 must be completed for each loan to which payments are to be applied. A fillable form can be accessed on the USDA Rural Development (RD) website at rd.usda.gov/publications/regulations-guidelines. Click forms and search for "Form 3550-28."

If you have a "filter" on the account at your financial institution, you will need to provide the financial institution with the following information: Origination ID: 1220040804, Agency Name: USDA RD DCFO.

PAD is offered by FSA at no cost. Check with your financial institution to discuss any potential cost. Preauthorized debit has no expiration date, but you can cancel at any time by submitting a written request to your local FSA office. If a preauthorized debit agreement receives three payment rejections within a three-month period, the preauthorized debit agreement will be cancelled by FSA. The payment amount and due date of your loan is not affected by a cancellation of preauthorized debit. You are responsible to ensure your full payment is made by the due date.

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

Conservation at Work Video Series

A new video series from NRCS and farmers.gov, *Conservation at Work*, presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they've implemented the conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.

The first 15 videos cover:

- Brush Management
- Cover Crop

- Forest Stand Improvement
- Grade Stabilization
- Grassed Waterway
- High Tunnel
- No Till
- Nutrient Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Pumping Station
- Sprinkler System
- Trails and Walkways
- Waste Storage
- Water & Sediment Control Basin
- Wetland Restoration

These video spotlights include several producers from Arkansas who share their own conservation stories, and how practices are helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money. They include: DeValls Bluff row crop producers the Seidenstrickers utilizing Irrigation Reservoirs and a second video utilizing Precision Land Forming; Hector poultry producer Terry Small utilizing Animal Mortality Facility; and Sheridan livestock producer Kenny Sites utilizing Forage and Biomass Planting and another video utilizing Prescribed Grazing. The *Conservation at Work* video series can be found at farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork. To view all videos, watch the [YouTube playlist](#).

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Accepting 2022 EQIP Applications through Nov. 19, 2021

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Arkansas is accepting applications to receive financial assistance to implement conservation activities through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for the 2022 program year.

NRCS accepts program applications on a continuous basis but sets dates to batch and rank applications as funding allows. Farmers and landowners in Arkansas who submit applications to their local NRCS office by Nov. 19, 2021, will be considered for this round of funding. Applications received after Nov. 19, 2021, will be considered in later funding periods, subject to funding availability.

Assistance is available to help farmers and landowners plan and implement conservation practices to improve water quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, establish or improve wildlife habitat and achieve other environmental benefits on the landscape.

EQIP contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices to improve soil health, water quality, improve grazing and forest lands, and establish or improve wildlife habitat. EQIP can also help Arkansas farmers and landowners meet Federal, State, and local environmental regulations.

Additionally, NRCS offers special initiatives, including:

- Organic Initiative - helps producers install conservation practices on certified organic operations or those working toward organic certification.
- On-Farm Energy Initiative - helps producers conserve energy on their operations.
- StrikeForce – additional assistance for underserved producers in 48 persistent poverty counties: Arkansas, Bradley, Chicot, Clark, Colombia, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Hempstead, Howard, Jackson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Nevada, Newton, Ouachita, Phillips, Randolph, Searcy, Sevier, St. Francis, Woodruff, Ashley, Clay, Conway, Craighead, Crittenden, Franklin, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jefferson, Johnson, Lincoln, Madison, Miller, Montgomery, Poinsett, Polk, Scott, Sebastian, Sharp, Stone, Union, and Van Buren.
- Strikeforce Healthy Forest (Keeping It In the Family) Initiative – additional assistance for underserved producers to improve forestlands with forestry conservation practices in 18 counties: Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Drew, Hempstead, Howard, Jefferson, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Sevier, Union.
- Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative - provides financial and technical assistance to producers to enhance early successional habitat to aid in bobwhite quail recovery.
- Arkansas Groundwater Initiative (AGWI) - targeted approach to address critical groundwater decline issues in the Arkansas Delta, providing assistance to agricultural producers in seven counties: Arkansas, Prairie; and portions of Craighead, Cross, Lonoke, Poinsett, St. Francis.
- Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership – the Building Resilient Watersheds to Improve Drinking Water in the Ozark and Ouachita Highlands project area includes sites in six high-priority watersheds covering more than five million acres and is designed to replace degraded and undersized stream crossings, restore shortleaf pine forests, construct permanent fire breaks, reduce fuel loads and conduct controlled burns.
- Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative – designed to help producers extend the growing season, increase productivity, keep plants at a steady temperature, and conserve water and energy.

All applications will be evaluated for funding based on local, state and nationally developed criteria to optimize environmental benefits. Applications ranking highest in a funding category will be funded according to priority and is subject to availability of program funds. For more information, visit <http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/> or contact the local USDA/NRCS field service center.

USDA Offers Conservation Assistance to Landowners to Protect Wetlands, Agricultural Lands and Grasslands

Private landowners, tribes, land trusts and other groups wanting to restore and protect critical wetlands and protect agricultural lands and grasslands through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) (ACEP) have until Oct. 31, 2021, to apply for funding consideration during the 2022 enrollment period. The deadline is for the Wetlands Reserve Easements and Agricultural Land Easements programs.

"For over 25 years, NRCS has worked with landowners in Arkansas to protect their wetlands and agricultural lands," said Mike Sullivan, NRCS state conservationist in Arkansas. "Conservation easements are important tools for people who are trying to improve soil health, water and air quality and wildlife habitat on their land."

ACEP provides assistance to landowners and eligible entities helping conserve, restore and protect wetlands and productive agricultural lands and grasslands. NRCS accepts ACEP applications year-round, but applications are ranked and funded by enrollment period.

Wetland Reserve Easements

Through ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements, NRCS helps landowners and tribes restore, enhance and protect wetland ecosystems. NRCS and the landowner work together to develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the easement.

"Seventy-five percent of the nation's wetlands are situated on private and tribal lands," Sullivan said. "Wetlands provide many benefits, including critical habitat for a wide array of wildlife species. They also store floodwaters, clean and recharge groundwater, sequester carbon, trap sediment and filter pollutants for clean water."

Wetland conservation easements are either permanent, for 30 years or the maximum extent allowed by state law. Tribal landowners have the added option of enrolling in 30-year non-easement restoration contracts. Eligible lands include:

- Farmed or converted wetlands that can successfully be restored;
- Croplands or grasslands subject to flooding; and
- Riparian areas that link protected wetland areas.

Agricultural Land Easements

Through ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ALE), NRCS provides funds to eligible entities to purchase easements on private working lands. This program helps keep working lands working, especially in areas experiencing development pressure.

Eligible cooperating entities include state or local agencies, non-profits and tribes. Landowners continue to own their property but voluntarily enter into a legal agreement with a cooperating entity to purchase an easement. The cooperating entity applies for matching

funds from NRCS for the purchase of an easement from the landowner, permanently protecting its agricultural use and conservation values. Landowners do not apply directly to NRCS for funding under ALE.

Easements are permanent. Eligible lands include privately owned cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and forestlands.

More Information

ACEP remains a major part of the 2018 Farm Bill and program implementation will continue during fiscal year 2022.

Landowners and tribes interested in wetland reserve easements and partners interested in agricultural land easements should contact their [local USDA service center](#). To learn about ACEP and other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical operation of grain handling equipment also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children at a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year and that begins with putting safety first.



Arkansas USDA

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www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov

www.farmers.gov

Please contact your local Service Center for questions/answers specific to your operation or county. To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/ar.

State Committee Meeting: 2nd Wednesday and Thursday of each Quarter

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