

Funding Opportunities for Farmers and Ranchers in Scott and Shasta River Watersheds

State Water Resources Control Board

United States Department of Agriculture

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

December 8, 2022 – Yreka



Meeting Overview

- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
 - Introduction and Overview
 - Farm Loan Programs
 - Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
 - Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)
 - Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
 - 10 minutes USDA Question and Answer Period
- **California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)**
 - Wildlife Conservation Board Funding
 - Restoration Grant Funding
 - 10 minutes CDFW Question and Answer Period
- **Additional Questions and Answers Period**

Getting Started & Tips for Success





What to bring: Your first visit

- ▶ Proof of identity: driver's license, Social Security number/card, IRS EIN number
- ▶ Copy of recorder deed, survey plat, rental, or lease agreement of the land. You do not have to own property to participate in FSA programs.
- ▶ Entities: articles of incorporation, trust & estate documents, partnership agreement

Getting a Farm Number with FSA

- Register your farm or ranch in our database
- A map will be created outlining your farm or ranch boundaries with acreage figures
- You'll get a farm number, which will allow you to access key USDA programs and eligibility to vote in county committee elections.
- Staff will provide you with routine program notifications



**Farm
Service
Agency**

fsa.usda.gov

Tips for Success

- **Report any changes to your farm operation, accounts, or ownership changes to FSA as soon as possible**
- **File your acreage reports annually to maintain eligibility**
- **Stay current! Sign up for GovDelivery to receive local newsletters, bulletins and text messages.**
- **You are guaranteed to receive a Receipt for Service after each FSA office visit**

Advocating for yourself and other farmers

Work with us

- Ask for assistance in filling out loan and program applications
- You are entitled to a Receipt for Service after every FSA office visit
- You can appeal program denials

Get help when needed

- Intermediaries like local ag organizations or FSA Outreach Coordinators can help you navigate FSA
- Every local FSA office has a County Executive Director, and every Loan Officer has a Farm Loan Manager. They report to a District Director and ultimately to the State Executive Director



What does FSA offer?

Farm Programs

- Disaster Assistance
- Risk Management Tools
- Conservation
- Organic Cost Share
- Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Loans

- Ownership Loans
- Operating Loans
- Microloans
- Emergency Loans
- Loan Guarantees

FSA Farm Programs: Step 1

Crop Acreage Reporting – file annually

- ▶ It's important to report hay and pasture even if you're not growing crops
- ▶ Staff can help you with understanding what to report based on your operation
- ▶ Remember that your filing opens the door to many programs within FSA

Being Prepared for Disasters

- ▶ FSA has multiple programs to help farmers and ranchers with readiness and security in the case of a disaster event occurring
- ▶ Think in advance to protect your operation and consider programs that can provide support when hard times come around
- ▶ Our Non-insurable Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps to cover operations growing commodities not covered by traditional crop insurance!

FSA Farm Loan Programs

FSA is supervised credit - different from traditional credit. FSA is the lender of first opportunity for those who may not otherwise qualify for ag credit.

Direct and guaranteed applicants must:

- ▶ Be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere
- ▶ Be a citizen or a legal resident alien
- ▶ Possess legal capacity to incur the loan obligation
- ▶ Have acceptable credit history
- ▶ Be the owner-operator or tenant-operator of a family farm

Types of FSA Loans

- ▶ Direct Loan Programs- Farm Ownership (FO), Operating (OL) and Microloan (ML)

*Interest rates for November 2022:

Farm Operating- Direct	4.375%
Farm Operating - Microloan	4.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.500%
Farm Ownership - Microloan	4.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing	2.500%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loan - Amount of Actual Loss	3.750%

- ▶ Guaranteed Loan Program
- ▶ Beginning Farmer Down Payment Loan
- ▶ Emergency Loans



Operating Loans

- ▶ Operating loans can be used to purchase:
 - ▶ Equipment
 - ▶ Livestock
 - ▶ Production expenses
 - ▶ Refinance operating expenses

