



# NEWSLETTER



**Big Horn County**

**408 Greybull Ave - Greybull, WY 82426**

**November 2015**

**Farm Service Agency**

307-765-2689 phone  
855-415-3432 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov

**FSA Staff**

Brenda Miller, CED  
Connie Werbelow, PT

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

**County Committee**

Jan Barnett, Chairperson  
Michael Rasmussen, Vice-Chair  
Spencer Ellis, Member

**NRCS Staff**

Monte Bush- DC  
Blaise Allen-SC

**Conservation District**

Kristen Tilley, Lovell  
Jan Johnson, Greybull

**Farm Loan Staff**

Bill Morrison, FLM  
Worland (307)247-2456  
Kathy Palazzolo, FLO  
Powell (307)754-9411

## COC Elections

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters around November 9. Instructions for voting will be included. Ballots must be postmarked or returned to the county office by December 7<sup>th</sup>. This year's election in Big Horn County covers LAA3, which includes the all land east of the Big Horn River, south of Sheep Mountain, excluding south of Manderson to the Washakie County line. This includes the communities of Shell and Hyattville.

Every eligible agricultural producer should participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees elections - - whether you are a beginning or longtime producer, or whether you have a large or small operation - - because FSA county committees are your link with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Farmers and ranchers who are elected to serve on FSA county committees apply their judgment and knowledge to help with the decisions necessary to administer FSA programs in their counties, ensuring the needs of local producers are met. FSA county committees operate within official federal regulations so that local input is provided on federal programs such as: 1/ Income safety-net loans and payments, including setting county average yields for commodities; 2/Conservation programs; 3/ Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; 4/ Emergency programs; 5/Payment eligibility.

## Fall Crop Reporting

The annual timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs, including ARC/PLC, NAP and CRP. Crop reports, form FSA-578 Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

**2016 and subsequent years' acreage reporting deadlines:**

- Spring seeded crops and CRP-July 15, 2016
- Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains-**November 15, 2015**

**This means your 2016 (crops to be harvested in 2016) perennial hay/forage crops, winter wheat, and fall seeded crops must be reported by November 15, 2015.**

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Please come in to certify your acreage once all crops are planted.

## Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2016
- An application for payment by January 30, 2016.

## NAP Program Sales Closing Date \*Change\*

The sales closing date to purchase coverage on NAP eligible crops has changed. All perennial hay crops and winter wheat now have a sales closing date of **April 1**.

The sales closing date for all spring planted crops remains the same at **April 1**. Honey coverage remains unchanged. It must be purchased by December 1.

## CRP Grasslands Signup began September 2, 2015

Farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland, and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands.

The initiative is part of the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing, and protecting certain grasses, shrubs, and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. CRP has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 95 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gasses annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks, and fences.

With the publication of the CRP regulation, the Farm Service Agency will accept applications on an ongoing basis beginning September 1, 2015, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be November 20, 2015.

For additional information, please call or visit the Big Horn County FSA Office.

## COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

We remind you of the availability of the commodity loan program. 2015 loan rates for applicable crops in Big Horn County are:

Wheat HRW	\$2.81/bu.	Wheat HRS	\$2.91/bu.	Corn	\$2.10/bu
Barley	\$1.87/bu.	Oats	\$1.32/bu.		

Interest rates update monthly and are minimal (example: the November 2015 rate is 1.250%). The term of the loan will be nine months from the date of disbursement. For 2015 loans on small grains can be requested through March 31, 2016. The grower must maintain title and control of the commodity (beneficial interest) while the grain is under loan. If you are interested in applying for a commodity loan please stop by our office.

## KEEP YOUR RECORDS UPDATED

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have had any of the following changes, please report them to our office so that we can update our records accordingly:

- Individual or business name
- Address
- Phone number
- Bank account
- Sold or purchased property
- Added or dropped leased land

## Breaking New Ground

Producers requesting USDA benefits are reminded to follow the Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) provisions provided in the 1985 Food Security Act, as amended. In order to maintain eligibility for USDA programs, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible land (HEL) shall ensure they are following tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements according to the provisions of an approved conservation system or conservation plan. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to breaking new ground to file an AD-1026.

Producers are also reminded to follow the Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. The 1985 Food Security Act, as amended, states that producers are ineligible for benefits if they plant agricultural commodities on wetlands that were converted after December 23, 1985 or convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or any other means for the purpose, or to have the effect, of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible.

Annual reviews are conducted by FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure producers follow an approved conservation system or conservation plan on highly erodible land and to ensure that identified wetlands have not been altered. Violations may lead to ineligibility for USDA program benefits.

If you have highly erodible land that you farm or if you are breaking out new land, please contact Monte or Blaise to make sure you have a current highly erodible plan.

## Attention All Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag products include, but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment, and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307) 777-7311.

Big Horn County FSA Office  
408 Greybull Ave  
Greybull, WY 82426



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## Dates to Remember

**November 15** Crop Reporting Deadline for perennial and fall seeded crops

**December 7** COC voting deadline

**December 1- August 1** ARC/PLC Signup for 2016

**April 1, 2016** NAP sales closing date

**Anytime-** Report eligible losses within 30 days of loss event for all disaster programs

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users)