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Message from Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Doris Washington

Greetings

Arkansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) had the pleasure of hosting Administrator Zach Ducheneaux's visit to Arkansas last month. His visit began Northwest Arkansas and ended in "The Delta" (Eastern, Arkansas), therefore he was able to take in various aspects of Arkansas Agriculture. While in Fayetteville, Arkansas he spoke with Arkansas FSA Employees via Teams Meeting. He toured the University of Arkansas' Center of Excellence for Poultry Science Pilot Poultry Processing Plant and toured Jerry and Karen Hunton's Poultry Farm. The Administrator then traveled to the southeast area of the state and toured Arkansas River Rice Mill and visited with Mr. P.J. Haynie in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. From there, he visited Mr. Haynie's Farm in Marvell, Arkansas. Thanks to all who assisted in making his trip to Arkansas memorable.





A new [public-facing dashboard](#) on the ERP webpage has information on ERP payments that can be sorted by crop type – specialty or non-specialty, specific commodities and state. FSA will update the dashboard on Monday each week. For more information on ERP and ELRP eligibility visit FSA's [Emergency Relief Webpage](#).

More than 255,000 applications have been processed for the new Emergency Relief Program (ERP) and made approximately \$6.1 billion in payments. These payments were made to commodity and specialty crop producers to help offset eligible losses from qualifying 2020 and 2021 natural disasters. The design of ERP Phase One allowed for an expedited process that

saved time for staff and producers. FSA was able to begin disbursing payments to producers within days of rolling out the program when under the predecessor program lengthy applications and processing were required before making payments. These process improvements also enhanced the customer experience for farmers by reducing the number of producer trips to FSA county offices and allowing producers to spend less time completing forms so they could focus more on their agricultural operations. FSA also has paid more than \$1 billion to historically underserved producers.

FSA is investing in two outreach and education efforts for farmers and ranchers, including those who are new to agriculture or who have been historically underserved by programs. First, FSA is announcing \$10 million in the new Taxpayer Education and Asset Protection Initiative. Online tax resources have been updated and expanded, including the new [Tax Estimator Tool](#). This tool is an interactive spreadsheet that producers can download to estimate tax liability. It is for informational and educational purposes only and should not be considered tax or legal advice. Farmers and Ranchers may also benefit from the [Tax Calculator](#) in estimating their tax burden. Previous webinars, fact sheets and other resources are available on farmers.gov/taxes. Second, FSA is investing \$4.5 million in outreach for the Conservation Reserve Program's [Transition Incentives Program](#) (CRP TIP), which increases access to land for new farmers and ranchers.

To better capture ranchers' investments in their animals, we recently announced increased LIP payment rates for beef, beefalo, bison, and dairy animals less than 250 pounds. These now-updated payment rates are reflective of the substantial increased cost of these non-adult livestock in 2022: *Example - non-adult BEEF, less than 250 lbs, has an increased LIP payment rate of \$474.38, up from \$175.27.*

The updated LIP payment rates are effective immediately and will be applied retroactively starting January 1, 2022, for all eligible causes of loss including excessive heat, tornado, winter storms, and other qualifying natural disasters. Producers who have already received LIP payments for 2022 will receive an additional payment, if applicable, commensurate with these updated rates. For details on eligibility and payment rates, you can review our [LIP Fact Sheet](#).

The amount of funding available for the [Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program](#) (SMHPP) has increased and expects to issue approximately \$62.8 million in pandemic assistance payments to hog producers. SMHPP assists eligible producers who sold hogs through a spot market sale from April 16, 2020, through Sept. 1, 2020. FSA accepted SMHPP applications through April 29, 2022.

To find your local FSA office, please visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

Visit www.farmers.gov to learn more about FSA Programs.

Message from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Mike Sullivan

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) delivers conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world. We have been working with producers and partners "Helping People Help the Land" since 1935. We will continue to promote every avenue and opportunity to provide our partners and customers the products and services they need to be good stewards of their soil, water, and other natural resources.

