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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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- [CED Comments](#)
- [FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections](#)
- [Washakie and Hot Springs County Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines](#)
- [Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Loans](#)

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office

208 Shiloh RD
Worland, WY 82401

Phone: 307-347-2456
Fax: 855-415-3445

County Executive Director:

Lisa Bower

Farm Loan Manager:

Bill Morrison
Tracy Neidig, FLOT

Program Technicians:

Teresa Shelton
Kelli Lockard

County Committee:

Julie Haun, Chairperson
Kirk Tolman, Vice Chairperson
Jim Butterfield, Member

CED Comments

Greetings Hot Springs and Washakie County Producers:

Remember that signup is ongoing for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), which is a program that assists farmers who continue to suffer from damages caused by unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6, 2019.

Please note the following critical date deadlines:

12/1/19 - 2020 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

***the fee is now \$325**

12/2/19 - Date ballots must be postmarked or submitted to the office for LAA #3 & LAA #4

12/5/19 - Ballots will be counted at the Worland Service Center at 1:30 p.m.

12/6/19 - 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP)

1/15/20 - Acreage reporting for established stand alfalfa seed and fall alfalfa seed

3/15/20 - 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program

6/30/20 - 2020 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program

Everett Jones, Member
Arnold Pennoyer, Member

If you have any questions, please give this office a call at 307-347-2456 ext. 2.

Next County Committee Meeting: December 5, 2019
at 1:00 PM

Have wonderful Thanksgiving holiday,

Lisa Bower
County Executive Director

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2019 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on Nov. 4, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 2, 2019.

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 areas LAA3 or LAA4, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2020.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Kirk Tolman is nominated in LAA 3, Washakie County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Mr. Tolman resides in the Worland/Ten Sleep areas and has produced cattle for 41 years.

Mr. Tolman is an active member of the Predator Board and the Worland District Grazing Board. He serves as a member on both boards.

Arnold Pennoyer is nominated in LAA 4, Hot Springs County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Mr. Pennoyer resides in the Owl Creek area and has produced hay and cattle for 50 plus years.

Mr. Pennoyer is vice-president of the Hot Springs County Fair Board, and Chairman of the Hot Springs County Weed and Pest.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2019 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Washakie and Hot Springs 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 2nd, 2019.

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 Washakie and Hot Springs County have a NAP application deadline of December 2, 2019:

- Perennial Forage, such as mixed forage grasses and native grazing

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 Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA office at 307-347-2456 ext. 2 or visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Loans

Higher limits are now available for borrowers interested in USDA's farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans.

Key changes include:

- The Direct Operating Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from \$ 1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Operating loans help producers

pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more.

- The Direct Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Farm ownership loans help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.
- Producers can now receive both a \$50,000 Farm Ownership Microloan and a \$50,000 Operating Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a combined \$50,000. Microloans provide flexible access to credit for small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations.
- Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
- Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.

About Farm Loans

Direct farm loans, which include microloans and emergency loans, are financed and serviced by FSA, while guaranteed farm loans are financed and serviced by commercial lenders. For guaranteed loans, FSA provides a guarantee against possible financial loss of principal and interest.

For more information on FSA farm loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your [local USDA service center](#).

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Lisa Bower](#) at 307-347-2456 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).