Farm Ownership Loan

- ▶ Ownership loans can be used to pay for:
 - ▶ Land purchases
 - ▶ Capital improvements
 - ▶ Soil and water conservation
 - ▶ Loan closing and related expenses

Farm Ownership loans can be repaid in up to 40 years.
Limit \$600,000

Microloans

- ▶ Microloans are limited to \$50,000
- ▶ Operating microloans can be used for things like start-up expenses, seed, fertilizer, marketing, livestock etc.
- ▶ Ownership loans can be used for expenses like purchasing land or a farm, enlarging an existing farm, constructing buildings, paying closing costs etc.
- ▶ The experience requirements have been modified to accommodate applicants: small business, management and military experience can count towards management requirements for ownership loans while working with a mentor can modify/count toward operating loan requirements.
- ▶ Streamlined application process, less paperwork
- ▶ Operating loans repayment terms are 1 to 7 years while ownership is up to 25 years.

Emergency Loans

- ▶ Low interest loans available in Disaster-declared counties and contiguous counties
 - ▶ Various loan options/programs available
 - ▶ Must be at least a 30% loss
- ▶ Must be unable to obtain commercial loan
- ▶ Deadline to sign up: Within 8 months of the disaster
- ▶ Apply at local FSA county office.

Guaranteed Loans

- ▶ Guaranteed loans are made and serviced by agricultural lenders (farm credit, local bank etc.)
- ▶ Funded by the lender
- ▶ Often used to help lenders continue with customers who have experienced setbacks
- ▶ To qualify for a FSA guarantee loan an applicant must: meet general eligibility requirements, be unable to obtain the loan without a guarantee and have a feasible plan and adequate collateral as determined by the lender
- ▶ \$2,037,000 Limit

Down Payment Loan:

- ▶ Applicants must:
 - ▶ be beginning farmers, veteran or SDA farmers
 - ▶ Provide a 5% down payment

Down Payment loan funds may be used only to partially finance the purchase of a family farm.

FSA can loan up to 45% of the least of the purchase price, appraised value or \$667,000 (max loan is \$300,000).

The balance of the purchase price not covered by the down payment loan and the loan applicant's down payment may be financed by a private lender, a cooperative, or the seller.

Farm Storage Facility loan

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFLs) provide low-interest financing for producers to store, handle and/or transport eligible commodities they produce. This includes the following:

- ▶ Acquire, construct or upgrade new or used, portable or permanently affixed, on-farm storage and handling facilities;
- ▶ Acquire new or used storage and handling trucks; and
- ▶ Acquire portable or permanently affixed storage and handling equipment.
- ▶ Borrow up to \$500,000 with a minimum down payment at 15%, terms up to 12 years.
- ▶ Borrow up to \$50,000 for the FSFL microloan with a lower down payment (5%)
- ▶ Producers must demonstrate production history and document storage needs for eligibility

General Eligibility Requirements

Direct and guaranteed applicants must:

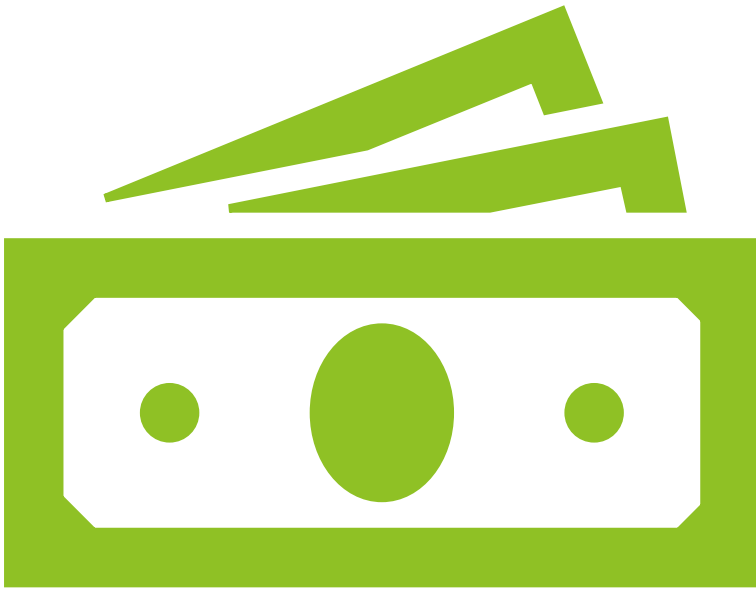
- ▶ Not be delinquent on federal debt
- ▶ Have managerial ability for the type of loan requested
- ▶ Not have caused the agency a loss by receiving debt forgiveness (some exceptions)

