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## From Lisa's Desk

Greetings:

Please note the following:



- **Acreage reporting** - Reporting for all spring planted crops, perennial hays, and grazing are due by **July 15, 2023**. If you have finished planting, or have not already completed your 2023 acreage reporting, please make an appointment to do so. Acreage reports are a required eligibility item for many of our programs, and fees are assessed to file late reports.
- **Production** - Those of you who had spring crops and perennial hay covered by NAP (Noninsured crop disaster Assistance Program) in 2022, need to submit your 2022 production by July 15, 2023. This is also a good time to remind you to provide your 2023 production to the office when you complete your haying. If you decide to graze or leave your hay crop unharvested, please contact the office before you put cows or sheep on the field(s).
- **Notices of Loss** - if you incur crop losses, grazing losses, livestock losses, or honeybee losses please contact the office to file a Notice of Loss (NOL) as soon as the loss is apparent. Many programs, NAP being one of them, only allow 15 days for the reporting of the loss. Causes of loss are dependent upon the program, but common causes for this time of year include, but are not limited to **drought**, lightning, and flooding. It is much easier to have a successful application if you file your losses timely and keep good records of the loss event. For NAP producers, please also remember to contact the office before you graze or choose not to harvest a covered hay crop. Having an appraisal or other record of production is vital to completing the loss claim.
- **County Committee Election:** The office is taking nomination forms for LAA #2 in Washakie County. LAA #2 is everything east of the Big Horn River, not including Ten Sleep. Please read the article below.
- The office is closed on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for Juneteenth
- The office is closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for Independence Day

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office at 307-347-2456 ext. 2.

Best wishes,

Lisa Bower

CED

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# Nominations Open for the 2023 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Washakie-Hot Springs County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.



Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process. A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term.

This year, Washakie County is accepting nominations for LAA #2, which includes everything east of the Big Horn River, not including Ten Sleep.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources. All nomination forms for the 2023 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by Aug. 1, 2023.

For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *County Committee Elections* available online at: [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (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.

For more information contact, contact your Washakie-Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 ext. 2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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## Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRCS is accepting Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications for Upper Hanover Canal projects. These applications will be for fiscal year 2024. The Hanover Irrigation District in Washakie County, WY used Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART funds to replace the aging Cottonwood Check and Spill structure and install data meters. The structure delivers water from the Boysen Reservoir through the Big Horn River to the Hanover Canal which supplies water to over 13,700 acres of farmland and 513 users who depend on the water and crops produced for their livelihood. The improvements are expected to save 1,165 acre-feet per year. With NRCS assistance, crop and livestock farmers will be able to improve soil moisture management, convert dirt ditches to buried pipe, improve irrigation efficiencies, and improve irrigation water management systems. Water savings by these additional improvements are



expected to be significant and will vary across the diversity of irrigated crops including sugar beets, corn, small grains, and alfalfa. In addition to the water savings and drought resiliency benefits, EQIP funds help improve soil health, protect crop health, and reduce sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loads to the Big Horn River, an impaired stream on the 303d list. Please reach out to the Worland Field Office with any questions you may have or to obtain an application, 307-347-2456.



## USDA Service Center

208 Shiloh RD  
Worland, WY 82401

Phone: 307-347-2456  
NRCS Fax: 855-415-3405  
FSA Fax: 855-415-3445  
RD Fax: 855-415-3424

### **FSA:**

#### **County Executive Director, CED**

Lisa Bower 307-347-2456 x 112  
[lisa.bower@usda.gov](mailto:lisa.bower@usda.gov)

#### **Program Technician**

Sarah Sinn 307-347-2456 x 100 [sarah.sinn@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.sinn@usda.gov)

#### **Program Technician, Temp**

Jennifer Ray 307-347-2456 x 105  
[jennifer.ray@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.ray@usda.gov)

#### **Farm Loan Manager**

Jolene Beiswenger 307-347-2456 x 111  
[jolene.beiswenger@usda.gov](mailto:jolene.beiswenger@usda.gov)

#### **Farm Loan Analyst**

Kelli Emmett 307-347-2456 x 102  
[kelli.emmett@usda.gov](mailto:kelli.emmett@usda.gov)

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#### **County Committee:**

Julie Haun, Chairperson  
Jim Butterfield, Vice Chairperson  
Billie Jo Norsworthy, Member  
Cameron Rody, Member  
Marilyn Vass, Member

### **NRCS:**

#### **District Conservationist**

Emma Allen 307-347-2456 x 108  
[emma.allen@usda.gov](mailto:emma.allen@usda.gov)

#### **Civil Engineer**

Allen Croft 307-347-2456 x 122 [allen.croft@usda.gov](mailto:allen.croft@usda.gov)

#### **Multi County Rangeland Management Specialist**

Blaise Allen 307-347-2456 x 109  
[blaise.allen@usda.gov](mailto:blaise.allen@usda.gov)

#### **Natural Resources Specialist**

Kaile Brant 307-347-2456 x 119 [kaile.brant@usda.gov](mailto:kaile.brant@usda.gov)

#### **Soil Conservationist**

Errick Hayes 307-347-2456 x 107  
[errick.hayes@usda.gov](mailto:errick.hayes@usda.gov)

#### **Rangeland Management Specialist**

Caleb Salzman 307-347-2456 x114  
[caleb.salzman@usda.gov](mailto:caleb.salzman@usda.gov)