It all begins with a conservation plan that NRCS offers at no cost. The conservation plan includes tools and resources customized specifically for each customer, like a land use map, soils information, photos, inventory of resources, economic costs and benefits, schedule of

recommended practices, maintenance schedules, and engineering notes — all based on the producer's goals and the resource needs.

The plan is developed through the Conservation Technical Assistance Program to provide a blueprint to help producers achieve their objectives with personalized advice and information, based on the latest science and research and to help them make informed decisions. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

Contact your local Service Center <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> for additional information and to get started.

Making Your Land More Resilient to Drought

NRCS can help you conserve water and build resilience to drought, through conservation practices that improve irrigation efficiency, boost soil health, and manage grazing lands.

NRCS can assist you improve your irrigation efficiency to ensure each drop of water is used wisely. Saving water on your farm can help during drought and can offset rising water costs; reduce expenditures for energy, chemicals, and labor; and enhance revenues through higher crop yields and improved crop quality. Funded conservation practices include conversion to more efficient irrigation systems, such as micro-irrigation or subsurface drip irrigation, installation of irrigation pipeline, irrigation water management, structures for water control, and flow meters.

Soil Health

In addition, soil health conservation practices, such as reduced- or no-till, cover crops, mulching and residue management can help to make your soil, and the plants you grow or animals you raise, healthier. Healthier soil can absorb and retain more water for longer periods of time, making your farm or ranch more resilient to drought. Using soil health practices, you can conserve water by increasing your soil's water-holding capacity and use conservation tillage to keep the ground covered, reducing water loss through transpiration and evaporation.

Rotational/Prescribed Grazing, Water Sources for Livestock

Drought also impacts grazing lands, and NRCS works with you to increase the resilience of your livestock operation. Ranchers can adapt to dry conditions in two main ways: increasing the availability and suitability of forage and ensuring that cattle have an adequate and reliable source of water. For forage, rotational or prescribed grazing (rotating cattle among pastures) can relieve pressure on stressed vegetation and ensure a more consistent supply of forage for animals. NRCS conservationists can also work with you to plant more drought-tolerant forage species, plants best suited to local soils and conditions. For reliable sources of water, NRCS can help you with installing watering facilities, water wells, or water pipeline for livestock. Having available forage and water for livestock can make a big difference in difficult drought conditions.

NRCS is here for you, helping you recover from drought and prepare for the next one. For more information on drought recovery assistance at <https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/drought#recovery>. For more information on conservation practices to make your operation more resilient to drought in future years, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local USDA Field Service Center.

FSA 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.

Sep 14th – Diversity in Ag Conference

Farm Bureau is hosting their Annual Diversity in Ag Conference on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. The conference will be held at the Four Point Sheraton, 925 S. University, Little, Arkansas. **Doris Washington, SED, will take part in a panel discussion, Kanika Davis, FSA National Outreach Specialist will present on Heirs' Property, and Rhonda O'Guinn, Arkansas' Outreach & Communications Specialist, will manage the FSA Information Booth.** Registration is free and the link to register is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diversity-in-ag-conference-2022-tickets-392730426277>.

Aug 30th - 31st – 2022 SFLR Regional Conference

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) is partnering with Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) to host the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention (SFLR) Joint Regional Conference. The conference will be virtual. The conference will be held Tuesday, August 30, 2022 from 9:00am – 4:00p and Wednesday, August 31, 2022 from 9:00a – 1:30p. **Lorri Sloate, CED in Arkansas County, will be presenting on Obtaining a Farm Number, FSA Updates, and Information Resources.** Registration is free. Please register at the following link: www.pvamu.edu/sflr. Contact UAPB (870.571.9428) or PVAMU (936.261.5002 for additional information.

October 27th & 28th - 2018 ALCDC Annual Youth Day and Annual Conference Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) is hosting their Annual Youth Day and Annual Conference. The Annual Youth Day will be held Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022, and the Annual Conference will be held Friday, Oct. 28, 2022. **An FSA Representative will present on FSA Programs.** Additional Information will be forth coming.

