

July 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

**GovDelivery**

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [CED COMMENTS](#)
- [Document the Drought: USDA U.S. Drought Monitor Offers Producers a Voice to Report Drought Impacts](#)
- [Nominations Open for the 2020 County Committee Elections](#)
- [USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers](#)

---

## Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

---

### Washakie-Hot Springs County Farm Service Agency

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

### CED COMMENTS

Greetings:

I have heard from many of you regarding your concerns over the drought conditions. Please report any drought conditions on this website: [droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/](http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/). That website gives producer's a voice to let the drought monitor folks know what is occurring in their area. Please utilize this opportunity to get the word out regarding what you are experiencing on your ranch or farm.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) is still open and this office is taking applications until 8/28/2020.

Best wishes,

Lisa Bower

Kelli Emmett

County Executive Director

**County Committee:**

Julie Haun, Chairperson  
Kirk Tolman, Vice  
Chairperson  
Jim Butterfield, Member  
Everett Jones, Member  
Arnold Pennoyer, Member

**Next County Committee  
Meeting: TBD**

---

## Document the Drought: USDA U.S. Drought Monitor Offers Producers a Voice to Report Drought Impacts

*The U.S. Drought Monitor's reporting feature offers producers an opportunity to submit drought impact and condition reports.*

The USDA, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, produced the U.S. Drought Monitor to include a reporting feature that allows producers to report local drought impacts and conditions.

The report allows producers to:

- Provide a written description of drought impacts on livelihood, activities, etc.;
- Select categories to show losses and gains as a result of the drought;
- Report on the duration of drought event;
- Select *Affected Places* – geographic areas ranging from an entire state to a small area within a state;
- Submit images that document the drought and its impact;
- Provide contact information (includes an option to keep information confidential).

The reporting tool for producers to record the effects of the drought can be accessed at the following link: [droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/](http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/)

More information including state specific drought impact maps can be found on the U. S. Drought Monitor homepage: [droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx)

---

## Nominations Open for the 2020 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Washakie-Hot Springs County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of 3 to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year.

The area up for election this year is LAA #2 in Washakie County, which is everything east of the Big Horn River, not including Ten Sleep and is currently held by Julie Haun. For more specific information regarding the boundaries of LAA #2, or to determine your LAA, please contact the office.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2020. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

---

## USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit [fsa.usda.gov/microloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/microloans).

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/farmloans).

---

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