



# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA  
Farm Service Agency

7620 SW Mohawk St.  
Tualatin, Oregon 97062-8121

---

Contact: Lynn E. Voigt  
503-692-1973  
[Lynn.voigt@or.usda.gov](mailto:Lynn.voigt@or.usda.gov)

## FSA Moving to Electronic Communication

(TUALATIN, OR) Nov. 21, 2011 -- Oregon Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Lynn E. Voigt recently stated the Farm Service Agency is moving toward electronic communication as the delivery mechanism for informing farmers of FSA programs.

"The USDA Farm Service Agency is doing its part to reduce the federal deficit and is making changes that will affect our direct communications with farm owners and operators," Voigt said.

In an effort to reduce operating costs, FSA is reducing postage expenses as much as possible. FSA will no longer mail newsletters or farm acreage maps. Producers will need to pick maps up at the county office or receive them electronically.

"We are looking at every aspect as to how we conduct business, and we are reducing expenses wherever possible without negatively affecting our ability to provide services to producers," Voigt said.

Consequently, FSA is making an effort to collect e-mail addresses of farm owners and operators. Like other agricultural businesses today, FSA will use e-mail notification to provide pertinent information such as deadlines, reminders and newsletters.

"E-mail addresses are considered personally identifiable information (PII) and are confidential at FSA. In addition to computers at home and at work, many people have personal electronic devices and carry their businesses in the palms of their hands," Voigt said.

FSA is asking for owner and operator support and assistance during the transition to digital communication. "Our FSA County Office staffs stand ready to assist farmers in their operations and to answer any questions they might have," Voigt said.

FSA encourages producers to enroll at no cost to receive their county FSA newsletter and other bulletins via e-mail and electronic text message. Call the FSA state office at 503-692-3688 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/or](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or) to sign up now.

####