

JUNE 2016



Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

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Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office

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County Executive Director Trainee:

Lisa Bower

Farm Loan Manager:

Bill Morrison

Program Technicians:

Teresa Shelton
Tracy Neidig

County Committee:

Julie Haun
Everett Jones
Arnold Pennoyer
David Slover
Kirk Tolman

Next County Committee Meeting:

July 14th, 2016

2016 County Committee Elections

County Committees provide a grassroots approach to how FSA conducts business. Committees are elected by peers in the agricultural community. Successful candidates are charged with representing producers' interests from their Local Administrative Area (LAA). County Committees are an integral part to keeping decisions affecting FSA programs as local as possible.

Washakie County has one position up for election this year in LAA-3. LAA-3 includes everything in the Nowood River drainage. The position is currently held by Kirk Tolman and nominations for other applicants will be accepted through August 1, 2016.

Hot Springs County has one position up for election this year in LAA-4. LAA 4 includes everything west of the Big Horn River that does not get their irrigation water from the river. The position is currently held by Arnold Pennoyer and nominations for other applicants will be accepted through August 1, 2016.

Nominating petitions can be found on the FSA forms site:

<http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/currentforms.asp> the form number is FSA 699A.

Election Dates to Remember:

August 1, 2016- Final date for nominations to be received by the county office

November 7, 2016- Ballots mailed to voters in LAA's holding elections

December 5, 2016- Final date for ballots to be received by the county office

Crop Report Deadline July 15th

Crop reporting deadline for spring planted crops is July 15, 2016. Crop reports (FSA-578) must account for all the acres operated by a producer and is required for participation in most FSA programs. Crop reports filed after July 15th will be assessed a late file fee.

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. Failure to complete the annual enrollment will result in not being eligible for potential payments for 2016.

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 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>.

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).