



Big Horn County
Farm Service Center
408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426
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Office Hours:
8:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 – 4:30

www.fsa.usda.gov
www.nrcs.wy.usda.gov

December 2008

Farm Service Agency County Committee

Shawn Bullinger- Chairman
Jan Barnett- Vice Chairman
Wilford Tippetts- Regular Member

Farm Service Agency Office Staff

Bryan Schoenfelder – CED
Bill Morrison – FLM
Brenda Miller – PT
Connie Anson-PT

Natural Resources

Conservation Service

Monte Bush – Greybull – DC
Dave Preator – Greybull – SCT
Ben Bonella - Greybull - RMS
John Richards – Lovell – DC

South Big Horn

Conservation District

Linda Hamilton – Chairman
Walter Hibbert – Vice Chair
George Kelso -Treasurer
Nancy Joyce – Secretary
Ted Zier – Member

Janet Hallsted – District Manager

Shoshone

Conservation District

George Estes – Chairman
Russell Boardman– Vice Chair
Reed Williams– Sec/Treas
Allen Clark – Member
D Gordon Despain – Member

Kristin Tilley – District Manager



The Big Horn Bulletin

Direct and Counter Cyclical Signup Announced

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act) was enacted on June 18, 2008. The 2008 Act provided for the continuation of DCP for 2008 through 2012. Signup for the 2009 DCP started on **December 22, 2008** and will run until **June 1, 2009**. The 2008 Act, doesn't provided any provisions for late filed applications, so all producers on the farm must sign the application (CCC-509) by June 1, 2009 for the farm to be enrolled for the 2009 payment. Each eligible producer on a farm will be given the opportunity to annually enroll in a DCP or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program contract.

Direct payments will be computed by multiplying 83.3 percent of the covered commodity base acres times, the payment yield, times the payment rate for that commodity, times the producers share of the commodity. Advance payments may be made any month throughout the year prior to October 1, 2009, at 22 percent of the total payment.

Counter cyclical payments are authorized for a covered commodity when the effective price for the commodity is less than the target price for the commodity. These payments will be computed by multiplying 85 percent of the commodity base acres, times the payment yield, times the payment rate, times the producers share of the commodity. The Counter cyclical payment rate is determined by subtracting the effective price for the commodity from the target price.

It is very important that when the DCP signup is completed that you are sure of your 2009 farming interests. If advance payments are made and then a change to your operation occurs you will be required to refund the advance payment plus interest from the date of dispersal.

Farms that were previously enrolled in the DCP program with 10.0 base acres or less will not be eligible for the 2009-2012 enrollment. However, the prohibition does not apply to a farm that is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher.

The same Fruits and Vegetable planting flexibility provisions apply as before. If you have a history of planting beans on your farm, then your farm payment will have an acre for acre payment reduction. If you don't have a history on your farm of planting beans you could be facing a contract violation. It is best to plan ahead and check with this office before enrolling your farm if you are planning to plant beans, so we can advice you of your eligible acres and options.

The 2009 payment rate for covered commodities is as follows:

Barley \$0.24/bu., Corn \$0.28/bu., Grain Sorghum \$0.35/bu., Oats \$0.024/bu., Wheat \$0.52/bu.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including small grains, course grains, and oilseeds. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required and multi peril crop insurance coverage for all crops. For details and a current interest rate contact this FSA office.

LDP's on Wool, Mohair, and Unshorn Pelts

Producers of wool, mohair, or unshorn sheep going to slaughter need to have a signed CCC 633 page 1 on file at the FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest in the commodity. Once you have sold or have a weight on the commodity you need to bring them into our office to complete the application for payment. The deadline for requesting Loan Deficiency Payments for wool or mohair shorn in 2008 is January 31, 2009.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

This year's election was held for LAA Local Administrative Areas number (1). LAA 1 covers the North End of Big Horn County. Wilford Tippetts was reelected to serve as the LAA 1 representative to the county committee. Wilford will continue his new term as the newly elected member will take office on January 1, 2009.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY LOAN PROGRAMS

FSA makes direct and guaranteed loans to qualified applicants for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes that need a helping hand. Whether it's a young or beginning farmer or a socially disadvantaged farmer who is ready to buy their first farm or need operating money. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible.

