

December 2013



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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: 307-765-9243

**County Executive Director:**  
Brenda Miller

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Bill Morrison

Kathy Palazzolo

**Program Technician:**  
Connie Werbelow

**Next County Committee Meeting:** Feb 20 1:30 pm

### NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened. **New ballots will be mailed to producers on December 20, 2013.** These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope. The corrected ballot must be returned to the Big Horn County FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014.

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.

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### 2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

Producers now have until **January 15, 2014**, to report crops that had a November 15, 2013 reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee. Crops under this waiver include wheat and native and improved grasses intended for grazing or haying and existing or new seeded alfalfa. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines for insured crops.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit

the Big Horn County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

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## **INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT**

Farm Service Agency's maximum loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,355,000 effective Oct. 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit is adjusted every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,655,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA Office with questions about farm loans.

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## **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Additional security is required for poured-cement open-bunker silos, renewable biomass facilities, cold storage facilities, hay barns and for all loans exceeding \$50,000. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Honey

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## **MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS (MAL)**

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

December 25 – Office closed  
January 1- Office closed  
January 17-Ballots postmarked  
January 15– Deadline to report perennial forage and fall seeded crops

January 20- Office closed

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