

October 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Lisa Bower

Farm Loan Manager:
Bill Morrison

Program Technicians:
Teresa Shelton
Kelli Lockard

County Committee:
Julie Haun, Chairperson
Kirk Tolman, Vice Chairperson
Jim Butterfield, Member

CED Comments

Greetings Hot Springs and Washakie County Producers,

Please note the following dates:

- Acreage reporting apiculture & fall-seeded small grains - **November 15, 2019**
- 2020 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications - **December 1, 2019 - the fee is now \$325**
- 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) - **December 6, 2019**
- 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program - **March 15, 2020**
- 2020 ARC/PLC Program - **June 30, 2020**
- COC Election ballots for LAA #3 & LAA #4 must be returned to the office by **December 2, 2019**
- Acreage reporting for established stand alfalfa seed and fall alfalfa seed – **January 15, 2020**

Notice of loss for NAP is 15 days

Notice of loss for Livestock Disaster Programs is 30 days after the loss is apparent.

Everett Jones, Member
Arnold Pennoyer, Member

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

Please note - Producers are encouraged to call their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to ensure maximum use of their time and to make sure FSA staff is available to tend to their important business needs. Please call your local FSA office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that might be needed during your appointment. To find your local FSA office, visit:
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 307-347-2456 ext. 2.

Best wishes for a safe and successful fall harvest,

Lisa Bower
County Executive Director

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 areas LAA 3 or LAA 4, 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 candidates in this year's election are:

Kirk Tolman is nominated in LAA 3, Washakie County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Mr. Tolman resides in the Worland/Ten Sleep areas and has produced cattle for 41 years.

Mr. Tolman is an active member of the Predator Board and the Worland District Grazing Board. He serves as a member on both boards.

Arnold Pennoyer is nominated in LAA 4, Hot Springs County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Mr. Pennoyer resides in the Owl Creek area and has produced hay and cattle for 50 plus years.

Mr. Pennoyer is vice-president of the Hot Springs County Fair Board, and Chairman of the Hot Springs County Weed and Pest.

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

Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program

FSA borrowers with farms located in designated primary or contiguous disaster areas who are unable to make their scheduled FSA loan payments should consider the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) program.

DSA is available to producers who suffered losses as a result of a natural disaster and is intended to relieve immediate and temporary financial stress. FSA is authorized to consider setting aside the portion of a payment/s needed for the operation to continue on a viable scale.

Borrowers must have at least two years left on the term of their loan in order to qualify.

Borrowers have eight months from the date of the disaster designation to submit a complete application. The application must include a written request for DSA signed by all parties liable for the debt along with production records and financial history for the operating year in which the disaster occurred. FSA may request additional information from the borrower in order to determine eligibility.

All farm loans must be current or less than 90 days past due at the time the DSA application is complete. Borrowers may not set aside more than one installment on each loan.

The amount set-aside, including interest accrued on the principal portion of the set-aside, is due on or before the final due date of the loan.

For more information, contact your local FSA farm loan office.

MAL and LDP Policy

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

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.

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 Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

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.

Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state 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 fsa.usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Lisa Bower](#) at [307-347-2456](tel:307-347-2456) extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).