



**Big Horn County
Farm Service Center
408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426
Phone: (307)765-2689
FAX: (307)765-9243**

**Office Hours:
8:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 – 4:30
www.fsa.usda.gov
www.nrcs.wy.usda.gov**

May 2008

**Farm Service Agency
County Committee**

Shawn Bullinger- Chairman
Jan Barnett- Vice Chairman
Wilford Tippetts- Regular Member

**Farm Service Agency
Office Staff**

Bryan Schoenfelder – CED
Bill Morrison – FLM
Brenda Miller – PT
Connie Anson-PT

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

Monte Bush – Greybull – DC
Dave Preator – Greybull – SCT
Ben Bonella - Greybull - RMS
John Richards – Lovell – DC

**South Big Horn
Conservation District**

Linda Hamilton – Chairman
Walter Hibbert – Vice Chair
George Kelso -Treasurer
Nancy Joyce – Secretary
Ted Zier – Member

Janet Hallsted – District Manager

**Shoshone
Conservation District**

George Estes – Chairman
Russell Boardman– Vice Chair
Reed Williams– Sec/Treas
Allen Clark – Member
D Gordon Despain – Member

Kristin Tilley – District Manager

The Big Horn Bulletin

2008 Election

It's that time of year again to start thinking about the annual County Committee election process. This year we are holding our election in the Local Administrative Area one (LAA-1), which covers the north end of the county starting at sheep mountain. Information about the election process, fact sheets, and nomination forms are available online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the "News and Events" tab. FSA 669A's, the nomination form, is available on this website, attached to this newsletter, or at the county office. This office will be accepting nominations until August 1, 2008. To get diversity we are encouraging beginning farmers and ranchers to get involved in the election process. So, if you know anyone would be interested in serving this area of the county on the FSA County Committee either visit this website, or complete the FSA-669A attached to this newsletter and return it to the Big Horn county FSA office at 408 Greybull Ave, Greybull WY 82426 prior to the August 1 deadline.

Crop Reporting Requirements

It's that time of year again to file your annual acreage report. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. 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 if you want to be eligible for many Farm Service Agency programs.

The deadline for 2008 crop reports is **July 1, 2008**. Once you have completed all of you planting please stop by and complete your filing, remember that we do need plant dates again this year. Please note: they have increased the late filing fees from \$20.00 per farm to a starting rate of \$46.00 per farm. Please don't be late!

Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-Up

Under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous sign-up, eligible agriculture producers may apply to enroll small acreages of eligible cropland or marginal pastureland in CRP. Participants agree to establish approved conservation practices on eligible land and remove the land from agricultural production in return for annual rental payments for the term of the CRP contract, which can run from 10 to 15 years. A 50% cost-share payment is available to help with the cost of completing approved conservation practices. There is an additional 40% cost-share incentive payment for certain practices. Along with the cost-share and annual rental payments, there is a sign-up incentive payment and an annual maintenance payment. Some eligible practices that can be completed on land enrolled under continuous CRP are: Field Windbreaks, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife, Shelterbelt Establishment, Filter Strips and Riparian Buffers.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the cropland for each resulting tract relates to the cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Measurement Service Rates

FSA provides a number of measurement services for our producers that include: measuring crops after planting, measuring fields prior to planting, re-measuring previously measured acreages, verifying crops and disaster conditions and acreages, measuring or sampling farm stored grains and other commodity crops, and verifying crops for late-filed crop reports. **The cost of this service has changed.** It is now \$30 for the basic farm fee and \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour with a minimum of 1 hour charged.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including small grains, course grains, and oilseeds.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details and a current interest rate contact this FSA office.



South Big Horn Conservation District News

The South Big Horn Conservation District would like to thank all those that participated in the District's tree program this year. All most 6,000 trees of various species were sold this year. The tree program will begin again the first part of November.

Next year Colorado State Nursery, which is where the trees come from, is considering growing a number of larger plants in "one-gallon" containers. These trees will be perfect for replacing missing plants in windbreaks or other plantings where even a small number of gaps can reduce the effectiveness of the planting. If anyone is interested in purchasing some of these trees please contact the local Conservation District and let them know.

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Name exactly as it should be entered)

2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE

5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

6A. COUNTY

6B. LAA NO.

7. STATE

DATE OF ELECTION IS 1ST MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR

3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.

I DO want to witness the setting of tied votes with another nominee.

I DO NOT want to witness the setting of tied votes with another nominee.

4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

4B. DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY
 Hispanic or Latino
 Not Hispanic or Latino

RACE (Choose all many boxes as applicable)
 American Indian or Alaska Native
 Asian
 White
 Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

SEX
 Male
 Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Enter the nominee's name as it is to be shown on the ballot. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the setting of tied votes.

ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY SEPTEMBER 3.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0590-0229. The time required to complete the information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, reviewing and collecting the data, and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held this year on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters approximately 10 calendar days before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sec.gov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have name placed on ballot and agrees to serve if elected.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than September 3.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file an appeal in accordance with 7 CFR Part 780.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
Big Horn County FSC
408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426-2037

Return Service Requested

N R C S News

New EQIP Deadline

There is a new deadline this year for the 2008 EQIP signup. This deadline is September 1, 2008. If you are interested in installing a conservation practice with assistance from the NRCS office using the EQIP funding please stop by our office and pick up an application.

Important Dates

May 26, 2008 Office Closed Memorial Day
July 1, 2008 Final Date for Acreage Reporting
July 4, 2008 Office Closed Independence Day
Sept. 1, 2008 EQIP Deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Bryan Schoenfelder, CED at (307)765-2689.