- **From Lisa's Desk**
- **Maintaining ARC/PLC Acreage**
- **Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security**
- **Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers**
- **New Technology Helps Ranchers Maximize Grass Production**
- **Input Sought at Community Natural Resource Conservation Meetings**

### From Lisa's Desk

Greetings:

Please note the following:

**ARC/PLC**: 2022 ARCPLC enrollment ends on **3/15/2022**.

**ARC/PLC**: The deadline for changing the ARCPLC election from ARC to PLC to ARC IC is **3/15/2022**.

**LIP**: If you experience livestock losses due to adverse weather, please remember the Livestock Indemnity Program. This program requires a lot of documentation, which means noting the weather conditions, for instance what happened to the calves, lambs, cows or ewes, did they freeze, can you document the freeze, pictures, etc. You need to call the office to notify us of the losses within 30 days or when the loss becomes apparent, but if you are checking your livestock…., most times you are going to be aware of the losses sooner rather than later.

**ELAP**: If you are hauling water for livestock – give the office a call within 30 days to begin a notice of loss.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office at 307-347-2456 ext. 2.

Best wishes,

Lisa Bower
CED

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### Maintaining ARC/PLC Acreage

If you’re enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. By signing ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts, you agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If you fail to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on your farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate your contract for the program year.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by **March 1, 2021**.

For more information, contact the Washakie-Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).
Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Leases of any kind
- Easements of any kind
- Subordinations
- Partial releases
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read Your FSA Farm Loan Compass.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Washakie/Hot Springs County is already working on operating loans for spring 2022 and asks potential borrowers to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional farm operating and farm ownership loans can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to $50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new operation, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to $500,000 per loan.

Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented pre-authorized debit (PAD) for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers. PAD is a voluntary and alternative method for making weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments on loans.

PAD payments are pre-authorized transactions that allow the National Financial and Accounting Operations Center (NFAOC) to electronically collect loan payments from a customer’s account at a financial institution.
PAD may be useful if you use nonfarm income from regular wages or salary to make payments on loans or adjustment offers or for payments from seasonal produce stands. PAD can only be established for future payments.

To request PAD, customers, along with their financial institution, must fill out form RD 3550-28. This form has no expiration date, but a separate form RD 3550-28 must be completed for each loan to which payments are to be applied. A fillable form can be accessed on the USDA Rural Development (RD) website at rd.usda.gov/publications/regulations-guidelines. Click forms and search for “Form 3550-28.”

If you have a “filter” on the account at your financial institution, you will need to provide the financial institution with the following information: Origination ID: 1220040804, Agency Name: USDA RD DCFO.

PAD is offered by FSA at no cost. Check with your financial institution to discuss any potential cost. Preauthorized debit has no expiration date, but you can cancel at any time by submitting a written request to your local FSA office. If a preauthorized debit agreement receives three payment rejections within a three-month period, the preauthorized debit agreement will be cancelled by FSA. The payment amount and due date of your loan is not affected by a cancellation of preauthorized debit. You are responsible to ensure your full payment is made by the due date.

For more information about PAD, contact your Washakie/Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 x 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

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**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.

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**Input Sought at Community Natural Resource Conservation Meetings**
The Conservation Districts in Big Horn, Park, and Washakie would like to invite the public and any agencies with an interest in conservation issues to participate in a Local Work Group meeting to be held on **Thursday, March 3rd, 2022** at the NWC complex located at 1397 Fort Drum Drive, Powell, Wyoming. The meeting will be held from 9:00AM through 12:30PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive input from a broad range of local stakeholders—individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies—that have an interest in natural resource conditions and needs in Big Horn, Park, and Washakie Counties, and to provide that information to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Farm Bill stipulates that conservation programs must continue to be locally led. Through these local meetings, the public is given an opportunity to help local conservation leaders set priorities such as helping prioritize resource concerns and priority watersheds and identify other local concerns.

If you would like to participate via go-to-meeting please use the following link or call in number!

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/688748341

**You can also dial in using your phone.**
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

**Access Code:** 688-748-341

**Join from a video-conferencing room or system.**
Dial in or type: 67.217.95.2 or inroomlink.goto.com
Meeting ID: 688 748 341
Or dial directly: 688748341@67.217.95.2 or 67.217.95.2##688748341

For More information, contact your local conservation district.

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**USDA Service Center**
FSA/NRCS
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401

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Fax: 855-415-3445

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Sarah Sinn
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**NRCS:**

**Soil Conservationist**
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**District Conservationist (Big Horn & Washakie Counties)**
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**County Committee:**
Julie Haun, Chairperson
Arnold Pennoyer, Member
Jim Butterfield, Member
Cameron Roady, Member
Billie Jo Norsworthy, Member