

June 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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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: August 11, 1:30PM

County Office Notes

The Big Horn County office has reached Stage 2 in the reopening protocol which allows us to let one producer into our locked office at a time. We disinfect between each visitor for your safety. With this being said, I happy to announce that we will be having office days in Lovell on Wednesday and Thursday while appointments last until acreage reporting is completed. If you have not scheduled your Lovell office day, please contact us to get that set up. Appointments will be required since we need to bring your files with us. The acreage reporting deadline of **July 15** is fast approaching so please stop by or call our office to get these completed.

We are still accepting signups for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). If you own livestock or raised corn, oats, hard red spring wheat, or sunflowers in 2019 call our office for more information. There are defined dates for the livestock sales and inventory, and crops needed to be still in storage as of January 15. This program deadline is August 23, but the sooner you get information to our office the sooner we can get program benefits out to you.

With the current lack of moisture, it is important for producers who have bought the Non-Insurable Assistant Program (NAP) coverage for their grazing to let our office know what your grazing situation looks like. If you feel you have a loss on your grazing land, please contact our office to complete a Notice of Loss. These will be required this year before the end of the grazing period which is October 15.

We are proud to serve your agriculture needs. Give us a call or stop by our office with your questions about our program.

Big Horn County USDA Service Center Open for In-Office Visitors by Appointment

The Big Horn County USDA Service Center has reopened to visitors to conduct business in person in the office by appointment only. Visitors will be pre-screened based on health concerns or recent travel and must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Face coverings are encouraged but not required for in-office appointments.

Visitors must call ahead and schedule an appointment.

Farm Service Agency: (307)765-2689 extension 2.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: (307) 765-2483 extension 3.

South Big Horn Conservation District: (307)765-2483 extension 4.

Employees may also be contacted by email at the following email address:

Brenda.miller@usda.gov

Connie.werbelow@usda.gov

Monte.bush@usda.gov

Curtis.johnson@usda.gov

Hannah.stinson@usda.gov

Chad.foster@usda.gov

Sbhcd1@gmail.com -for Ashley Henderson

Our program delivery staff will also continue to work with producers by phone and using online tools for those who do not feel comfortable coming to the Service Center in person.

Online services are still available to customers, including our [new Box and OneSpan functionality](#) that enable customers to sign and share FSA and NRCS documents with USDA Service Center staff in just a few clicks. Producers can get started with a simple username and password for Box or, for OneSpan, a quick identity verification. Additional services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the [farmers.gov](#) portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Through the [FSA website](#), customers can access certain FSA programs and view FSA data, including maps, on [FSAfarm+](#). Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at [farmers.gov/sign-in](#).

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center status visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](#).

USDA Reminds Producers to Complete Crop Acreage Reports

The Big Horn County office for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently open to phone and virtual appointments only but can still work with producers on timely filing crop acreage reports. FSA staff can provide assistance over the phone, by email and through virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Big Horn County:

July 15, 2020

All crops

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers must file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline. FSA staff is still able to assist producers in completing acreage reports, including providing maps.

The Big Horn County FSA office will provide maps to producers through mail or email with instructions for completing the maps. After planting is complete, producers should return completed maps and the acreage reporting sheet by mail or email by July 15, 2020.

After completed maps and all acreage reporting information is received, FSA will make software updates and mail, email producers the completed *Report of Acreage* form (FSA-578) to sign. Producers must return the signed form certifying their acreage report to the FSA office through mail, email by July 15.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

If you have applied for organic certification and do not receive it before the acreage reporting deadline, you may provide the necessary documentation to FSA immediately upon receipt from the certifying agent.

For questions, please contact FSA's Big Horn County office at (307)765-2689 Ext 2.

FSA Implements Set-Aside Loan Provision for Customers Impacted by COVID-19

Set-Aside Delays Loan Payments for Borrowers

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will broaden the use of the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) loan provision, normally used in the wake of natural disasters, to allow farmers with USDA farm loans who are affected by COVID-19, and are determined eligible, to have their next payment set aside. In some cases, FSA may also set aside a second payment for farmers who have already had one payment set aside because of a prior designated disaster.

SA direct loan borrowers will receive a letter with the details of the expanded Disaster Set-Aside authorities, which includes the possible set-aside of annual operating loans, as well as explanations of the additional loan

servicing options that are available. To discuss or request a loan payment Set-Aside, borrowers should call or email the farm loan staff at their local FSA county office.

The set-aside payment's due date is moved to the final maturity date of the loan or extended up to twelve months in the case of an annual operating loan. Any principal set-aside will continue to accrue interest until it is repaid. This aims to improve the borrower's cashflow in the current production cycle.

FSA previously announced it was relaxing the loan-making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need. Direct loan applicants and borrowers are encouraged to contact their local FSA county office to discuss loan making and servicing flexibilities and other needs or concerns. Customers participating in FSA's guaranteed loan programs are encouraged to contact their lender. Information on these flexibilities, and office contact information, can be found on farmers.gov/coronavirus.

FSA will be accepting most forms and applications by facsimile or electronic signature. Some services are also available online to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and certain program applications and payments. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Brenda Miller at 307-56-2689 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).