NRCS Important Dates to Remember

AACD 2022 Annual Meeting

The Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts will be hosting their 2022 Annual Meeting August 11-12, 2022, at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock. Contact Debbie Moreland at debbiepinreal@aol.com for additional information.

2nd Annual SFLR Joint Regional Conference

The Second Annual Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Joint Regional Virtual Conference hosted by Prairie View A&M University and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff will be held August 30 and August 31 at 9:00 a.m. each day. For more information, contact UAPB Small Farm Program KIITF Outreach Coordinator Kandi Williams at williamska@uapb.edu.

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership Proposals due

Partners interested in applying for Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership should contact their NRCS state office for more information. Proposals are due by Sept. 23, 2022.

Arkansas PBS Premieres new documentary "Dirt"

Arkansas PBS breaks through the surface to explore the living, breathing ecosystem beneath it in "Dirt," <https://www.myarkansaspbs.org/programs/dirt>, a new documentary about the importance of soil conservation, premiering Thursday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m. and livestreaming at myarpbs.org/watch.

Before You Break Out New Ground, Ensure Your Farm Meets Conservation Compliance

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the conversion of land from native vegetation to commodity crop production after December 23, 1985. As part of the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, if you're proposing to produce agricultural commodities (crops that require annual tillage including one pass planting operations and sugar cane) on land that has been determined highly erodible and that has no crop history prior to December

23, 1985, that land must be farmed in accordance with a conservation plan or system that ensures no substantial increase in soil erosion.

Eligibility for many USDA programs requires compliance with a conservation plan or system on highly erodible land (HEL) used for the production of agricultural commodities. This includes Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan, disaster assistance, safety net, price support, and conservation programs; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs; and Risk Management Agency (RMA) Federal crop insurance.

Before you clear or prepare areas not presently under production for crops that require annual tillage, you are required to file Form AD-1026 "Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification," with FSA indicating the area to be brought into production. The notification will be referred to NRCS to determine if the field is considered highly erodible land. If the field is considered HEL, you are required to implement a conservation plan or system that limits the erosion to the tolerable soil loss (T) for the predominant HEL soil on those fields.

In addition, prior to removing trees or conducting any other land manipulations that may affect wetlands, remember to update form AD-1026, to ensure you remain in compliance with the wetland conservation provisions.

Prior to purchasing or renting new cropland acres, it is recommended that you check with your local USDA Service Center to ensure your activities will be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.

For additional information on highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation compliance, contact [your local USDA Service Center](#).

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 2022 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 at or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

If you take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral, remember that you are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

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.

Maintaining Good Credit History

Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans require applicants to have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, see if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.

Information on your credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.

Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.

There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:

- Make sure to pay bills on time
 - Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.
- Pay down existing debt
- Keep your credit card balances low
- Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts

FSA's farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit fsa.usda.gov.

The Importance of Responding to NASS Surveys

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture.

If you receive a survey questionnaire, please respond quickly and online if possible.

The results of the surveys help determine the structure of USDA farm programs, such as soil rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program and prices and yields used for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. This county-level data is critical for USDA farm payment determinations. Survey responses also help associations, businesses and policymakers advocate for their industry and help educate others on the importance of agriculture.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS data is available online at nass.usda.gov/Publications and through the searchable [Quick Stats database](#). Watch a video on how NASS data is used at youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be.

USDA Increases Funding for Partnerships to Safeguard, Restore Wetland Ecosystems

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$20 million in fiscal 2023 to help conservation partners nationwide protect and restore critical wetlands through the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP). USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is prioritizing proposals that support efforts to mitigate climate change by restoring wetlands while also prioritizing assistance to underserved communities. Last year, NRCS funded \$11 million in partnerships. Proposals from partners are due Sept. 23, 2022.

"Restoring and protecting wetlands can improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat and help address climate change. Partnerships are absolutely essential to this work," said Mike Sullivan, NRCS State Conservationist in Arkansas. "Our partners can help connect us with historically underserved communities here in Arkansas and across the country, and these projects can also expand equity in conservation opportunities."

