South Big Horn
Conservation District

Newsletter

www.southbighorncd.com
307-765-2483 ext. 103
sbhcd1@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

- July 27 - August 3 - Big Horn County Fair "Echoes of the Past; County Fair Revival"
- August 4 - Nowood WID Board of Directors Monthly Meeting 7pm @ Manderson Fire Hall
- August 5 - SBHCD Monthly Board Meeting 4pm @ Farm Service Center
- August 21 - Shell Valley WID Board of Directors Monthly Meeting 8pm @ Shell Community Hall
- September 1 - Nowood WID Board of Directors Monthly Meeting 7pm @ Manderson Fire Hall
- September 18 - Shell Valley WID Board of Directors Monthly Meeting 8pm @ Shell Community Hall
- September 23 - Area III District meeting
- October 6 - Nowood WID Board of Directors Monthly Meeting 7pm @ Manderson Fire Hall
- October 7- SBHCD Monthly Board Meeting 4pm @ Farm Service Center
- October 16- Shell Valley WID Board of Directors Monthly Meeting 8pm @ Shell Community Hall

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

George Kelso - Chairman
Linda Hamilton - Vice Chairman
Howard Wildman - Secretary
Eddie Johnson - Treasurer
Walt Hibbert - Member

DISTRICT STAFF

Ashley Coenen
District Manager

NRCS STAFF

Laura Galloway
District Conservationist

Curtis Johnson
Range Management Specialist

Chad Foster
Civil Engineer Technician

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER, AND LENDER

SOUTH BIG HORN
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BIG HORN COUNTY
WEED & PEST DISTRICT

10 ft No Till Drill

Now available to rent from the South Big Horn Conservation District

Benefits

- Reduce Soil Erosion
- Reduce Soil Compaction
- Saves you time
- Lower fuel costs
- Reduce soil moisture loss
- HEALTHIER SOIL

To reserve call the South Big Horn Conservation District

307-765-2483 ext. 103

$15.00/acre for Big Horn County residents

$18.00/acre for Park/Washakie County residents

$200.00 minimum

****Must have proof of insurance to rent****

Do you have Hazardous Waste?

Big Horn County residents can now drop off the following items at the Big Horn County Weed & Pest Building located at 4782 US HWY 310 during business hours ONLY!

- Paint
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Herbicides
- Cooking Oil
- Aerosols
- Electronics
- Motor Oil (Small Quantities

NO EXPLOSIVES, PROPANE CYLINDERS, TANKS OR RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

SPONSORSED BY THE BIG HORN COUNTY WEED & PEST AND SOUTH BIG HORN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SOUTH BIG HORN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BIG HORN COUNTY WEED & PEST DISTRICT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA NRCS provides Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) year around to our nation's farmers, ranchers and forestland owners with knowledge and tools they need to conserve, maintain and restore the natural resources on their lands and improve the health of their operations for the future.

NRCS also accepts applications for NRCS programs throughout the year, but to be considered for the next funding period, be sure to submit your application by September 30 each year to ensure you meet the state's ranking deadline. (Official deadline to be set and announced later)

To learn more about our assistance, available programs, as well as associated applications and forms, visit the NRCS website at www.nrcs.usda.gov or call our office at 307-765-2483.

From Brenda's Desk

Farm Service Agency

Where has our summer gone? Barley is already turning, and the combines will be rolling before we know it. With crop reporting mostly behind us it is time to start thinking about the County Committee election process for 2026. We are accepting nominations for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2, which is all land west of the Big Horn River, South of Sheep Mountain and includes all land south of Manderson to the Washakie County line. If you are interested in serving on the County Committee or you feel your neighbor would be a good fit check out the article below. Our current representative is Justine Paxton.

There has been a number of new programs announced including Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP), and Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program (SDRP). Deadline for these programs are listed below in the important dates.

Big Horn County is eligible for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) again this year. Producers with eligible grazing land and eligible livestock may apply for drought grazing loss payments. Contact the office on required documentation needed to apply for drought grazing loss.

Big Horn County is also eligible for water hauling and additional feed and/or livestock trucking expenses due to the drought, above normal amounts, under the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP). Please contact the office on documentation required to apply.

Important Dates:

August 1 – County Committee Election Nomination deadline
August 8 - Grassland CRP Signup Deadline
August 15 – Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) deadline
September 1 – Office closed-Labor Day
Anytime- Notify the office if you start hauling water due to drought

Trump Administration Announces Expedited Congressionally Mandated Disaster Assistance for Farmers

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced today that agricultural producers who suffered eligible crop losses due to natural disasters in 2023 and 2024 can now apply for $16 billion in assistance through the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP).

