

waived by the State committee or the Deputy Administrator;

(7) During the term of office, not be a full-time employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture;

(8) If the office is that of county committee member, not be a sales agent or employee of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation during the term of office;

(9) If the office is that of delegate to the local administrative area or county convention, not have been a county committee member for that county during the 90 days preceding the community election;

(10) If the office is that of county committee member, not be serving as a county committee member with one or more years following the current election remaining in the term of office; and

(11) If the office is that of county committee member, not have served three consecutive terms as county committee member just prior to the current election, except that:

(i) Any partial term served by an alternate who filled a permanent vacancy on the county committee, shall not count toward this three term limitation; and

(ii) In the case of a person elected to be a national officer or State president of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committeemen, the limitation shall be four consecutive terms.

[52 FR 48512, Dec. 23, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 15827, Apr. 5, 1994]

§7.16 Eligibility requirements of all other personnel.

(a) The county executive director and other employees of the county committee must not have been: Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services; removed for cause from any public office; or convicted of any fraud, larceny, embezzlement, or felony, unless any such disqualification is waived by the State committee or the Deputy Administrator.

(b) The county executive director or any other employee of the county committee must not have been removed as a county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, county executive director, or other employee of the

county committee for: Failure to perform the duties of the office; committing, attempting, or conspiring to commit fraud; incompetence; impeding the effectiveness of any program administered in the county; refusal to carry out or failure to comply with the Department's policy relating to equal opportunity and civil rights, including equal employment policy, or interfering with others in carrying out such policy; or for violation of official instructions, unless such disqualification is waived by the State committee or the Deputy Administrator.

(c) The county executive director or any other employee of the county committee must not have been disqualified for future employment because of a determination by a State committee that during previous service as a county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or as an employee of the county committee has: Failed to perform the duties of such office or employment; committed, attempted, or conspired to commit fraud; impeded the effectiveness of any program administered in the county; refused to carry out or failed to comply with the Department's policy relating to equal opportunity and civil rights, including the equal employment policy, or interfered with others in carrying out such policy; or violated official instructions, unless such disqualification is waived by the State committee or the Deputy Administrator.

(d) The tenure of employment of any county executive director or other employee of the county committee shall be terminated as soon as any such person becomes ineligible for employment under the provisions of this section.

§7.17 Dual office.

(a) *County committee membership.* A member of the county committee may not be at the same time:

(1) A member of a community committee;

(2) A delegate to a local administrative area convention;

(3) A delegate to a county convention;

(4) The secretary to the county committee;

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(5) A member of the State committee; or

(6) County executive director or any other county office employee.

(b) *Community committee membership.* A member of the community committee may not be at the same time:

(1) A member of a county committee;

(2) The secretary to the county committee;

(3) A member of the State committee; or

(4) County executive director or regular county office employee.

(c) *Delegate to conventions.* A delegate to the local administrative area or county convention may not be a member of the State committee.

§7.18 Terms of office of county and community members.

The term of office of county and community committee members and alternates to such office shall begin on a date fixed by the Deputy Administrator, which shall be after their election and not later than the first day in the next January. Before any such county committee members or alternate county committee members may take office, such person shall sign an oath of office pledge that they will faithfully, fairly, and honestly perform to the best of their ability all of the duties devolving on them as committee members. A term of office shall continue until a successor is elected and qualified as provided in §§7.8 and 7.9 of this part.

§7.19 Terms of office of delegates to the conventions.

The terms of office of delegates and alternates to the local administrative area and county conventions shall begin immediately upon their election and shall continue until their respective successors have elected and qualified.

§7.20 State committee duties.

The State committee, subject to the general direction and supervision of the Deputy Administrator, shall be generally responsible for carrying out in the State the agricultural conservation program, the production adjustment and price support programs, the acreage allotment and marketing

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quota programs, the wool and mohair incentive payment program, and any other program or function assigned by the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary.

§7.21 County committee duties.

(a) The county committee, subject to the general direction and supervision of the State committee, and acting through community committee members and other personnel, shall be generally responsible for carrying out in the county the agricultural conservation program, the production adjustment and price support programs, the acreage allotment and marketing quota programs, the wool and mohair incentive payment program, and any other program or function assigned by the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary.

(b) The county committee shall:

(1) Enter into leasing agreements for such office space as needed in accordance with official instructions.

(2) Employ the county executive director, subject to standards and qualifications furnished by the State committee, to serve at the pleasure of the county committee, except that incumbent directors shall not be removed other than in accordance with the provisions of §7.28 of this part until all members of the county committee have been in office for at least 90 days. There shall be no employment discrimination due to race, religion, color, sex, age, or national origin. The county executive director may not be removed for advocating or carrying out the Department's policy on equal opportunity and civil rights, including the equal employment policy. In the event it is claimed that dismissal is for such reasons, the dismissal shall not become effective until the State committee and the Deputy Administrator have determined that dismissal was not because of such reasons;

(3) Direct the activities of the local committees elected in the county;

(4) Pursuant to official instructions, review, approve, and certify forms, reports, and documents requiring such action in accordance with such instructions;

(5) Recommend to the State committee needed changes in boundaries of