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## Oregon FSA Newsletter - March 2024

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Oregon FSA Newsletter - March 2024

Farm Service Agency | Natural Resources Conservation Service | Risk Management Agency

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### General CRP Signup Closes March 29, 2024. Sign up today!



#### **General CRP**

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water

quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

General CRP is one of several ways agricultural producers and private landowners can participate in the program.

#### **Other CRP Options**

This past January FSA began accepting applications for the [Continuous CRP](#) signup. Under this enrollment, producers and landowners can enroll in CRP throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

The USDA also offers financial assistance to producers and landowners enrolled in CRP to improve the health of their forests through the [Forest Management Incentive](#) (FMI), which can help participants with forest management practices, such as brush management and prescribed burning.

FSA will announce the dates for [Grassland CRP](#) signup in the near future.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the [Transition Incentives Program](#) (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

#### **How to Sign Up**

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines.

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## **Dairy Producers Have Until April 29, 2024 To Enroll for 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage**

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#### **2024 DMC Coverage and Premium Fees**

FSA has revised DMC regulations to extend coverage for calendar year 2024, which is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2024, and to provide an adjustment to the production history for dairy operations with less than 5 million pounds of production. In previous years, smaller dairy operations could establish a supplemental production history and receive Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage. For 2024, dairy producers can establish one adjusted base production history through DMC for each participating dairy operation to better reflect the operation's current production.

For 2024 DMC enrollment, dairy operations that established supplemental production history through Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for coverage years 2021 through 2023, will combine the supplemental production history with established production history for one adjusted base production history.

For dairy operations enrolled in 2023 DMC under a multi-year lock-in contract, lock-in eligibility will be extended until Dec. 31, 2024. In addition, dairy operations enrolled in multi-year lock-in contracts are eligible for the discounted DMC premium rate during the 2024 coverage year. To confirm 2024 DMC lock-in coverage or opt out in favor of an

annual contract for 2024, dairy operations having lock-in contracts must enroll during the 2024 DMC enrollment period.

DMC offers different levels of coverage, even an option that is free to producers, minus a \$100 administrative fee. The administrative fee is waived for dairy producers who are considered limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged or a military veteran. To determine the appropriate level of DMC coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can use the [online dairy decision tool](#).

#### **DMC Payments**

DMC payments are calculated using updated feed and premium hay costs, making the program more reflective of actual dairy producer expenses. These updated feed calculations use 100% premium alfalfa hay.

#### **More Information**

USDA also offers other risk management tools for dairy producers, including the [Dairy Revenue Protection \(DRP\)](#) plan that protects against a decline in milk revenue (yield and price) and the [Livestock Gross Margin \(LGM\)](#) plan, which provides protection against the loss of the market value of milk minus the feed costs. Both DRP and LGM livestock insurance policies are offered through the Risk Management Agency. Producers should contact their local [crop insurance agent](#) for more information.

For more information on DMC, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

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## **USDA Announces \$40.5 Million in Grant Awards to Support Processing and Promotion of Domestic Organic Products**

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) awarded approximately \$40.5 million for 60 grant projects through the Organic Market Development Grant program. These projects will support the development of new and existing organic markets, support the infrastructure to improve processing capacity, explore emerging technologies to promote organic products, and purchase equipment to help meet the increasing demand for organic commodities. USDA anticipates the projects funded through this program will benefit more than 27,000 producers and over 31.8 million consumers by increasing organic market opportunities. USDA Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small and Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt made the announcement at Natural Products Expo West in Anaheim, California.

"Farmers who choose to grow Organic often access new, more and better markets," said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Torres Small. "At USDA, we are committed to making it easier for farmers who make that choice through programs like the Organic Market Development Grant Program, which supports farmers and increases access to fresh, healthy foods. Today's announcement is just one of the many ways President Biden is investing in rural people and a more resilient food system."

