



# NEWSLETTER



**Big Horn County**

**408 Greybull Ave - Greybull, WY 82426**

**June 2015**

**Farm Service Agency**

307-765-2689 phone  
855-415-3432 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov

**FSA Staff**

Brenda Miller, CED  
Connie Werbelow, PT

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

**County Committee**

Jan Barnett, Chairperson  
Michael Rasmussen, Vice-Chair  
Spencer Ellis, Member

**NRCS Staff**

Monte Bush- DC

**Conservation District**

Janet Hallsted, Greybull  
Jan Johnson, Greybull  
Kristen Tilley, Lovell

**Farm Loan Staff**

Bill Morrison, FLM  
Worland (307)247-2456  
Kathy Palazzolo, FLO  
Powell (307)754-9411

### 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. 3. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. This form is available at your local FSA Office, or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) ; select News & Events then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2016 COC elections must be postmarked or received in the county office by close of business on August 3, 2015.

In Big Horn County this year, the election takes place in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, which includes the all land east of the Big Horn River, south of Sheep Mountain, excluding south of Manderson to the Washakie County line. This includes the communities of Shell and Hyattville.

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 9, 2015. Completed ballots must be dropped off or received via mail at the county office by December 7, 2015.

### Acreage Certification

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2015 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. In Wyoming, crop acreage reports are to be certified by the **July 15, 2015** deadline. When you file your acreage report remember that your plant dates are needed. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Please come in to certify your acreage once all crops are planted.

### Give us your E-mail, Get Program News

Our office is getting away from sending paper newsletters. We have an electronic version that is sent through GovDelivery. If you want to keep up with program news and deadline it is very important that you sign up for the GovDelivery option. To signup you can either contact this office and give us our email address or login to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>. This option will give you farm program news you need available when you need it. Once signed up for GovDelivery you will receive monthly newsletters and bulletins on your email or smartphone to keep you up to date on all program news. Please stop by our office to signup today or subscribe online.

## **Beginning Farmer Loans**

FSA assists beginning farmers 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 than 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 average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **Emergency Farm Loans**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, freeze, other natural disasters or quarantine. Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year
- Pay essential family living expense
- Reorganize the farming operation
- Refinance certain debts

Further information and applications for the loan programs, north Big Horn county contact Kathy Palazzolo, Farm Loan Officer at 307-754-9411 Ext 2, and south Big Horn County contact Bill Morrison, Farm Loan Manager at 307-347-2456 Ext 2.

## **Livestock Disaster Programs**

The 2014 Farm Bill made the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), permanent programs.

**Livestock Indemnity Program(LIP)** – LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality, due to adverse weather or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75% of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock determined by the Secretary. It is very important that records are kept for each loss event and include: death loss numbers, beginning and ending inventories and all pertinent weather conditions ie; temperatures, moisture, wind, etc., and this needs to be documented for each disaster event.

**Livestock Forage Program (LFP)** – LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60% of the monthly feed cost for up to five months depending on the drought monitor. LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50% of the monthly feed costs for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days.

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** – ELAP provides payments to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish to help compensate for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary

## ACR/PLC Signup Begins

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) authorized the PLC, ARC-County, and ARC-Individual programs. FSA has issued farm operators, owners, and other producers of record a Notification of Base and Yields for ARCPLC. With these notifications being issued, signup dates for the 2014 and 2015 program payments has been announced. Signup for the 2014 and 2015 will begin **June 17, 2015** and run through **September 30, 2015**. Farms can only be enrolled consistent with the election or default election made on each eligible farm. Farms having the default election, no valid election of ARC or PLC made for the farm, are ineligible for 2014 payments, but will need to enroll for 2015. Farms with elections made during the election process are eligible for both 2014 and 2015 payments if applicable.

At this time there has been no announcement of the Market Year Average (MYA) price for 2014. These MYA's will be announced after the end of the 12 month marketing year which is May 31 for barley, oats, and wheat, and August 31 for corn and sunflowers. The program payments, if applicable, will be made in October each year for the prior 12 month marketing year.

With acreage reports being taken at this time we hope to get all enrollments completed during one office visit to maximize your time spent at our office. If you have reported your acreage prior to signup announcement contact this office and we will work with you to get your signup completed.

## ELAP Coverage for Livestock & Honeybees

Potential Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) Coverage pertaining to livestock and/or honeybees is as follows:

- Loss coverage includes the cost of purchasing livestock feed above normal quantities. The weather event cannot be a drought and the feed consumed by the livestock has to be greater than the normal amount fed the previous two years. The feed does not have to be purchased or fed during the normal grazing period from April 1st to October 15th. This loss must be tied to a verifiable weather event.
- Costs and related costs to transport feed to livestock due to a verifiable weather event.
- Loss coverage for grazing losses that were not related to fire during the normal grazing period from April 1st to October 15th due to an eligible weather event. An example of an eligible weather event is as follows: Flood, hail, prolonged snow cover between April 1st to October 15th, etc.
- Loss coverage for purchased or mechanically harvested feed destroyed in the stack by flood, tornado or some other verifiable natural disaster. This feed must be used by the producers for their own livestock. Feed raised for sale to others is not eligible.
- Livestock deaths caused by non-natural events, which led to excessive herd mortality rates. Excessive herd mortality rates must be higher than normal annual losses. Examples of such events are: human caused wildfires, an abnormal disease, etc.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock or honeybee losses must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2015
- An application for payment by November 1, 2015

Eligible honeybee loss includes loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including colony collapse disorder (CCD), and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

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**PRESORTED STANDARD**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**Farm Service Agency**  
**PERMIT #G-96**

### **Dates to Remember**

**June 17- Sept 30** ARC/PLC Signup

**July 15, 2015** Crop Reporting Deadline

**August 3, 2015** COC Nominations Due for LAA #3

**Anytime-** Report eligible losses within 30 days of loss event for all disaster programs

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users)