



NEWSLETTER



Big Horn County

408 Greybull Ave - Greybull, WY 82426

August 2011

Farm Service Agency

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County Committee

Shawn Bullinger, Chairman
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NRCS Staff

Monte Bush- Greybull, DC
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Conservation District

Janet Hallsted, Greybull
Kristen Tilley, Lovell

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Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Summer flooding has caused severe damage in several areas of county. Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by Big Horn County Farm Service Agency (FSA) if the damage:

- will be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affects the productive capacity of the farmland
- will impair or endanger the land.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. No producer is eligible for more than \$200,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures such as head gates and other similar installations.

Producers who have suffered a loss from a natural disaster may contact the FSA County Office and request assistance from August 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011 .

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation.

The Big Horn County FSA Office has received approval for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and is currently taking applications. All information will be used to compile the funding request by assessing location, type, and amount of damage. Approval and/or funding are not guaranteed.

AGI Compliance for NRCS and FSA Program Participants

Many of you may receive a letter regarding the forms CCC-927 and CCC-928, Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information. FSA and IRS have finalized a data-sharing process for average AGI compliance and verification. Every individual, legal entity and member of a legal entity receiving payments from FSA or NRCS in 2009 to 2011 is required to complete a CCC-927 for individuals or CCC-928 for legal entities and submit it to the IRS. The IRS will compare actual tax data on record to the average AGI limitation amounts for the applicable 3 year period and return the results to the FSA in reports showing the participant either appears to meet or not meet the AGI criteria.

You may pick up copies of these forms at the FSA office or go to www.fsa.usda.gov/cc927 for individual or www.fsa.usda.gov/cc928 for the legal entity forms. It is up to each producer to complete the form and mail it to the IRS.

Participants who choose not to submit a completed CCC-927 or 928 as applicable, will be determined noncompliant and will be required to refund the amount of payments received plus interest.

GIS and Map Disclaimer

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers throughout the country.

Using GIS provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

More information about the Common Land Unit and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov.

All maps should include the following disclaimer: Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-026 and attached maps) for exact wetland boundaries and determinations, or contact NRCS. Map for **FSA Program Purposes Only**.

COC Elections

The County Office Committee (COC) plays a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA COC election process by nominating an eligible candidate by Aug. 1. This form is available at your local FSA Office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov; select *News & Events* then *County Committee Elections*. Nomination forms for the 2011 COC elections must be postmarked or received in the county office by close of business on August 1, 2011.

In Big Horn County this year, the election takes place in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, which includes the north end of the county.

FSA county committee members serve three-year terms and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to five members elected by eligible local producers. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 4, 2011. Completed ballots must be dropped off or received via mail at the county office by December 5, 2011.

NAP Participants

For those of you with a NAP policy for crops or grazing – you are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a notice of loss form with this office no later than **15 calendar** days after the disaster occurrence or no later than **15 days** from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent.

Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) / Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops harvested in 2011. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. The current interest rate for loans disbursed in July was 1.125 percent for farm-stored or warehouse stored commodities. Please call the office for more information if you are interested.

CCC-633EZ Signed Before Harvest for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

The EZ form is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest (title and control) in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. An LDP is available if the posted county price is lower than the loan rate.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton; page 3 for cotton; or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest. To date there are no LDP's.

Wool, Mohair, & Unshorn Pelts LDP

Producers who file for a Loan Deficiency Payment on wool or unshorn pelts must indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits on CCC-633EZ (page 1) before the sale or loss of beneficial interest. Then submit an LDP request (CCC-633EZ page 4) for benefits at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

January 1 is the beginning of the crop year for the wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. The ending of the crop year is December 31. Applications for 2011 LDP's must be filed by January 31, 2012

If you are a producer of wheat, corn, sunflowers, or other price support crops, here is something to ponder. What was the price of your commodity at harvest last year? What is the price of that same commodity today? Chances are that you sold your crop once harvest was complete, or shortly thereafter. If you would have taken a low-interest commodity loan last year following harvest and kept control of that commodity until recently, and then sold it, you could have made a substantial profit. Right?

Don't overlook using a commodity loan as a marketing tool.

Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning, and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Socially disadvantaged applicants are from groups whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere. Loan approval is not guaranteed. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, beginning, or limited resource they should contact their local FSA office for details.

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.

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



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Important Dates to Remember

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|--------|-------------------------------|
| Aug 1 | COC Nomination Deadline |
| Sept 5 | Office Closed ~ Labor Day |
| Oct 10 | Office Closed ~ Columbus Day |
| Nov 11 | Office Closed ~ Veteran's Day |
| Nov 24 | Office Closed ~ Thanksgiving |

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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