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From Lisa's Desk

Hello Washakie and Hot Springs County Producers:

Please note that the ERP 2 program has been expanded and approval has been given to **all** crops grown, stored, and used for feed on the farm regardless of how the crop was harvested. This applies to **all** eligible crops grown as feed for livestock on the farm such as barley, corn, and soybeans.

Give the Washakie-Hot Springs County office a call if you have questions or need assistance with an application. The phone number is 307-347-2456 ext. 2.

Best wishes,

Lisa Bower
County Executive Director



Nominations Open for the 2023 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) is now accepting nominations for county committee members and encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Washakie-Hot Springs County Committee election nomination process.

Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for members. LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction. For Washakie County, elections will take place in LAA #2, which consists of everything east of the Big Horn River, not including Ten Sleep. Customers can identify which LAA they or their farming or ranching operation is in by using our new GIS locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.



County committee members make important decisions about how Federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2023 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2023.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women, and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of 3 to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

For more information on FSA county committee elections, including fact sheets, nomination forms and FAQs, visit fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Communication is Key in Lending

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing our farm loan borrowers the tools necessary to be successful. FSA staff will provide guidance and counsel from the loan application process through the borrower's graduation to commercial credit. While it is FSA's commitment to advise borrowers as they identify goals and evaluate progress, it is crucial for borrowers to communicate with their farm loan staff when changes occur. It is the borrower's responsibility to alert FSA to any of the following:



- Any proposed or significant changes in the farming operation
- Any significant changes to family income or expenses
- The development of problem situations
- Any losses or proposed significant changes in security

If a farm loan borrower can't make payments to suppliers, other creditors, or FSA on time, contact your farm loan staff immediately to discuss loan servicing options.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your Washakie-Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Hiring Engineers, Natural Resource Specialists Nationwide to Strengthen Inflation Reduction Act Implementation, Enhance Agricultural Conservation

USDA announced it is ramping up hiring for key positions that will help strengthen agricultural conservation efforts and turn President Biden's Investing in America agenda into action. The available positions include engineers, civil engineering technicians and natural resource specialists, building on other large-scale hiring announcements earlier this year.



Today's announcement is funded by \$19.5 billion from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. The new NRCS engineers and engineering technicians will play a critical role in solving a host of natural resource problems for agricultural producers and local communities. Their projects may involve stream restoration, erosion control, developing water systems for livestock, improving and conserving irrigation water and restoring wetlands. They may also help communities recover from natural disasters.

Natural resource specialists perform a variety of duties to help landowners meet their conservation objectives. This may include assisting in the implementation of conservation plans, conducting scientific

studies and performing on-site evaluations with customers. Their work enhances conservation program delivery and helps build resilient farms and communities across America.

How to Apply

NRCS posted an announcement for engineering technicians on June 26 and natural resource specialists on July 3. Interested candidates can find more information and apply by searching for these job titles on [USAjobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov).

To qualify for these positions, candidates must meet the education requirements, or a combination of education and experience requirements, as outlined in the job announcement. General qualifications for the engineering and natural resource management job series are also available on [OPM.gov](https://www.opm.gov). Additional information on career opportunities at NRCS is available on the agency's [careers webpage](#).

More Information

Over the next several years, NRCS expects to add over 4,400 new employees to its federal workforce, in addition to over 3,000 team members through partner organizations, to help with Inflation Reduction Act implementation.

NRCS is a federal agency that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners conserve soil, water and other natural resources. Employees provide technical expertise and conservation planning. Financial assistance is available for a wide variety of conservation programs. NRCS has offices in USDA Service Centers nationwide.



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

County Executive Director

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Program Technician

Sarah Sinn 307-347-2456 x 100
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Program Technician, temp

Jennifer Ray 307-347-2456 x 105
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Farm Loan Manager

Jolene Beiswenger 307-347-2456 x 111
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NRCS:

District Conservationist

Emma Allen 307-347-2456 x 108
emma.allen@usda.gov

Civil Engineer

Allen Croft 307-347-2456 x 122 allen.croft@usda.gov

Multi County Rangeland Management Specialist

Blaise Allen 307-347-2456 x 109
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Natural Resources Specialist

Kaile Brant 307-347-2456 x 119
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Farm Loan Analyst

Kelli Emmett 307-347-2456 x 102
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Soil Conservationist

Errick Hayes 307-347-2456 x 107
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County Committee:

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

Rangeland Management Specialist

Caleb Salzman 307-347-2456 x114
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