



NEWSLETTER



Big Horn County

408 Greybull Ave - Greybull, WY 82426

February 2016

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

Michael Rasmussen, Chairperson
Spencer Ellis, Vice-Chair
Martin Mercer, 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)347-2456
Kathy Palazzolo, FLO
Powell (307)754-9411

Election Results

Congratulations to Martin Mercer. Martin was elected to serve a 3-year term as representative for LAA#3. Michael Rasmussen was chosen as Chairman of the board and Spencer Ellis is the Vice Chairman.

Thank you Michael, Spencer, and Martin for your willingness to represent the farmers and ranchers of Big Horn County, and thank you to all the producers who participated by voting for your area representatives.

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) Program

Signup for the ARC/PLC program started December 7 and runs through **August 1, 2016**. It is your responsibility to enroll your farm each year (2016, 2017 and 2018) during the signup period.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

As calving and lambing season gets under way and livestock tends to be more vulnerable, please keep in mind the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for any death losses with your livestock.

The Livestock Indemnity Program 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 due to adverse weather, including but not limited to losses due to floods, blizzards, extreme cold with precipitation, lightning, tornados, and wildfires. For 2016, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2016, and before December 31, 2016. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within **30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent**. Supporting documentation necessary for your application include but are not limited to; beginning inventory, proof of death for animals lost to an eligible cause and animals lost due to normal mortality, and documentation of the weather event or confirmed kill records for predator kills.

Acceptable proof of livestock death include but are not limited to: contemporaneous producer records at the time of the event, pictures with a date, brand inspection records, weather data. Documentation to substantiate eligible attacks by animals or avian predators must be obtained by a source such as but not limited to: the following: APHIS, Department of Natural Resources, other sources or documentation as determined by the Deputy Administrator.

Sign-up is ongoing. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up process. Some eligibility restrictions may apply.

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: Name/Address/Phone Number; Bank Account; Sold Property; Purchased Property; Leased Additional Property; Relinquished Leased Property.

Failing to report changes to the County Office can significantly impact the timeliness of processing program applications and benefits.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The sales closing date to purchase coverage on NAP eligible crops has changed. All perennial hay crops, pasture grass, winter wheat, and all spring seeded crops now have a sales closing date of April 1st. NAP offers a "buy-up" coverage on all eligible crops harvested for forage (hay). Through the "buy-up" option, coverage can be purchased for levels of 50, 55, 60 and 65 % of the yield, at 100% of the crop price. Premiums are minimal and are paid in addition to the \$250 per crop service fee for the NAP policy. Call the office to see how "buy-up" coverage can work for you.

If you currently have a 2016 NAP basic coverage policy you simply come to the office, select which level of buy-up coverage you want and sign the policy. If you do not currently have a 2016 NAP basic policy you can still purchase buy up coverage by paying the \$250 service fee per crop and then select the level of buy up coverage and sign all necessary forms.

FSA has a great tool to calculate premiums and loss payments at www.fsa.usapas.com/NAP. Remember, the **deadline to purchase NAP coverage is April 1, 2016.**

USDA to Provide Agricultural Credit Training, Expand Opportunities for Farmer Veterans and Beginning Farmers

USDA announced a partnership with the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) to conduct agricultural credit training sessions in the Midwest for military veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers. States under consideration to host the workshops include Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska.

These workshops will provide individuals interested in farming as a career, including military veterans, with methods to improve business planning and financial skills, and improve understanding of the risk management tools that can help small farm operations.

Other partners include Niman Ranch a community network of more than 700 independent family farmers and ranchers, and the Farm Credit Council and the Farm Credit System, which provides loans, leases and financial services to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses across the United States. The workshops will also include assistance with credit applications and introductions to local or regional food markets.

To learn more about veterans in agriculture, visit www.usda.gov/veterans. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to learn more about FSA's farm loan programs. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. More information also is available from the Farmer Veteran Coalition at www.farmvetco.org.

Dates to Remember

February 15 President's Day- Office Closed

April 1 NAP Sales Closing Date

July 15 Spring Acreage Reporting Deadline

Now - August 1 ARC/PLC Signup for 2016

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

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



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Farm Service Agency
PERMIT #G-96

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)