



NEWSLETTER



January 2011

Big Horn County Farm Service Agency

408 Greybull Ave
Greybull, WY 82426
304-765-2689 phone
307-765-9243 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/wy

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Farm Service Agency County Committee

Shawn Bullinger, Chairman
Jan Barnett, Vice Chairman
Wilford Tippetts, Member

Farm Service Agency Office Staff

Bryan Schoenfelder, CED
Brenda Miller, PT
Connie Anson, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Bill Morrison, FLM
Worland (307)347-2456
Kathy Palazollo, FLO
Powell (307)754-9411

Natural Resources

Conservation Service

Monte Bush - Greybull, DC
Daniel Matthews-Greybull, CET
Jaimi Stokes-Greybull, Range Con
John Richards - Lovell, DC

South Big Horn

Conservation District

Linda Hamilton, Chairman
Walter Hibbert, Vice Chairman
George Kelso, Treasurer
Nancy Joyce, Secretary
Ted Zier, Member
Janet Hallsted, District Manager

Shoshone

Conservation District

Russell Boardman, Chairman
Spencer Ellis, Vice Chairman
Reed Williams, Sec/Treasurer
Allen Clark, Member
George Estes, Member
Kristen Tilley, District Manager

Happy New Year and Welcome 2011!

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Big Horn County did receive a primary disaster declaration in 2009.

We cannot complete signups until the National Average Market Prices are released, so please call the office to schedule an appointment for signup.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Shawn Bullinger! Shawn was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA2 on the county committee. Shawn was elected to his third consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Livestock Indemnity Program-LIP

Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must be reported to the FSA Office within 30 days of when the loss is apparent by filing a Notice of Loss application. A filed Notice of Loss must be finalized by completing an Application for Payment by **January 30, 2011** for 2010 losses.

Applications for livestock losses require documentation of beginning and ending inventory, records showing the date of each death for normal death loss and show death losses due to the weather event, along with records showing the number of livestock in inventory on the date of the weather event.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Payment Limitation

Payments will be limited by Direct Attribution. Program payments and benefits are limited to a person or legal entity. Payments made directly or indirectly to a person are combined with the pro rata interest held in any other legal entity that received payments, unless the payments to the legal entity were reduced by the pro rata share of the person. Payments made directly to a legal entity are attributed to those persons that have a direct and indirect interest in the legal entity, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the person.

The payments are recorded by ID number of the individual or entity.

Each legal entity or person must disclose the name and Social Security number of each person and/or the name and Tax ID number of each legal entity that holds or acquires an ownership interest in the legal entity.

The total payments by program are listed below:

Program Payment Type	Limitation (In Dollars)
Commodity Programs	
Counter-cyclical and ACRE	65,000 <i>1/</i>
Direct payments	40,000 <i>2/</i>
Conservation Programs	
CRP annual rental payment	50,000
EQIP	200,000
GRP, WHIP, WRP	50,000
ECP (per disaster)	200,000
Disaster Assistance Programs	
ELAP, LFP, LIP, NAP, TAP, and SURE	100,000

1/ Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter-cyclical and ACRE Payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm participating in ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that the direct payments were reduced.

2/ If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE, this limitation will reflect a 20 percent reduction in direct payments on each farm that is participating in ACRE.

Big Horn County FSA Office
408 Greybull Ave
Greybull, WY 82426



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Farm Service Agency
PERMIT #G-96

Important Dates to Remember

Anytime	DCP/ACRE Signup
January 10	SURE signup, call for an appointment
January 17	Martin Luther King's Birthday, Office Closed
February 21	President's Day, Office Closed
April 1	Deadline to purchase NAP for annual crops such as small grain hay

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