

November 2019



Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

BULLETIN

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Big Horn County FSA Updates

Big Horn County FSA Office

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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 3, 1:30PM

CED Notes

It's election time again for the Big Horn County FSA Committee. This year we only had one candidate return a nomination form for Local Administrative Area #2. Michael Rasmussen is our candidate and he, his wife and three children are residence of Burlington and have produced Dry Beans, Barley, Beets, Alfalfa Seed, Corn and Oats for 10 years. If you received a ballot, please take the time to fill it out and return it to our office even though there is only one candidate it is important to us to have them returned.

The deadline for purchasing your NAP coverage for your grazing and honey is fast approaching. **December 1** is the deadline to purchase this coverage for the 2020 growing season. If you have planted fall crops that insurance is not available for it is important to buy your coverage as soon as the crop is planted since the coverage doesn't attach for 30 days after purchase. Winter kill won't be covered if you purchase your coverage in the spring.

We here at Big Horn County FSA would like to wish all of our ag producers a very Happy Thanksgiving. May your tables be filled with family and friends for a joyous holiday.

Elections for the 2019 County Committee

Voting is now open for the USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Big Horn County Committee.

It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. The 2019 election in Big Horn County will be conducted for the representative for Local Administrative Area (LAA): # 2 which covers all land west of the Big Horn River south of Sheep Mountain including all land south of Manderson to the Washakie County line.

County committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. Committees should be comprised of members who reflect the diversity of producers involved in production agriculture in Big Horn County. This means that producers representing underserved groups or communities should be on the committee to speak on behalf of their constituency.

Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

County committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2019. The last day to return completed ballots to the Big Horn County USDA service center is Dec. 2, 2019.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Big Horn County Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadline of December 1, 2019 for biennial and perennial forage crops and honey, April 1, 2020 for all other crops.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

The following crops in Big Horn County have a NAP application deadline of December 1, 2019: biennial and perennial forage crops and honey

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator:

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, sales deadlines, contact the Big Horn County FSA office at (3007)765-2689 Ext 2 or visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Big Horn County is already working on operating loans for spring 2020 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 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans 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 Big Horn 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.

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