Maximum loan amounts are: \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership or Operating type loans; \$1,094,000 for Guarantee Farm Ownership or Operating.

FSA has a special loan program to assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm which is the Down payment Program. The applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5% of the purchase price. The maximum loan amount cannot exceed 45% of the least of the purchase price, the appraised value or \$500,000 of the farm or ranch with the remainder being financed by a commercial lender. The term of the loan is 20 years with the interest rate being 4% lower than the Direct FO rate, but not below 1.5 %. Also available is Joint Financing for beginning farmers. With this arrangement, FSA lends up to 50% of the amount financed, and another lender provides 50% or more.

Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

Youth Loans are available up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA and similar organizations. For further information on these programs please contact Bill Morrison at (307)347-2456 or Kathy Palazollo at (307)754-9411.

Commodity Loans Available For 2008 Commodities in storage

Marketing Assistance loans (MAL) are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

The 2008 loan rate for corn in Big Horn County is \$2.17/bushel and wheat is 2.68/bushel. The current (December) interest rate is 2.25%. If you plan on holding your crop for awhile and need some operating money until the commodity is sold, a MAL might just be a good option to look at. If interested, contact this office for more details.

TV Converter Box Coupon Program

The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 requires TV stations to stop broadcasting in analog and to broadcast only in digital after **February 17, 2009**. The digital transition will provide a better viewing experience for consumers and help emergency responders protect your community. The Act created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to use their analog TVs after the transition. The Federal government is offering US households up to two \$40.00 coupons to help pay for the cost of a certified box. TVs connected to cable, satellite, or other pay services do not need a converter box. You may apply for your coupon online at www.DTV2009.gov or by phone at 1-888-388-2009, then mail to BY MAIL, PO Box 2000, Portland OR 97208, or Fax to 1-877-DTV-4ME2. Requests must be received by March 31, 2009.

Animal Grazing Behavior Workshop Understanding and Managing Livestock, Wildlife, Plants, Soils, and People

The Meeteetse Conservation District, South Big Horn Conservation District, Big Horn County Weed and Pest, and Big Horn County Farm Bureau are sponsoring an Animal Grazing Behavior Workshop January 23, 2009 at the Big Horn County Weed and Pest building at 4782 Hwy 310, Greybull WY. Dr. Fred Provenza, a professor in range animal production at Utah State University will be the featured speaker at this full day event. Topics of discussion include: 1) Cause of dietary preference, influences on food and habitat selection and implications for dispersing grazing across landscapes, 2) Palatability, the roles of nutrients and toxins, and implication for supplementation of poisonous plants, and 3) The importance of dietary variety, interactions among nutrients and toxins, and implications for managing animals on rangelands. This event starts at 8:00 am and is scheduled to finish by 5:30 pm. For further information or lodging information please contact Janet at (307)765-2483 Ext 3.

NRCS NEWS

As some of you might know, NRCS has been going through an audit this past month. This will most likely affect our timelines for this coming years conservation programs. Right now, we are awaiting Congress to publish the final rules for the 2009 Farm Bill and to allocate our funding to the states.

Currently, the deadline for signing up for conservation programs with NRCS is January 16th, 2009.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
Big Horn County FSC
408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426-2037

Return Service Requested

Important Dates

Jan 1, 2009 – Office Closed New Years
Jan 16, 2009 – Tentative EQIP Batching Date
Jan 19, 2009 – Office Closed Martin Luther King, Jr Day
Feb 16, 2009 – Office Closed Presidents' Day

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Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Bryan Schoenfelder, CED at (307)765-2689.