

What's New: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the 2018 Farm Bill



Conservation Overview
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthens and expands support to producers who address significant natural resource concerns through adoption of conservation practices and activities. • Ensures that voluntary conservation programs balance farm productivity with conservation benefits so the most fertile and productive lands remain in production while land retired for conservation purposes favors more environmentally sensitive acres. • Supports conservation programs that ensure cost-effective financial assistance for improved soil health, water and air quality, and other natural resource benefits. • Encourages entry into farming through increased access to land and capital for young, beginning, veteran, and underrepresented farmers.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds potential resource concerns related to beneficial cost-effective operation changes. • Raises cap for organic producers to \$140,000 over six years. • New enrollment option through incentive contracts to address priority resource concerns. • Requires advance payment option be offered to historically underserved producers. • Authorizes direct program assistance to irrigation districts, including acequias and other entities, for purposes of improving water use efficiencies.
Conservation Stewardship Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases payment rates for adoption of cover crop rotations and advanced grazing management activities. • Authorizes contract extensions to facilitate renewal under new program authority. • Transforms funding mechanism for program contracts, authorizing specified annual funding levels. • Provides specific support for organic and transitioning to organic production activities. • Includes special grassland conservation initiative for certain producers who have maintained cropland base acres.
Agricultural Management Assistance Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains support for conservation practices that reduce crop risk.

Grant, Barbara - NRCS-CD, Coquille, OR

From: USDA Farm Service Agency <usdafsa@service.govdelivery.com>
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To: Grant, Barbara - NRCS-CD, Coquille, OR
Subject: Coos & Curry, Oregon - FSA Updates

February 2019



Farm Service Agency

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BULLETIN

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Coos & Curry, Oregon - FSA Updates

Due to FSA budget and staffing restrictions, the Coquille FSA office is down to a staff of 1 again. **Please call for an appointment if possible.**

We remind those who have not yet applied for the 2018 Livestock Forage Program (LFP) that if your 2018 acreage report (*should have been filed last fall*) is not current, there will be a late filing fee applied. Filing deadline for **both late filed 2018 acreage reports for grazing lands AND 2019 grazing land acreages has been moved to July 15, 2019.** Final date to file 2018 LFP application Extended to 2-28-2019.

Dates to Remember:

- **Feb 28, 2019 - Extended deadline for 2018 LFP**
- **Within 15 days** - Earlier of (A) when the disaster occurred or damage to the crop or commodity becomes apparent or (B) normal harvest date for reporting a Notice of Loss for NAP*
- **Within 30 days** - When loss is apparent for reporting a Notice of Loss for LIP and ELAP

Coos/ Curry FSA Office
376 N Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 97423

2018 Livestock Grazing Losses

Coos and Curry counties dropped to drought level D2 with the U.S. Drought Monitor dated Dec.25, 2018. Both Coos and Curry qualified for

Phone: 541-396-4323 x2
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2018 LFP at Drought Level D3 on 9/4/2018. The Drought Monitor can be found at www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu/.

County Executive Director:
Bret A. Harris
bret.harris@or.usda.gov

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought. The program covers grazing on privately owned or cash leased *non-irrigated* land, or as a result of fire on federally managed land.

Program Technicians:
Vacant

Eligible livestock producers **must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than Feb. 28, 2019 for 2018 losses**

Farm Loan Manager

Donna Sprenkle
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Phone: 541.801-2658

Acreage Reports:

LFP pulls grazing acres from certified 2018 acreage reports (filed by December 15, 2017) for your grazing lands. If not already on file, the late-filed reports may require additional documentation and a "measurement fee" will be assessed. Failure to file or "late-file" an acreage report will result in non-certified grazing lands being ineligible for calculation of LFP benefits. **For the 2018 LFP program, ALL Documentation must be filed by February 28, 2019..**

Senior Loan Officer
Jim Jutson
jjim.jutson@or.usda.gov
Phone: 541.378.3537

Additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Coos/Curry FSA Committee::

Bob Nelson - LAA1, Coos

Ray T Petrie - LAA2, Coos

Jim Donaldson - LAA3, Curry

Next County Committee Meeting: Feb 27 2019 - t.b.a.

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*. No program payment can be issued to an eligible producer, including landowners who share in the crop, without a valid CCC-941 on file in the county office.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year will not receive payments. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a Joint Financing loan is \$300,000 and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

To be eligible, the operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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What's New: NRCS and the 2018 Farm Bill

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes assistance to partners who pursue 'Buy-Protect-Sell' transactions. • Requires a conservation plan for highly erodible land that will be protected by an agricultural land easement. • Increases flexibility for partners to meet cost-share matching requirements. • Identifies water quality as a program purpose for enrollment of wetland reserve easements. • Expands wetland types eligible for restoration and management under wetland reserve easements.
Healthy Forests Reserve Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands enrollment options for Indian tribes.
Regional Conservation Partnership Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplifies funding authorities for program implementation. • Authorizes Regional Conservation Partnership Program contracts rather than requiring enrollment through other program authorities. • Expands flexibility for alternative funding arrangements with partners. • Expands availability of watershed program authorities to projects outside critical conservation areas.
Other Farm Bill Programs
<p>Strengthens conservation assistance framework through support for—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program • Conservation Innovation Grants • Technical Service Providers • Veteran Farmers • Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program • Conservation Compliance for Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands • Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program • Emergency Watershed Protection Program