

FEBRUARY 2014



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## Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

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### Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office

208 Shiloh RD  
Worland, WY 82401

Phone: 307-347-2456  
Fax: 307-347-8806

**County Executive Director:**  
Sherri Foust

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Bill Morrison

**Program Technicians:**  
Lisa Bower  
Teresa Shelton

**Next County Committee Meeting: 2/27/2014 at 2:00 PM**

### County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Kirk Tolman and Arnold Pennoyer, who were each elected to their respective LAAs to serve as County Committee members.

Kirk Tolman was elected to serve a 3-year term as representative for LAA #3. Keith Galloway will serve as an alternate.

Arnold Pennoyer was elected to serve a 3-year term as representative for LAA #4. Jerry Lake will serve as an alternate.

**Thank you to Kirk, Keith, Arnold and Jerry for running for these County Committee positions. Also, thank you to the producers who participated in the election by voting for your area representatives.**

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### Changes to Your Farming Operation

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. **An acreage report must be completed within 30 days after purchase or acquiring the lease.** A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

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## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar

entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

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## **Breaking New Ground**

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

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## **Power of Attorney**

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

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## **Microloan Program**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

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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).