



Big Horn County
Farm Service Center
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Greybull, WY 82426
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Office Hours:
8:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 – 4:30

www.fsa.usda.gov
www.nrcs.wy.usda.gov

November 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 SURE Disaster Program

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), Pub. L. 110-246, was enacted June 18, 2008. The 2008 Act created several new disaster programs under the title, "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance". To be eligible for the **SURE crop disaster program**, producers **must** purchase at least a CAT level of crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and NAP coverage for **all** non-insurable crops. Honey and crops intended to be harvested as grain, silage, seed or hay must be covered by crop insurance or NAP – this includes all interests in all crops in all counties nationwide. A change announced from the initial bill is a crop, determined and certified by the applicant in writing; to not be of "economic significance" (which means the crop does not contribute at least 10 percent of the total farm revenue) is exempted from the crop insurance or NAP purchase requirements. The deadline to purchase NAP coverage on forage and seed crops is December 1. For further information on this program please contact this office.

Attention Livestock Producers

Thru the Farm Bill there is a built in disaster program for forage. The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) program will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for eligible livestock, because of drought on land that is either native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or planted to a crop specifically for providing grazing. The LFP program will also be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for eligible livestock, because of fire on rangeland managed by a Federal agency, if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland.

In order to be eligible for LFP benefits **you must have insurance** on your rangeland. There are 2 options available to you for 2009. You may either contact your insurance agent and purchase Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF) insurance, or you may come to your local FSA office and purchase NAP insurance.

PFR rates vary depending on the time intervals you choose, level of coverage, and number of grids covered. The sales closing date for PFR is **November 30, 2008**.

NAP insurance costs \$250 per crop per county with a maximum of \$750 in a single county or a maximum of \$1875 for multi-county producers. The deadline for purchasing NAP coverage is **December 1, 2008**.

Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP)

December 1, 2008 is the application deadline for the Non-Insurable Assistance Program for forage crops, fall seeded grain crops and grazing land. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Producers must cover all crops in all counties where they have an interest to qualify for the new disaster programs.

For more information on these eligibility requirements please contact this office.

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 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required and multi peril crop insurance coverage for all crops. For details and a current interest rate contact this FSA office.

Adjusted Gross Income Limitations

New Adjusted Gross Income limitations will be in place for 2009 and future years. There are three limitations to consider now, one that affects all commodity programs, one that affects DCP only, and one that applies to Conservation Programs only. These certifications will be based on the average income in the three years preceding the most recent complete tax year (so, for the 2009 program year, the years in consideration will be 2005, 2006, and 2007). The table below summarizes these limits:

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| \$500,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income | Exceed this – ineligible for any commodity, price support or disaster program benefits |
| \$750,000 Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income | Exceed this – ineligible for DCP Direct Payments |
| \$1,000,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income | Exceed this – ineligible for Conservation programs, unless 66.66% or more of AGI is average adjusted gross farm income |

Direct and indirect program participants will be required to certify to the new income limitations for the 2009 crop year on form CCC-926 or through an accountant's or attorney's certification. The Adjusted Gross Income Certification form is no longer a continuous certification and must now be filed at least once every 3 years. The new form and procedures are not yet available, additional information, including specifics on what is considered farm income and what is considered non-farm income will be made available at a future date.

LDP's on Wool, Mohair, and Unshorn Pelts

Producers of wool, mohair, or unshorn sheep going to slaughter need to have a signed CCC 633 page 1 on file at the FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest in the commodity. Once you have sold or have a weight on the commodity you need to bring them into our office to complete the application for payment.

The deadline for requesting Loan Deficiency Payments for wool or mohair shorn in 2008 is January 31, 2009.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

This year's election will be held for LAA Local Administrative Areas number (1). LAA 1 covers the North End of Big Horn County. Wilford Tippetts is currently serving as the LAA 1 representative to the county committee.

Ballots were mailed on November 3rd and must be returned, or postmarked, by December 1st. This year we have a new ballot format, so please carefully follow the directions on them to complete your ballot correctly. Ballots will be counted December 3rd at 2p.m. in the Big Horn County FSA Office. The Newly elected member will take office on January 1, 2009.

Farm Changes

With the changes coming up with the new farm bill it is very important for producers to ensure that our office has accurate records. This includes updated records on all of your farming interest in our county and all other counties nationwide, as well as deeded, share rent, cash lease, and AUM grazing on all leases and agreements. If our records are not accurate it could delay or even make you ineligible for some of the new programs.

Since we will be getting new paperwork this year for our program signups please be sure we are using the correct name, (either as an individual or entity such as a corporate or LLC name), the correct id number (including social security number, or tax id for entities), and the correct mailing address. You need to be sure that you are using the same information for our records and crop insurance.

If you have made any changes to your operation please stop by our office so we can update your records.

Direct Deposit Changes

Recently, our office has had a number of problems when trying to pay producers by direct deposit because of closed or changed accounts. If you have made any changes to your accounts and receive payments from this office please check with us to be sure your payments are going to the proper accounts. Incorrect information can delay benefits to you.

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

Return Service Requested

Important Dates

Nov 27, 2008 – Office Closed Thanksgiving
Nov 30, 2008 – PRF Deadline
Dec 1, 2008 - NAP Deadline
Dec 25, 2008 – Office Closed Christmas
Jan 1, 2009 – Office Closed New Years

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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.