Restored wetlands help to improve water quality downstream, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce impacts from flooding and provide recreational benefits. The most sought-after lands for the WREP program are referred to as "marginal," meaning they do not produce to their full capacity due to repeat flooding or standing water. Removing marginal lands from production can provide economic benefits for agricultural landowners while also restoring the wetlands to accomplish their full functions and values.

Through WREP projects, eligible conservation partners protect, restore and enhance high-priority wetlands on agricultural lands. WREP enables effective integration of wetland restoration on working agricultural landscapes, providing meaningful benefits to farmers and ranchers who enroll in the program and to the communities where the wetlands exist.

WREP will continue to prioritize enrollment of historically underserved landowners in its ranking of proposals. This includes proposals that:

- Target places with historically underserved producers;
- Focus outreach to historically underserved producers;
 - Provide assistance with application materials and helping resolve heirs' property and title issues.

Partners target outreach and enrollment priorities supported by NRCS, including places impacted by natural disasters. Eligible partners include Tribes, state and local governments and non-government organizations. WREP partners are required to contribute a financial or technical assistance fund match.

This WREP funding is for fiscal year 2023, which begins on Oct. 1, 2022.

How to Apply

Partners interested in applying should contact their [NRCS state office](#) for more information. Proposals are due by Sept. 23, 2022.

Partners looking to learn more about opportunities for WREP funding for fiscal year 2023 are encouraged to attend the virtual WREP workshop on Aug. 17, 2022, at 1 p.m. Eastern. Contact Lisa McCauley at lisa.mccauley@usda.gov for the login information. The webinar will be recorded and available for any partners unable to attend.

More Information

Two Arkansas projects received funding last year. They are:

- The Tri-State partnership, led by the Nature Conservancy, which seeks to enroll an additional 1,500 acres of wetlands as part of a multi-year effort in the project area. A minimum of 750 acres (50%) will be specifically targeted for enrollment of historically underserved landowners. This project focuses on restoration of forested wetlands within priority portions of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.
- The Lower Batture, led by the Mississippi River Trust, seeks to enroll 2,000 acres. A minimum of 250 acres (approximately 12.5%) will be specifically targeted for historically underserved landowner enrollment. This additional funding will expand the original project area along the lower Mississippi River to continue more sustainable land and water management in the river's active floodplain and nearby flood-prone lands in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

WREP is part of the [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) (ACEP), which is a Farm Bill conservation program. Through WREP, states, local units of government, non-governmental organizations and American Indian tribes collaborate with NRCS through cooperative and partnership agreements. These partners work with tribal and private landowners who voluntarily enroll eligible land into easements to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their properties.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Cooperative Agreements – Funding Opportunity

USDA Boosts Conservation on Grazing Lands and Support for Farmers and Ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$12 million in partnerships that expand access to conservation technical assistance for livestock producers and increase the use of conservation practices on grazing lands. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through its Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) until September 22, 2022.

"Privately owned grazing lands cover nearly 30 percent of the national landscape, which means we have a tremendous opportunity to address climate change and conserve natural resources through voluntary, private lands conservation," said Arkansas NRCS State Conservationist Mike Sullivan. "NRCS enlists a wide variety of conservation practices to help livestock producers. These partnerships will also help us expand the footprint of conservation on grazing lands and could help better reach historically underserved producers."

Project proposals for GLCI Cooperative Agreements will identify and address barriers to accessing grazing assistance for producers. These partnerships are encouraged to include outreach and support for reaching historically underserved producers. Projects must address one or more of the following priorities:

- Address local natural resource concerns.

- Use climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices and principles.
- Encourage existing and new partnerships through emphasizing equity in advancing the resource

needs of underserved communities.

- Identify and implement strategies to quantify, monitor, report on and verify conservation benefits

associated with grazing management systems.

