

December 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

*GovDelivery*

- [County Office Notes](#)
- [Big Horn County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results](#)
- [Livestock Inventory Records](#)
- [Communication is Key in Lending](#)

---

## Big Horn County FSA Updates

---

### Big Horn County FSA Office

408 Greybull Ave.  
Greybull, WY 82426  
Phone: 307-765-2689  
Fax: 855-415-3432

### 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: January 8,  
1:30PM**

### County Office Notes

Signups for ARC/PLC are ongoing. You will have an opportunity to update your yields but not your base acres. If your crops are insured, we will have the yield data to import and compare to current yields on your contracts. If you are not insured and think you are eligible to increase your base yield, you will need to provide us with your yield data. Signup for 2019 crop year continues until March 15, 2020.

We have had many of our sugar beet producers inquiring about disaster payments for their losses. At this point we do not have any specific information to share with you as legislation is still working on rules for the program and working to gain more funding to cover losses. There is no signup at this time but hopefully in the near future assistance will become available for crop losses due to the fall weather.

With the coming of the new year, new livestock babies will be hitting the ground. Be sure to keep accurate records of births and losses. The Livestock Indemnity Program is available to help for losses due to extreme weather events, but it is up to you, the producer, to provide all necessary documentation to the county office including inventory numbers and evidence of weather events that caused the loss.

The USDA Service Center will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. We will resume normal business hours on Thursday, Dec. 26. Additionally, the USDA Service

Center will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020, in observance of New Year's Day.

The USDA staff wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday.

---

## Big Horn County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

Big Horn County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that County Committee elections are over, and the ballots have been counted.

Michael Rasmussen of Burlington was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) #2 Gordon Preis of Emblem will serve as the first alternate.

County committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2020 and will be joining the existing committee. Every FSA office is required to have a county committee, and they are made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters who are elected by local producers.

Nearly 7,800 FSA county committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters, about FSA opportunities.

For more information, visit the FSA website at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) or contact the Big Horn County FSA office at 307-765-2689.

---

## Livestock Inventory Records

Producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or

feed losses, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts. Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock  
Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office.

---

## Communication is Key in Lending

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing our farm loan borrowers the tools necessary to be a success. A part of ensuring this success is providing guidance and counsel from the loan application process through the borrower's graduation to commercial lending institutions. While it is FSA's commitment to advise borrowers as they identify goals and evaluate progress, it is crucial for borrowers to communicate with their farm loan staff when changes occur. It is the borrower's responsibility to alert FSA to any of the following:

Any proposed or significant changes in the farming operation;  
Any significant changes to family income or expenses;  
The development of problem situations;  
Any losses or proposed significant changes in security

In addition, if a farm loan borrower cannot make payments to suppliers, other creditors, or FSA on time, contact your farm loan staff immediately to discuss loan servicing options. For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

---

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).