



NEWSLETTER



April 2020

Big Horn County FSA

408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426
Phone: 307-765-2689
Fax: 855-451-3432
Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

County Executive Director:

Brenda Miller

Program Technician:

Connie Werbelow

Farm Loan:

Bill Morrison- Worland
Tom Schambow- Powell

County Committee:

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

Next Committee Meeting:

June 9, 2020 1:30PM

Message From Big Horn County FSA

Happy April Big Horn County!! The weather is getting warmer and the birds are chirping. I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and staying safe. I would like to inform you that our office is staffed at this time and taking telephone appointments and assisting customers either by phone, email or fax. Please don't hesitate to call or email us with any assistance you are needing during this time.

It's planting time and I would like to remind everyone to keep track of your plant dates for both us and your crop insurance, remember it is very important that both agencies get the same data. Once all crops are planted call us or hopefully by that time stop by our office and we will complete your annual acreage report.

We are accepting signups for the CRP(Grassland) and WHIP+ programs. If your losses to 2019 crops were a result of the fall weather last year that affected the quality of your crop we are still waiting for the rules and regulations to be published. Please hold off on your signup for these types of losses. You can call our office and we will add your name to our list of quality losses to contact once the rules are published.

We have enclosed a 2020 Customer Calendar to this newsletter that will outline signup deadlines, important information on disaster programs, and other important dates and contact information for our office. We hope you find this helpful for your operation.

As always, we are here at the Big Horn county FSA office to serve your agricultural needs and assist you as needed. During this trying time please call our office at 765-2689 Ext 2 for assistance. Stay healthy and safe!!

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA office, visit offices.usda.gov.

Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file they need to be reported to our office. Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

If you have any updates or corrections, please call your local FSA office to update your records.

USDA Opened Signup for Added Causes of Loss Under WHIP+ and Announced Disaster Assistance for Sugar Beet Producers

USDA announced additional disaster assistance available to agricultural producers, including producers impacted by drought and excess moisture as well as sugar beet growers. Through WHIP+, USDA is helping producers recover from losses related to 2018 and 2019 natural disasters.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) opened signup on March 23 for producers to apply for eligible losses of drought (D3 or above) and excess moisture. USDA is also entering into agreements with six sugar beet processing cooperatives to distribute \$285 million to grower members of those cooperatives who experienced loss.

In June 2019, more than \$3 billion was made available through a disaster relief package passed by Congress and signed by President Trump. In December 2019, Congress passed, and President Trump signed the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 that provides an additional \$1.5 billion for the continuation of disaster assistance program delivery.

WHIP+ New Qualifying Disaster Events

The bill added excessive moisture and D3 and D4 drought as qualifying losses for WHIP+ assistance.

Producers who suffered either of these types of loss in 2018 and/or 2019 can apply for WHIP+ assistance at their local FSA office. For drought, a producer is eligible if any area of the county in which the loss occurred was rated D3 (Extreme Drought) or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor during calendar years 2018 or 2019.

WHIP+ Sugar Beet Loss Assistance

As also directed in the bill, USDA will provide \$285 million through sugar beet processing cooperatives to compensate grower members for sugar beet crop losses in 2018 and 2019. Details will be finalized in agreements between USDA and participating sugar beet processing cooperatives. Sugar beet producers who are members of these cooperatives and experienced losses may contact their cooperative for more information about how this sugar beet crop assistance will be administered.

WHIP+ for Quality Loss

In addition, producers have reported widespread crop quality loss from eligible disaster events that results in price deductions or penalties when marketing the damaged crops. The Appropriations bill expands WHIP+ to include assistance for crop quality loss. FSA is gathering data and input from producers and stakeholders regarding the extent and types of quality loss nationwide.

Eligibility

To be eligible for WHIP+, producers must have suffered losses of certain crops, trees, bushes, or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only) for the following named natural disaster events; hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms, wildfires, and now excessive moisture that occurred in 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if the producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.

For drought, counties having a D3 or D4 Drought Monitor classification in any portion of the county anytime during calendar year 2018 or 2019 will also be eligible.

A list of counties that received qualifying hurricane declarations and designations is available at farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus. The U.S. Drought Monitor is available at <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>.

Because livestock losses are covered by other disaster recovery programs offered through FSA, these losses are not eligible for WHIP+.



2020 Customer Calendar

Farm Service Agency

Farm Programs

- Agricultural Risk & Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC)
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)
- Commodity Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP)

Farm Loans—No Application Deadlines

- Beginning Farmer & Rancher Loans

LIP:

- Within 30 days of noticing Livestock loss or injury – Submit Notice of Loss
- Within 60 days after the end the year in which loss or injury occurred— Submit Application for Payment

ELAP:

- Within 30 days of livestock feed or pasture losses/issues due to extreme weather – Submit Notice of Loss
- Within 60 days after the end the year in which loss occurred— Submit Application for Payment

MAL/LDP Availability (from harvest to the below deadline):

- January 31 - Wool, Mohair and LDP only for Unshorn Pelts
- March 31 - Barley, Canola, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rape seed, Sesame seed and Wheat
- May 31 - Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower, Small chickpeas, Large chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed

Farm Program Deadlines - (dates below are subject to change) *Contact your local office for more information or to make an appointment.*

Acreege Reports:

- July 15 – Barley, beets, beans, corn, and other spring-planted feed grains, CRP, Hemp, and other crops
- November 15 – Apiculture (bees), fall -seeded small grains

CRP General Signup: December 9 through February 28

Continuous CRP Signup: August 21

CRP Grasslands: March 16 to May 15

ARC/PLC:

- June 30 – Election and enrollment end for crop year 2020

Big Horn County Farm Service Agency

408 Greybull Ave

Greybull WY 82426 PH: 307-765-2689 Ex 2

Days USDA Offices Are Closed

- Jan. 1** - New Year's Day Holiday
- Jan. 20** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Feb. 17** - President's Birthday
- May 25** - Memorial Day
- July 4** - Independence Day
- Sept. 7** - Labor Day
- Oct. 12** - Columbus Day
- Nov. 11** - Veterans Day
- Nov. 26** - Thanksgiving Day

Questions?

Contact your local FSA office.

A directory of USDA Service Centers can be found online at offices.usda.gov

GovDelivery Email & SMS Text Updates

Contact your local FSA office ask how you can receive important FSA updates and reminders by email and SMS text subscriptions.

Have you moved?

Changed bank accounts?

Contact your local FSA to update your records.

Stay Connected with USDA:

**USDA Farm Service Agency
Big Horn County FSA Office
408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426**

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Enrollment for 2020

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages agricultural producers to enroll now in the Agriculture Risk Loss (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. The deadline to enroll for the 2020 crop year is June 30, 2020. By enrolling soon, producers can beat the rush as the deadline nears.

FSA offices have multiple programs competing for the time and attention of our staff. Because of the importance and complexities of the ARC and PLC programs; and to ensure FSA meets your program delivery expectations, please do not wait to start the enrollment process. Contact your FSA county office and make an appointment soon to ensure your elections are made and contracts signed well ahead of the deadline.

ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms.

The programs cover the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields that take effect beginning with crop year 2020. If the owner accompanies the producer to the office, the yield update and enrollments may be completed during the same office visit.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC, download our [program fact sheet](#) or our [2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet](#). Online ARC and PLC election decision tools are available at fsa.usda.gov/arc/plc. To enroll, contact your [FSA county office](#) for an appointment.

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).