Through GLCI, NRCS will leverage the partnerships to increase availability of technical assistance for farmers and ranchers engaged in grazing activities and act as navigators for grazers seeking additional resources. The opportunity encourages knowledge and expertise in working with historically underserved producers, with a desired outcome of strong participation by historically underserved producers in new and existing grazing coalitions. GLCI intends to expand and establish new peer-to-peer networks for grazers and direct financial support for grazing mentors working with new, beginning, or transitioning grazers.

Eligibility for this opportunity is limited to the following entity types based in any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands):

- Nonprofit organizations having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Farmer or rancher organizations
- State and local conservation governmental agencies
- Agricultural Extension Services
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Land grant universities including 1890 or 1994 land grant institution (7 U.S.C. 3222 *et seq.*), Hispanic-serving institution (20 U.S.C. 1101a), or other minority-serving institution, such as a historically Black college or university (20 U.S.C. 1061), a tribally controlled college or university (25 U.S.C. 1801), or Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institution (20 U.S.C. 1059g)

For more information and to apply, visit the funding opportunity on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Applications are being accepted now through September 22, 2022.

More Information

GLCI was developed as a coordinated effort to identify priority issues, find solutions, and effect change on private grazing land, enhancing existing conservation programs. GLCI also provides support to the National Grazing Lands Coalition to help state grazing coalitions boost participation from historically underserved producers; host a Triennial National Grazing Lands Conference; and to act as navigators for grazers seeking additional resources.

USDA is reviving and revitalizing GLCI to leverage partner capacity, expertise, and technical assistance to expand the footprint of well-managed grazing systems across the country. While some States have been able to use their annual funds to support similar agreements, this new structure and additional funding provides for a more strategic and comprehensive approach to support grazing systems, reach new and historically underserved producers, and address climate change.

Common grazing land conservation practices include Brush Management, Pasture and Hay Planting, Fencing, Prescribed Grazing and Prescribed Burning, among others.

For more information about NRCS's grazing lands efforts, visit the [NRCS website](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

NRCS' Climate Change Adaption Plan Continues to Make Conservation Part of the Climate Solution

Adaption Plan expands current strategies to address soil degradation, landscape instability, extreme weather and climate events and other issues.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has a new Climate Change Adaptation Plan that works to ensure its programs and services meet the demands of the changing agricultural landscape. It evaluates seven current vulnerabilities to NRCS's mission, operation and infrastructure that may be affected by climate change and prioritizes key actions to address these vulnerabilities, such as:

- Increase climate literacy and staffing capacity to deliver assistance that is reflective of climate change.
- Enhance science, research, and data for understanding, organizing, measuring, and tracking climate related impacts and outcomes
- Integrate climate information into current business procedures, assessments, and opportunities
- Ensure current and future applied conservation investments are reflective of climate change needs.
- Assess and address disproportionate climate change impacts on vulnerable communities through intentional engagement, planning, and assistance
- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration to address climate change
- Address risks to agency infrastructure

The plan can be found here: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1_FPAC_NRCS_ClimateAdaptationPlan_2022.pdf

Rates and Dates

Selected Interest Rates for August 2022	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.375
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	4.000
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.250
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500
Emergency Loans	3.750
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	3.125
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	3.00
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.00

Dates to Remember	
11/07/2022	COC Election Ballots mailed to Eligible Voters
11/21/2022	COC "Reminder to Vote" postcards mailed
12/05/2022	Final Date for COC Ballots to be returned to the County Office.
01/02/2022	Newly Elected COC Members take Office



State / Regional Name

Arkansas USDA

700 West Capitol Room 3416 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

FSA Phone: 501-301-3000
FSA Fax: 855-652-2082

NRCS Phone: 501-301-3100
NRCS Fax: 855-681-7044

*Please contact your local Office for questions specific to your operation or county.
To find contact information for your local office visit one of the websites below.*

www.farmers.gov

www.fsa.usda.gov

www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Arkansas/index

www.nrcs.usda.gov

www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov

FSA State Executive Director

Doris Washington

NRCS State Conservationist

Mike Sullivan

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

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting/event should contact Rita Smith-Clay at 501-301-3200 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339

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).