

June 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Big Horn County FSA Updates

Big Horn County FSA Office

408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426
Phone: 307-765-2689
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County Executive Director:

Brenda Miller

Farm Loan:

Bill Morrison- Worland
Tom Schambow- Powell

Program Technician:

Connie Werbelow

County Committee:

Michael Rasmussen- Chairman
Spencer Ellis- Vice-Chairman
Martin Mercer- Member

Next County Committee

Meeting: August 8 1:30PM

Big Horn County News

Greetings from Big Horn County FSA. Spring has come and gone, and summer is here. It's time for you to report your plantings to our office. The crop reporting deadline is **July 16, 2018** and sign up deadline for the Agricultural Risk Protection and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) program is **August 1, 2018**. To better serve our producers office staff will be conducting office days in Lovell at the NRCS/Conservation District office on Tuesdays and Thursday by appointment only. If you are wishing to complete your reporting in Lovell please contact our office at (307)765-2689 Ext 2 to set up an appointment.

It is also that time of year again to start thinking about serving on our county committee. This year's election will be in Local Administrative Area 3 (LAA-3), currently held by Martin Mercer. This LAA covers the ground east of the Big Horn River excluding the ground from Manderson south to the Washakie County line. This includes the communities of Hyattville and Shell. If you are interested in serving a three-year term on our county committee and having a say in program implementation nominations, form FSA-669A, will be accepted from June 15-August 1 and are available online or at the county office.

If you are wanting to keep informed of upcoming program deadline in a quick and easy way, check out the article in this newsletter about the text alerts. There will be no more than 2 text messages sent out per month and it's easy to enroll. This is a quick and easy way to keep up with program deadline and never miss out on important programs.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer. Please call our office with any questions or concerns about any of your program needs, we are here to serve your agriculture needs.

USDA Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2018

Farmers and ranchers with base acres in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net program may enroll for the 2018 crop year. The enrollment period will end on Aug. 1, 2018.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

The producers on a farm that are not enrolled for the 2018 enrollment period will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2018 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in previous years must still enroll during the 2018 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Big Horn County Producers

Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Reminders and Updates

Big Horn County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Brenda Miller announced that farmers and ranchers in Wyoming now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.

Producers can text WYBIGHORN to FSNOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from Big Horn County. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Please contact your local FSA office at (307)765-2689 Ext 2 if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the new text message option.

USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators

Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans,

helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

More information about the available types of FSA farm loans can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or by contacting your local FSA office.

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.

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).