



NEWSLETTER



October 2020

Big Horn County FSA

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

December 8, 2020 1:30PM

Message From Big Horn County FSA

Harvest is in full swing and so is program signup at the Big Horn County FSA office. We currently have multiple program signups going on right now. We are taking signups for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2.0 (CFAP 2.0), Livestock Forage Assistance Program (LFP), 2021 Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), and 2021 Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP) for perennial forage crops and honey.

Applications for the CFAP2.0 will be accepted until December 11, 2020. This program is providing assistance for Price Trigger Commodities which include: Barley, Corn, Sorghum, Sunflowers, and wheat; Flat-rate Crops: Alfalfa, Hemp, Millet, Mustard, Oats, Sugar Beets, Teff and Triticale; and Sales Commodities: Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Goats, Wool and Mohair. The livestock included is all non-breeding cattle, sheep and hogs in inventory between April 16 and August 31, 2020, for the Sales Commodities are calendar year 2019 sales, Flat-rate crops and Price Trigger commodities pull acres from your 2020 acreage report to calculate your payments. For more information see the article below or visit Farmers.gov/CFAP.

Our county is eligible for 4 month of forage loss payments on non-irrigated and federal/state grazing through the Livestock Forage Program. If you have not completed your signup for this program call or stop by our office to complete your application. Signup deadline for the LFP is January 30, 2021.

It's that time of year again to signup for the 2021 ARC/PLC program. This year you can decide to either keep you contract as it has been for the past two years or you can change it between the ARC-CO and PLC. For further information on this option call us or stop by our office. Signup deadline for the 2021 ARC/PLC is March 15, 2021.

With the drought situation in our county I encourage all producers with non-irrigated and federal/state grazing to purchase the NAP coverage. This coverage will cover all your grazing in Big Horn County for the low price of \$325/crop. This coverage will issue a

payment if our independent assessments of our grazing come in below 50% of normal. It is a really good way to have a safety net for your grazing acreage. The NAP will also cover honey producers in the county for the same fee. The deadline for perennial crops and honey is December 1, 2020.

Our office also provides the Market Assistance Loans for Barley, Oats, Wheat and Corn. These loans are now a 12-month loan and the October interest rate is 1.125%. These loans are a good financial and marketing tool. If you are interested, please call and discuss the process with us.

Please take time to read the following article for further information on our programs and to get more information about the program. Please call our office or stop by to complete your signup prior to the deadlines. We are here to serve your agricultural needs! Have a wonderful fall and a bountiful harvest.

USDA to Provide Additional Direct Assistance to Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by the Coronavirus

USDA announced up to an additional \$14 billion for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) will begin September 21 and run through December 11, 2020.

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Background:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use funds being made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and CARES Act to support row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based from stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers.

Producers can apply for CFAP 2 at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. This program provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers will be compensated for ongoing market disruptions and assisted with the associated marketing costs.

CFAP 2 payments will be made for 3 categories of commodities – Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops and Sales Commodities.

Price Trigger Commodities

Price trigger commodities are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline over a specified period of time. Eligible price trigger crops include barley, corn, sorghum, sunflowers, and all classes of wheat. Payments will be based on 2020 planted acres of the crop,. Payments for price trigger crops will be the greater of: 1) the eligible acres multiplied by a payment rate of \$15 per acre; or 2) the eligible acres multiplied by a nationwide crop marketing percentage, multiplied by a crop-specific payment rate, and then by the producer's weighted 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield. If the APH is not available, 85 percent of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield for that crop will be used.

Eligible beef cattle, hogs and pigs, and lambs and sheep payments will be based on the maximum owned inventory of eligible livestock, excluding breeding stock, on a date selected by the producer, between Apr. 16, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020.

Flat-rate Crops

Crops that either do not meet the 5-percent price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre. These crops include alfalfa, oats, hemp, triticale, and several others.

Sales Commodities

Sales commodities include specialty crops; aquaculture; nursery crops and floriculture; other commodities not included in the price trigger and flat-rate categories, including mohair; wool; and other livestock (excluding breeding stock) not included under the price trigger category that were grown for food, fiber, fur, or feathers. Payment calculations will use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales.

Additional commodities are eligible in CFAP 2 that weren't eligible in the first iteration of the program. If your agricultural operation has been impacted by the pandemic since April 2020, we encourage you to apply for CFAP 2. A complete list of eligible commodities, payment rates and calculations can be found on farmers.gov/cfap.

Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits when members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. In addition, this special payment limitation provision has been expanded to include trusts and estates for both CFAP 1 and 2.

Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply for assistance beginning Sept. 21, 2020. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 11, 2020.

Additional information and application forms can be found at farmers.gov/cfap. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap/apply. For existing FSA customers, including those who participated in CFAP 1, many documents are likely already on file. Producers should check with FSA county office to see if any of the forms need to be updated.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in the office, by phone and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2020 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will on Nov. 2, 2020, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 7, 2020.

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 area (LAA-1), who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2021.

Spencer Ellis is nominated in LAA -1, Big Horn County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Mr. Ellis resides in Lovell and has produced cattle, corn, barley, oats, and hay as a third-generation farmer/rancher for the past thirty plus years.

Mr. Ellis is an active member of the Sidon Drainage, Shoshone Conservation District board, Big Horn Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), the Shoshone Stockgrowers Association, and the Federation of State Beef Councils, and serves as Vice-Chairman of the Big Horn County FSA County Committee. Mr. Ellis is a past member of the Deaver Irrigation Board, Cattlemen's Beef Board, Wyoming Beef Council, and Wyoming Department of Agriculture Board.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2020 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Big Horn County is Eligible for Emergency Loans

Big Horn County was declared a primary disaster due to drought and heat using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, contact your Big Horn County USDA Service Center at (307)765-2689 Ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

FSA Outlines MAL and LDP Policy

Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, wool, and honey. MALs provide you with interim financing after harvest to help you meet cash flow needs without having to sell your commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2020 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, contact Big Horn County USDA Service Center at (307)765-2689 Ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

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

Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Sales Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages you 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, 2020

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.

The following crops in Big Horn County have a NAP application deadline of December 1, 2020: Biennial and perennial forage crops and honey.

You can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by [visiting the RMA website](#).

NAP offers 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.

Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

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](#). You can use the [USDA Cost Estimator](#) to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, sales deadlines, contact your Big Horn County USDA Service Center at (307)765-2689 Ext 2 or visit 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).