

August 2016



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## Big Horn County FSA Updates

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### Big Horn County FSA Office

408 Greybull Ave.  
Greybull, WY 82426

Phone: 307-765-2689  
Fax: 855-415-3432

**County Executive Director:**  
Brenda Miller

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

**Program Technician:**  
Connie Werbelow

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

**Next County Committee Meeting: Sept 7, 2016 1:30PM**

### FSAfarm+, FSA's Customer Self-Service Portal

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has launched a new tool to provide farmers and ranchers with remote access to their personal farm information using their home computers. Farmers and ranchers can now view, print or export their personal farm data all without visiting an FSA county office.

The program, known as **FSAfarm+**, provides you with secure access to view your personal FSA data, such as base and yields, Conservation Reserve Program data, other conservation program acreage, Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation status information, field boundaries, farm imagery, name and address details, contact information and membership interest and shares in the operation. This data will be available in real time, at no cost to the producer and allow operators and owners to export and print farm records, including maps. Producers also can electronically share their data with a crop insurance agent from their own personal computer.

Farm operators and owners first will need "Level 2 eAuthentication" to access the webportal. This level of security ensures that personal information is protected for each user. Level 2 access can be obtained by going to [www.eauth.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.usda.gov), completing the required information and then visiting your local FSA office to finalize access.

For more information on **FSAfarm+**, the customer self-service portal, contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA county office, click <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## USDA EXPANDS MICROLOANS

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary the week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to help with farm land and building purchases and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from USDA-FSA.

To learn more about the microloan program visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans) or contact Park County Farm Service Agency at (307)754-9411 Ext 2 or Washakie County Farm Service Agency at (307) 347-2456 Ext 2.

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## 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.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Brenda Miller at 307-765-2689 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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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).