To expedite the implementation of SDRP, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering assistance in two stages. This first stage is open to producers with eligible crop losses that received assistance under crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program during 2023 and 2024. Stage One sign up will start in person at FSA county offices on July 10 and prefilled applications are being mailed to producers today, July 9. SDRP Stage Two signups for eligible shallow or uncovered losses will begin in early fall.

SDRP Stage One

FSA is launching a streamlined, pre-filled application process for eligible crop, tree, and vine losses by leveraging existing Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) indemnified loss data. The pre-filled applications will be mailed on July 9, 2025.

Eligibility

Eligible losses must be the result of natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and/or 2024. These disasters include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions.

To qualify for drought related losses, the loss must have occurred in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks, D3 (extreme drought), or greater intensity level during the applicable calendar year.

Producers in Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, and Massachusetts will not be eligible for SDRP program payments. Instead, these states chose to cover eligible crop, tree, bush, and vine losses through separate block grants. These block grants are funded through the $220M provided for this purpose to eligible states in the American Relief Act.

How to Apply

To apply for SDRP, producers must submit the FSA-526, Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) Stage One Application, in addition to having other forms on file with FSA.

SDRP Stage One Payment Calculation

Stage One payments are based on the SDRP adjusted NAP or Federal crop insurance coverage level the producer purchased for the crop. The net NAP or net federal crop insurance payments (NAP or crop insurance indemnities minus administrative fees and premiums) will be subtracted from the SDRP calculated payment amount.

For Stage One, the total SDRP payment to indemnified producers will not exceed 90% of the loss and an SDRP payment factor of 35% will be applied to all Stage One payments. If additional SDRP funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.

Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers who receive SDRP payments are required to purchase federal crop insurance or NAP coverage for the next two available crop years at the 60% coverage level or higher. Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two available crop years will be required to refund the SDRP payment, plus interest, to USDA.

SDRP Stage 2

FSA will announce additional SDRP assistance for uncovered losses, including non-indemnified shallow losses and quality losses and how to apply later this fall.
Learn more by visiting fsa.usda.gov/sdrp.

This announcement follows Secretary Rollins' comprehensive plan to deliver the total amount of Congressionally appropriated $30 billion in disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers this year. These programs will complement the forthcoming state block grants that USDA is working with 14 different states to develop.

To date, USDA has issued more than $7.8 billion in Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) payments to eligible producers. Additionally, USDA has provided over $1 billion in emergency relief through the Emergency Livestock Relief Program to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or wildfires in calendar years 2023 and 2024.

USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, Loan Assistance Tool, and the FarmRaise online FSA education hub. Payment details will be updated here weekly. For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Nominations Open for the 2025 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 Big Horn 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 Big Horn County, elections will take place in LAA #2, which consists of all land west of the Big Horn River, South of Sheep Mountain and all land south of Manderson to the Washakie County line. Customers can identify which LAA they or their farming or ranching operation is in by using our 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 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.

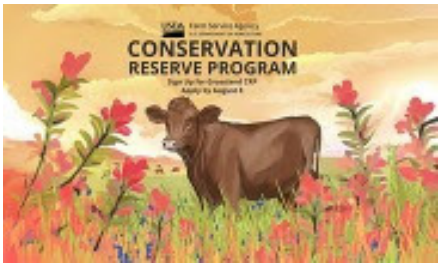
Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even 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.

Producers and Landowners Can Now Enroll in USDA's Grassland Conservation Reserve Program



WASHINGTON, July 14, 2025 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can now enroll in the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (Grassland CRP). The sign-up runs from today, July 14, to Aug. 8, 2025. Grassland CRP, offered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary working lands conservation program that enables participants to conserve grasslands while also continuing most grazing and haying practices.
Grassland CRP emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grasslands and land with shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

"Through the conservation of America's essential grasslands, Grassland CRP supports continued agricultural productivity while at the same time prioritizing private lands stewardship," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "By offering landowners the best of both worlds — economic viability and working lands preservation — Grassland CRP provisions support USDA's commitment to Farmers First."

CRP, USDA's flagship conservation program, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. For four decades, CRP has provided financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners whose accepted acres are placed under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. The American Relief Act, 2025, extended provisions for CRP through Sept. 30, 2025.

Landowners and producers interested in Grassland CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or apply for the program before the Aug. 8 deadline.

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Service Agency:
(307)765-2689 Ex 2

County Executive Director
Brenda Miller
brenda.miller@usda.gov

Program Analyst
Mikayla Zimmerman
mikayla.zimmerman@usda.gov

County Committee:
Brandon Hessenthaler-Chairman
Marshall Gibbs-Vice Chairman
Justine Paxton-Voting Member

Next Meeting: August 13, 2025 @ 1:30 on an as needed basis

Farm Loan:
Caleb Vigil, FLM
Worland Office (307)347-2456 Ext 2
Mike Brokaw, FLM
Powell Office: (307)765-9411 Ext 2