

USDA FSA FY21 Annual Report

The Farm Service Agency assists farmers and ranchers with a variety of programs spanning income support, disaster assistance and conservation programs. This fiscal year was extremely busy for the agency as many COVID-19 related programs came on to provide much needed assistance to producers throughout the state (and nation).

The Conservation Reserve Program



Tree plantings in riparian forest buffers are a common CREP practice, photo credit USDA.

There are five major types of the Conservation Reserve Program, which is very popular here in state. They are:

- General (grass or other covers across whole farm fields);
 - 108984.4 new or re-enrolled acres were added last year.
- Continuous (smaller covers dealing with one identified resource concern);
 - 501.28 new or re-enrolled acres were added last year.
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (primarily grouse habitat, but covers designed for wildlife habitat);
 - 4864.32 new or re-enrolled acres were added last year.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP, buffering salmonoid bearing streams); and
 - 582.43 new or re-enrolled acres were added last year.
- Grasslands (keeping pasturelands from development).
 - 7226.35 new or re-enrolled acres were added last year.

Not including applicable cost-share, these new acres will account for more than ten million in annual rental payments to farmers, ranchers and landlords. There are more than one million acres in some form of CRP in the state in total.

Since the Commission is the main state partner for CREP, collaboration has been key. The first policy and procedure training in almost five years has been developed and will have been provided to USDA and Conservation District Staff in October. Input from the Commission has also been crucial to making policy changes for our CREP and ensuring program success.

The Emergency Conservation Program



Wildfire restoration is our most used ECP practice, photo credit USDA

The Emergency Conservation Program is where FSA assists producers in replacing items like fencing destroyed in fire, develop new water for livestock during drought, or returning land to production after floods or other disaster events. Severe drought throughout the state and several large wildfires have led to multiple counties requesting more than ten million in assistance for various projects.

Pandemic Assistance Programs



*The two CFAP programs dealt with cattle to fresh fruits and vegetables and almost everything in between.
Photo credit USDA*



The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program versions one (CFAP1) and two (CFAP2) wrapped up earlier this month. Both versions looked to assist producers who had revenue or market losses from the pandemic. This was a big program for Washington; between the two programs it touched almost all of the diversified agriculture in the state. The CFAP1 provided more than \$150 million to farmers and ranchers. The CFAP2 assistance totaled more than \$300 million. Another smaller program, the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Haulers and Handlers has provided more than \$74,000 in benefits statewide. This program looked at the loss of revenue between 2019 and 2020.