

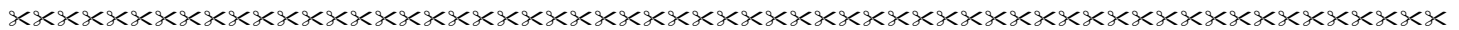


2008 FSA County Committee Election

Vote and make a difference! The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agriculture community and the USDA. Committee members deliver FSA programs at the local level. Producers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. A county or multi-county area serviced by the county committee is divided into three to five local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. FSA offices will inform producers through local newspaper articles which LAA is conducting an election this year.

Uniform guidelines for county committee elections were published in the Federal Register on January 18, 2005, and are designed to increase participation by minorities and women. These guidelines help ensure that FSA county committees fairly represent the agricultural producers of a LAA, especially minorities and women. These guidelines and other election information can be obtained at http://www.fsa.usda.gov under the "News & Events" tab.

Producers who participate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. In addition, organizations representing minority and women producers may nominate candidates. The 2-page nomination form (FSA-669A) is included and must be postmarked or received by close of business on August 1, 2008, in the local FSA office holding the election.



This form is available electronically. FSA-669A (03-08-06)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held this year on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters not less than 4 weeks before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file an appeal in accordance with 7 CFR Part 780.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

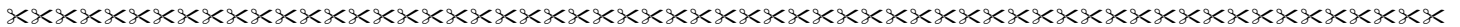
A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

**IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER**

- June 15, 2008** - Nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local FSA office.
- August 1, 2008** - Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA office.
- November 3, 2008** - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.
- December 1, 2008** - Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA office.
- January 1, 2009** - Newly elected committee members and alternates take office.



Do NOT mail this form to the address on this newsletter. You must mail to your local FSA county office conducting the election.

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FSA-669A (03-08-06)		U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency	
<b>NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</b>			
1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE			
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.  <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)	
		6A. COUNTY	
		6B. LAA NO.	
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		7. STATE	
4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		<b>DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR</b>	
<b>8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE</b>			
<b>VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:</b> The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.			
<b>ETHNICITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		<b>GENDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM</b>			
Complete the form as follows:			
<b>ITEM 1</b> Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be: A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election. B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member. C. Willing to serve if elected.			
<b>ITEM 2</b> Enter the nominee's current address.			
<b>ITEM 3</b> The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.			
<b>ITEM 4</b> The nominee must sign and date.			
<b>ITEM 8</b> Completing this item is voluntary.			
<b>ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.</b>			
<b>NOTE:</b> The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.  According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.			