Not have been convicted of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance within the last five years

A direct loan applicant

- ▶ Develop a realistic Farm Business Plan that projects repayment ability for the loan and meet general eligibility criteria
- ▶ Provide adequate collateral for the loan
- ▶ Agree to take borrower training courses (if required) and “graduate” to private sector credit when able to do so
- ▶ Not exceed restriction on years of eligibility
- ▶ **Have applicable education, training, or farm experience that provides reasonable prospects of success** (For an FO loan, must have participated in the management of a farm or ranch for at least 3 years)
 - ▶ Certain types of qualifications can reduce the 3-year experience requirement: these include degrees, military experience, and having a mentor

FSA Lending Basics



- ▶ FSA is supervised credit—the goal is to graduate!
- ▶ 5 C's of credit: character, capital, collateral, conditions (market), and capacity (to repay)
- ▶ Know your credit score, your credit report, cash flow and your farm finances! Have a plan for success and repayment.

Definitions to Know

- ▶ *Beginning Farmer according to FSA: A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:*

(1) has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying (3) for an FO loan, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county

- ▶ *SDA: Historically Underserved Groups*

As defined by law, an SDA applicant is one who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of a group, without regard to their individual qualities.

SDA groups are African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Women.



United States
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Agriculture

Drought Assistance Programs

Livestock Forage
Program (LFP)

Emergency Assistance
for Livestock,
Honeybees and Farm-
Raised Fish
Program(ELAP),

Noninsured crop
disaster Assistance
Program (NAP)

Emergency Loans





Livestock Forage Program(LFP)

- ▶ Provides payments to:
 - ▶ Eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock, and
 - ▶ Who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage (native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover that have suffered a loss of grazed forage due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.
- ▶ Drought severity based on the US Drought Monitor
- ▶ Max 5 months feed payment
- ▶ Must file an application by 1/30/2023
for program year 2022
- ▶ Must be commercial livestock operation
- ▶ Average Adjusted Gross Income cannot exceed \$900,000
- ▶ Max payment \$125,000

EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ELAP) Eligible Feed Transportation Cost



- ▶ Eligible feed transporting cost under ELAP:
 - Livestock feed transported additional mileage above normal mileage the livestock producer typically travels to purchase livestock feed, not to exceed 1,000 miles
 - Livestock feed transported to eligible livestock, that would normally have been on eligible grazing land physically located in the county where the eligible loss condition, or eligible drought occurred.
 - Additional cost of transporting livestock feed must be due to an eligible drought, that occurred during the normal grazing period, or an eligible adverse weather event that occurred during the normal grazing period.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

(ELAP) Water Transportation

Eligible Water Transportation Cost

- Water is transported to eligible livestock that are on eligible **Non-irrigated grazing land**.
- Additional cost of transporting water to any area of the county that has been rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) or D3 (extreme drought) or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity.
- Water is being transported to eligible grazing lands that normally does not require water to be transported to.



Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- ▶ Provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses or prevents crop planting.
- ▶ Must have purchased coverage for the year of disaster
- ▶ Coverage level: up to 65/100. *Grazing loss is only available at 50/55*
- ▶ For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop, or \$825 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Producers who elect higher levels of coverage must also pay a premium.
- ▶ 50% reduction in premium for SDA/ limited resource/veterans/beginning farmer or rancher
- ▶ Average Adjusted Gross Income cannot exceed \$900,000

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SISKIYOU COUNTY

215 EXECUTIVE COURT, SUITE C

YREKA, CA 96097

Office (530) 842-6123 Extension 2

Fax (844) 206-7026

Katherine Lewis, Farm Loan Manager

Katherine.Lewis@usda.gov

Ruth Ford, Acting County Executive Director

Ruth.Ford@usda.gov

www.farmers.gov

Wildlife Conservation Board

- Over \$200 million available under the Stream Flow Enhancement Program (SFEP)
 - Projects to enhance instream flows to protect fish and wildlife
- Funding Amounts: Dependent
- Required Applicant Cost-Share: 0%
- Contact:
Aaron Haiman,
wcbstreamflow@wildlife.ca.gov,
(916) 926-8835
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis
- Funds must be encumbered by **June 30, 2025**
- Eligible uses for these funds:
 - Acquisition of water or water rights
 - Acquisition of land that includes water rights
 - Projects that provide water for fish and wildlife
 - Projects that improve aquatic or riparian habitat conditions
- Larger projects are encouraged

Wildlife Conservation Board

Examples of project types:

- Water Transactions
 - Acquisition of water/water rights from willing sellers
 - Short- or long-term water transfers and leases
 - Forbearance agreements
- Water conservation projects
 - Off-channel water storage
 - Changes in the timing or rate of diversion or source water supply
 - Irrigation ditch lining or piping
 - Stock-water systems
 - Agricultural tailwater recovery/management systems
- Changing points of diversion
- Groundwater storage and conjunctive use
- Stream flow gauging
- Scientific studies

- Website:

<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement>

- Note: WCB uses a single continuous grant application process for all proposed projects. The process begins with a Pre-Application (Word); however, Applicants can consult with WCB staff at any time, including before submitting a Pre-application. For more information and the Pre-Application go to:

<https://wcb.ca.gov/Grants>



Restoration Grant Opportunities

WATERSHED
RESTORATION
GRANTS BRANCH



New Funding Opportunities

Drought Resiliency – Protecting Salmon (\$100 million)

- Up to \$10 million available for projects within the Scott River and its tributaries
- Up to \$10 million available for projects within the Shasta River and its tributaries
- Projects will need to show support from Native American Tribes and local landowners or landowner associations when applying

Addressing Climate Impacts (\$35 million)

Nature Based Solutions

- Wetlands and Mountain Meadows Restoration (\$54 million)
- Wildlife Corridors (\$42 million)

Program Information

Program requirements can be found in the [WRGB General Grant Guidelines](#)

Eligible Applicants

- Tribes, nonprofit organizations and public agencies

Project Types

- Planning
- Implementation
- Acquisition
- Monitoring

All projects must have a benefit to fish and wildlife.

Timeline

Program	Grant Agreement Execution Date	Project End Date
Drought Resiliency – Protecting Salmon	6/30/2024	3/15/2026
Nature Based Solutions - Wetlands/Meadow	6/30/2025	3/15/2027
Nature Based Solutions - Wildlife Corridors	6/30/2026	3/15/2028
Addressing Climate Impacts	6/30/2024	3/15/2026

Application Process

Concept Proposal :

- Project Description
- Scope of Work with tasks and deliverables
- Schedule
- Map, plans and other available attachments (as appropriate as needed)

Continuous Application and Review

CDFW Selects the funding source



Contact Info

For more information on how to apply visit:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants/Concept-Application>

Questions about the process or your project? Grant consultations available at any time:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Prop-1/Consultation>

Email us at: watershedgrants@wildlife.ca.gov

Contact Information and Web Resources

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

Adam.Weinberg@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 319-0217

ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 327-3113

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA)

(530) 691-5841 Ext. 2

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

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Lauren.Barva@wildlife.ca.gov

Aaron.Haiman@wildlife.ca.gov

Robert.Hawkins@wildlife.ca.gov

WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov

Video and presentation slides will be posted here:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/

USDA Drought Resources:

<https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/drought>

CDFW Funding Resources:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Grants>