



- [From Brenda's Desk](#)
- [Nominations Open for the 2022 County Committee Elections](#)
- [FSA Outlines MAL and LDP Policy](#)
- [Applying for Youth Loans](#)
- [New Technology Helps Ranchers Maximize Grass Production](#)
- [Native Plants Provide Abundant Benefits for Farms, Yards](#)

From Brenda's Desk

Crop reporting is behind us, harvest is getting ready to gear up. There have been some big changes at the Big Horn County FSA, Mikayla Zimmerman was hired as the Program Technician July 3, and I would like to welcome her to the team with this little bio write-up:



Hi, my name is Mikayla Zimmerman, I am so excited to be joining the team at the FSA office. I grew up on a small farm in Hillsdale, WY and was active in 4H and FFA showing swine and goats. I graduated from Laramie County Community College with an associates in Agribusiness and continued my education at the University of Wyoming where I graduated with a Bachelor's in Agricultural Communications with a minor in Public Relations. I look forward to working with all of you and learning more about Big Horn County.

If you haven't met Mikayla stop by our office and say Hi. She is a great addition to our FSA Team.

It's time to be thinking about our County Committee election process. This year we will be taking nomination from Local Administrative Area – 2 (LAA-2) which covers all ground west of the Big Horn River South of Sheep Mountain including all ground south of Manderson to Washakie County line. This position is currently filled by Michael Rasmussen, and he has met his term limit so he will be unable to run again. If you live within this area and would be interested in serving on the County Committee stop by our office and complete a nomination form by August 1, 2022.

With harvest getting ready to start, I would like to remind you of the Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) option for any of your stored commodities. This is a 9-month low interest loan which allows you to meet your financial obligations now and as commodities are sold pay off this loan. If this is something that would fit into your program, please contact our office for more details.

Even though the Drought is getting better, Big Horn County is still eligible for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) for grazing losses on non-irrigated grazing. If you have not completed your application, please gather up your animal numbers and stop by the office. Call us with any questions.

Wishing everyone a good summer and upcoming harvest season. As always, we are here to serve your agricultural needs. Stop by our office and let us help you.

Nominations Open for the 2022 County Committee Elections

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

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



all

FSA

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 three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term.

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 2022 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by Aug. 1, 2022. 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.

FSA Outlines MAL and LDP Policy

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, 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. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.



FSA is now accepting requests for 2022 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.

Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, wool, and soybeans. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, you must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at your local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that if your total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000, then you're not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. You must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.

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

Applying for Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated

with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.



For help preparing the application forms, contact your Washakie/Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 x 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

New Technology Helps Ranchers Maximize Grass Production

One out of every three acres in the U.S. is rangeland. Two-thirds of these are privately owned, mainly by ranchers who graze their livestock in the open country of the American West. Our rangelands produce premium beef, wool, and dairy. But it's the plants that feed these livestock that are the foundation for profitable agriculture in the West. But ranchers haven't had a good way to measure how their grass is faring — until now.

The Rangeland Analysis Platform (RAP), developed in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the University of Montana, allows producers to track changes in the amount and types of plants growing on their property.

RAP is a free online resource that provides data on vegetation trends across the West from the mid-1980s to the present; and it calculates how productive those plants are. A combination of long-term datasets shows landowners how their lands have changed over time, which translates directly into their operation's profitability.

Farmers in the central and eastern U.S. have been using technology to track changes in crop production for decades. As soon as they see that their plant productivity is declining — and revenues following suit — they can take steps to address the limitations and boost productivity again.

RAP provides the same power to ranchers. RAP can show ranchers the gap between their potential production and the actual production they realize in terms of pounds-per-acre of grass. It helps landowners understand how much they can potentially gain by changing management practices to boost available forage and close the gap.

Landowners can see how their plant production has changed in a single month or over the span of several years. The technology can be used to visualize plant productivity in an area as small as a baseball diamond or as large as several states. New technology like RAP helps us “help the land” in order to sustain wildlife, provide food and fiber, and support agricultural families long into the future.

Native Plants Provide Abundant Benefits for Farms, Yards

When it comes to sprucing up the farm or yard, native plants are a great option. These plants are indigenous to a particular area and provide advantages when used in the right place. Native plants are typically low maintenance and resistant to pests if planted in a place similar to their natural surroundings.

Many farmers recognize the benefits of native plants and are incorporating them into working lands, a practice commonly called “farmscaping.” Farmers incorporate natives into field borders, hedgerows and buffer strips – all conservation activities that help agricultural production and the environment. On farms, native trees, shrubs and plants help:

- Reduce the need for pesticides because native plants attract beneficial insects and birds that eat agricultural pests and also help pollinate
- Protect farmsteads, crops and livestock from wind and dust
- Keep soil in place, enabling it to become healthier and not wash into and pollute waterways;
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Increase the beauty of the farm landscape

For more information, contact your Big Horn County USDA Service Center at (307) 765-2483 or visit nrca.usda.gov



USDA Service Center

408 Greybull Ave
Greybull WY 82426

Phone: (307)765-2689
Fax: 855-415-3432

Farm Service Agency

Brenda Miller
County Executive Director
(307)765-2689 Ext2 brenda.miller@usda.gov

Mikayla Zimmerman
Program Technician
Mikayla.zimmerman@usda.gov

COC Members:

Michael Rasmussen, Chairman
Spencer Ellis, Vice Chairman
Martin Mercer, Regular Member

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Laura Galloway
District Conservationist
(307)765-2483 Ext 3
Laura.galloway@usda.gov

Curtis Johnson
Rangeland Management Specialist
Curtis.johnson2@usda.gov

Hannah Stinson
Rangeland Management Specialist
hannah.stinson@usda.gov

South Big Horn Conservation District

Ashley Coenen
District Manager

(307)765-2483 Ext 4
sbhcd1@gmail.com