

May 2016



Big Horn County FSA Updates

Big Horn County FSA Office

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Brenda Miller

Farm Loan Manager:
Bill Morrison- Worland
Kathy Palazzolo- Powell

Program Technicians:
Connie Werbelow

County Committee:
Michael Rasmussen-
Chairman
Spencer Ellis- Vice-Chairman
Martin Mercer- Member

**Next County Committee
Meeting: July 6, 2016
1:30PM**

USDA Offers New Loans for Portable Farm Storage and Handling Equipment

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down payments, are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets.

The program also offers a new "microloan" option, which allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history. Farms and ranches of all sizes are eligible. The microloan option is expected to be of particular benefit to smaller farms and ranches, and specialty crop producers who may not have access to commercial storage or on-farm storage after harvest. These producers can invest in equipment like conveyers, scales augers, pilers, batch dryers, storage containers, or refrigeration units and trucks that can store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

Earlier this year, FSA significantly expanded the list of commodities eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loan. Eligible commodities now include aquaculture; floriculture; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables; corn, grain sorghum, rice, oilseeds, oats, wheat, triticale, spelt, buckwheat, lentils, chickpeas, dry peas sugar, peanuts, barley, rye, hay, honey, hops, maple sap, unprocessed meat and poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt and renewable biomass. FSFL microloans can also be used to finance wash and pack equipment used post-harvest, before a commodity is placed in cold storage.

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Office Closure

The Big Horn County FSA office will be closed May 23-24th. Brenda will be attending training in Riverton those days and so there will be no one in the office. We will open again on Monday May 25th. The NRCS and conservation district office will remain open and be available to assist you.

Acres Reporting and Plant Dates

Acres reports can be completed as soon as you have all your crops in the ground, but no later than **July 15th**.

We are also taking sign-ups for 2016 ARC/PLC. Producers who chose coverage from the safety net programs established by the

2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit FSA county offices through Aug. 1, 2016, to sign contracts to enroll in coverage for 2016.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).