



NEWSLETTER



Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA

208 Shiloh RD, Worland, WY 82401

JUNE 2016

Phone: 307-347-2456

FAX: 1-855-415-3445

Next meeting:
JULY 14th, 2016

Staff:

Lisa Bower, CEDT
Bill Morrison, FLM
Teresa Shelton, PT
Tracy Neidig, PT

County Committee:

David Slover, Chairperson
Kirk Tolman, Vice-Chairperson
Julie Haun, Member
Everett Jones, Member
Arnold Pennoyer, Member

FSA County Committee Nomination Period in Washakie and Hot Springs Counties Now Open

The nomination period for the Washakie-Hot Springs FSA county committee began on June 15, 2016. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016.

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

This year, nominations and elections for Washakie County will be held in LAA 3, which includes everything in the Nowood River drainage.

Additionally, nominations and elections for Hot Springs County will be held in LAA 4, which includes everything west of the Big Horn River that does not get irrigation water from the river.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections is available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. The Washakie-Hot Springs County committee consists of five members.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7. Ballots are due back in the Washakie-Hot Springs County Office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 5, 2016. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2017.

For more information about county committees, please contact the Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA office at 307-347-2456 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Crop Report Deadline July 15th – ARC/PLC Deadline August 1st

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

Portable Equipment Can Help Producers, including Small-Scale and Local Farmers, Get Products to Market Quickly

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>.

Filing a Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a *Notice of Loss* is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Loan Servicing

There are options for Farm Service Agency loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you.

Washakie, Hot Springs and Big Horn Counties are Eligible for Emergency Loans

Washakie and Big Horn Counties were declared primary disaster areas, plus Hot Springs County was declared contiguous to a disaster due to drought and heat using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Online Hay and Grazing Acres Locator Tool

FSA's **Hay Net** website www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet is the "go to" online resource for agricultural producers to list information concerning the need for hay and grazing acres or the availability of hay and grazing acres. If, due to extenuating circumstances, producers are in need of hay and/or grazing acres to support livestock, please use **Hay Net** to post an advertisement seeking these resources. Likewise, landowners who have hay and/or grazing acres available for livestock producers should post a Hay Net advertisement as well.

A few things to remember when using the **Hay Net** website:

- There is a one-time registration process that should be completed by all users who want to post an ad online.
- Users who just want to browse ads DO NOT NEED to have an eAuthentication user id.
- Hay and grazing acre ads will be automatically removed after a period of 13 months.
- Please help your fellow farmer and rancher by keeping ads current and up to date and remove ads you no longer need or want advertised on **Hay Net**. Please, no corporate advertisements on this site.

Hay Net is brought to you by FSA as a public service. The sole purpose of this online resource is to provide a site for the exchange of information. FSA does not endorse, guarantee, or otherwise make representations of any kind regarding any user of this site and FSA is not responsible for defining the terms of grazing agreements or lease contracts.

For more information about **Hay Net** and other FSA services and programs, please contact your local FSA office. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: offices.usda.gov.

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office
 208 Shiloh RD
 Worland, WY 82401



PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Farm Service Agency
 PERMIT # G-96

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:	
Independence Day	Office closed July 4 th , 2016
Last day to submit crop reports	July 15 th , 2016
Last day to enroll FOR ARC/PLC (Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage)	August 1 st , 2016
Last day to nominate County Committee member in LAA 3 & LAA4	August 1 st , 2016
Notice of Loss for LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program) Notice of Loss for ELAP (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program)	30 days from the date the loss of livestock became apparent
Apply for a Farm Storage Facility Loan or Apply for a Farm Loan	Anytime
Office Hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you in a timely manner.	Selected Interest Rates for June 2016: Farm Operating Loan – Direct - 2.25% Farm Ownership Loan – Direct - 3.50% Farm Ownership – Joint Financing – 2.50% Farm Storage Facility Loans for June 2016: Grain Bins – 7 year term - 1.625%

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