"This round of awards through the Organic Market Development Grant program will address critical needs within the nation's growing organic industry – funding projects that further our goals of creating and expanding markets for producers," said Under Secretary Moffitt. "The program is a key component of USDA's Organic Transition Initiative and will increase value added agricultural opportunities for organic producers in rural America."

In May 2023, [USDA announced](#) a total of \$75 million available through the Organic Market Development Grant program to increase the availability and demand for domestically produced organic agricultural products and to address the need for additional market paths. This second round of Organic Market Development Grant awards for the market

development and promotion, simplified equipment-only, and processing capacity expansion project types is funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation. In January 2024, USDA [announced \\$9.75 million](#) for the first round of awards through this program. USDA will make the final award announcement for this program in the coming months.

Recipients of this funding in Oregon include:

- **Grange Cooperative in White City, OR for Expanding Processing and Marketing Capacity for Organic Grain for Livestock Feed.**
- **Camas Country Mill, LLC, in Eugene, OR for Pearler for Organic Growth.**
- **Oregon Organic Coalition in Lyons, OR for Growing Markets for Pacific Northwest Organic Products.**

A full list of awarded projects is available on the [OMDG webpage](#).

AMS gave priority consideration to projects addressing specific pinpointed market needs for organic grains and livestock feed, organic dairy, organic fibers, organic legumes and other rotational crops, and organic ingredients currently unavailable in organic form.

This grant program is part of the [USDA Organic Transition Initiative](#), launched in fall 2022, which offers a suite of programs and resources to help existing organic farmers and those transitioning to organic production and processing. Other efforts under OTI include USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation assistance for transitioning producers, including a new organic management practice standard and plans to leverage partnerships to expand relationships within the organic community, and AMS' Transition to Organic Partnership Program, which builds mentorship relationships between transitioning and existing organic farmers to provide technical assistance and wrap-around support. Additionally, USDA's Risk Management Agency provided direct support for crop insurance in 2023. More information about these initiatives and more can be found at [www.farmers.gov/organic-transition-initiative](http://www.farmers.gov/organic-transition-initiative).

AMS supports U.S. food and agricultural product market opportunities, while increasing consumer access to fresh, healthy foods through applied research, technical services, and congressionally funded grants. These projects will support organic producers and further USDA's goals to develop more and better markets, grow a diverse and equitable food system, and increase climate-smart agricultural practices. To learn more about AMS's investments in enhancing and strengthening agricultural systems, visit [www.ams.usda.gov/grants](http://www.ams.usda.gov/grants).

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 [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

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## RMA Offers New Resource for Specialty and Small-Scale Farmers

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Finding the right risk management fit for your farm can feel overwhelming, especially for specialty crop and small-scale farmers and ranchers. That's why the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) created a [new searchable directory](#) of crop insurance agents who have experience selling [Whole-Farm Revenue Protection \(WFRP\)](#) and [Micro Farm](#) policies.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

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## Farm Loan Interest Rates - March 2024

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Program	Interest Rates
Farm Operating - Direct	4.875%
Farm Operating - Microloan	4.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.250%
Farm Ownership - Microloan	5.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing	3.250%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loan - Amount of Actual Loss	3.750%
<b>Effective as of March 1, 2024</b>	

## Learn more about FSA Farm Loans



The Farm Service Agency offers loans to help farmers and ranchers get the financing they need to start, expand or maintain a family farm.

Use the [Loan Assistance Tool](#) to check your eligibility for FSA Loans, discover FSA loan types, learn about FSA Loan requirements, and walk through the easy-to-understand instructions when completing the forms.

Watch the video here: [Nicole & Nathan Discover FSA Farm Loans \(youtube.com\)](#)

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How can we help you? Submit questions or requests for further information to [ASK.USDA.GOV](https://ASK.USDA.GOV) or 1-833-ONE-USDA.



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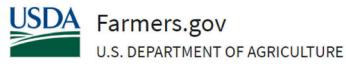
[Risk Management Agency](#)

[Service Center Locator](#)



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