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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Big Horn County FSA Updates

Big Horn County FSA Office
408 Greybull Ave.
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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: December 5, 1:30PM

CED Notes

Fall is in the air and harvest is in full swing. I hope this finds everyone having a safe and fruitful harvest.

Our office is now accepting applications for the new Market Facilitation Program for wheat, corn and pigs for Big Horn County. Once you have your crops harvested stop by our office with your production evidence such as sales worksheets or weight tickets and we will help you complete your application for payments. If you store your crops we can provide a measurement service to get your total production. Pig inventory as of August 1, 2018 is required for the pig production.

We also offer Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) for barley, oats, wheat, and corn if you will be storing them prior to sale or feeding. These loans are 9-month loans that can be utilized to help your cash flow during times of storage. If you are interested in a MAL call or stop by our office for further details and current interest rates.

It's election time in Local Administrative Area 3 (LAA-3) in Big Horn County. This area covers all ground east of the Big Horn River South of Sheep Mountain excluding ground south of Manderson to the Washakie County line. This includes the communities of Shell and Hyattville. Martin Mercer is up for re-election this year and ballots will be mailed to all producers within this LAA on November 5, 2018. They need to be returned to our office by December 3, 2018. Please take time to vote and support our county committee.

Good luck to everyone this fall with harvest, shipping and all your fall work. Enjoy your fall while it lasts.

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2018 Farm Service Agency County Committee elections will begin on Nov. 5, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is Dec. 3, 2018.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

Eligible voters in local administrative area (LAA-3), who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center. Dec. 3, 2018, is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers. Ballots returned by mail must also be postmarked no later than Dec. 3. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2019.

The candidate in this year's election is:

Martin D. Mercer is nominated in LAA 3, Big Horn County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Mercer resides in Hyattville and has produced Black Angus Seedstock Bulls, Coors Barley, Corn Silage, Alfalfa Hay and other feed crops his whole life.

He is an active board member of the Big Horn County FSA, the Wyoming Livestock Board and the Nowood Watershed Improvement Committee.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2018 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

USDA Market Facilitation Program

USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will administer MFP to provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, wheat, shelled almond, and fresh sweet cherry producers. An announcement about further payments will be made in the coming months, if warranted.

The sign-up period for MFP runs through Jan. 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. MFP provides payments to producers of eligible commodities who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.

For a list of initial MFP payments rates, view the [MFP Fact Sheet](#).

MFP payments are capped per person or legal entity as follows:

- A combined \$125,000 for eligible crop commodities
- A combined \$125,000 for dairy production and hogs

- A combined \$125,000 for fresh sweet cherries and almonds

Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

Expanded Hog Timeline

USDA has expanded the timeline for producers with whom the Aug. 1, 2018, date does not accurately represent the number of head of live hogs they own. Producers may now choose any date between July 15 to Aug. 15, 2018 that correctly reflects their actual operation.

MFP applications are available online at www.farmers.gov/mfp. Applications can be completed at a local FSA office or submitted electronically either by scanning, emailing, or faxing. To locate or contact your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Big Horn County is already working on operating loans for spring 2019 so it is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early, so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. The staff at the Washakie and Park County FSA office can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

Please call the Big Horn County office if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

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).