

## FSA County Committees

Since the committee system was first established in 1936, Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees have provided an important voice in Federal decisions affecting their local communities. The County Committee oversees local FSA operations and makes critical decisions on how FSA commodity, conservation, and disaster programs are administered in its communities.

County Committees are composed of three to five elected members, each serving a 3-year term. Approximately one-third of these seats are up for election annually. In addition to the elected members, County Committees may have one or more appointed, non-voting advisors to further represent the local interests of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

County Committee members play a vital role in FSA operations at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees nationwide help deliver the programs applicable to their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.



County Committees are involved with decisions on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments;
- Establishment of allotments and yields;
- Conservation programs; and
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for commodities, and other farm disaster assistance.

FSA County Committees operate within official regulations that are designed to carry out Federal farm programs. Committee members apply their judgment, experience, and knowledge when making local decisions.

## Nomination Process

Individuals may nominate candidates (or self-nominate) for the County Committee from the list of voters who are eligible to serve in the local administrative area holding an election.

- Names for candidacy or nominations are submitted using a FSA 669-A (Nomination Form for County Farm Service Agency Committee Election), available from any FSA office or from the FSA Web site: [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/)
- Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by others;
- Nomination forms must be submitted to the county office or be postmarked on or before the closing date of the nomination period;
- Nomination forms must be signed by the nominee (whether self-nominated or nominated by someone else).

**Members make decisions on a number of important issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, and farm disaster assistance.**

## Election Process

Eligible voters elect committee members by mail ballot. Ballots are mailed to all eligible voters. Ballots may also be requested from a local FSA office. A plurality vote determines the winner; each eligible voter also has the option of writing in the name of a candidate. The nominee:

- receiving the most votes becomes the County Committee member for a 3-year term.
- receiving the second most votes becomes first alternate to the elected County Committee member for a 3-year term.
- receiving the third most votes becomes second alternate to the elected County Committee member for a 3-year term.

If a socially disadvantaged producer is not elected to serve on the County Committee in areas with socially disadvantaged customers, advisory members may also be appointed. These advisors highlight special concerns and represent additional views on program implementation and administration. They are an integral part of the process that ensures all producers have a voice in the County Committee system. Advisors are appointed by the State FSA Committee from names provided by County Committees and other persons or organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups.

## Ballot Counting

The committee designates the place, date, and time for counting ballots. The counting of ballots is open to the public. The committee counts completed ballots within 7 calendar days after the election date.