

September 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Big Horn County FSA Updates

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### Big Horn County FSA Office

408 Greybull Ave.  
Greybull, WY 82426  
Phone: 307-765-2689  
Fax: 855-415-3432

### County Executive

**Director:** Brenda Miller

### Farm Loan:

Bill Morrison- Worland  
Tom Schambow- Powell

### Program Technician:

Connie Werbelow

### County Committee:

Michael Rasmussen- Chairman  
Spencer Ellis- Vice-Chairman  
Martin Mercer- Member

**Next County Committee Meeting: December 5, 1:30PM**

### CED Notes

With barley, oat, and wheat harvest finishing up I'd like to remind you of the Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) that we have available through our office. These are nine-month loans at a low interest rate that allow you to market your commodity later but get the money now that will help your cash flow. It's a fairly easy process that is a good marketing tool for you. If you are interested in a MAL stop by our office for more information. Covered commodities include; barley, wheat, oats, and corn.

Our office is also busy completing the signups for the Market Facilitation Program which is paying \$15/acre for eligible commodities. If you haven't completed your signup for this program contact our office to see if you are eligible.

Starting October 1, 2019 our office will start the signups for the 2019 and 2020 ARC/PLC farm program. Watch our next newsletter for information concerning this program and the ability to update your yields. We will be having office days in the Lovell NRCS throughout this signup to accommodate the producers on the north end of the county. These dates are to be determined on a as needed basis.

Wishing everyone a good and safe harvest season and as always, we are here to serve your agriculture needs. Stop by our office and we will assist you!

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## MAL and LDP Policy

The Agricultural Act of 2014 authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), with a few minor policy changes.

Among the changes, farm-stored MAL collateral transferred to warehouse storage will retain the original loan rate, be allowed to transfer only the outstanding farm-stored quantity with no additional quantity allowed and will no longer require producers to have a paid for measurement service when moving or commingling loan collateral.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2019 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

Before MAL repayments with a market loan gain or LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant and member contribution.

Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to the actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, Adjusted Gross Income provisions or the payment limitation.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: price loss coverage payments, agriculture risk coverage payments, marketing loan gains (MLGs) and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL loan disbursements or redemptions using commodity certificate exchange.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were modified by the 2014 Farm Bill, which states that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. Producers must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please visit a nearby USDA Service Center or FSA's website [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2019 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on Nov. 4, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 2, 2019.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

Eligible voters in local administrative area (LAA-2), who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2020.

The candidate in this year's election is: Michael Rasmussen, Michael is nominated in LAA 2, Big Horn County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Michael, his wife and three children are residence of Burlington and have produced Dry Beans, Barley, Beets, Alfalfa Seed, Corn and Oats for 10 years.

He is an active member of the Wyoming Alfalfa Seed Growers Association and serves as President of the Emblem Bench Canal along with being the current Chairman of the Big Horn County FSA Committee.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2019 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://fsa.usda.gov/elections) or at a local USDA Service Center.

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## Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Big Horn County is already working on operating loans for spring 2020 so it is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

**Microloans** are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. The staff at the Big Horn County FSA

office can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

**Marketing Assistance Loans** allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

**Farm Storage Facility Loans** can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

Please call the Big Horn County office if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Brenda Miller at 307-765-2689 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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