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FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS START JUNE 15

Bozeman, MT June 15, 2010 – The USDA’s Farm Service Agency today announced farmer and rancher candidate nominations begin June 15 for local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. The nomination period continues through Aug. 3, 2010. Elections take place this fall.

“We are pleased to announce the launch of this year’s FSA county committees’ nomination process,” Montana State Executive Director Bruce Nelson said. “This is a great opportunity to get involved in decisions that affect Montana’s farmers and ranchers.”

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

Producers may nominate themselves, be nominated by other producers in the LAA, as well as be nominated by organizations representing minorities and women. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The nomination form is available at your local FSA office. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 5. The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 6, 2010.

Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2011.

Find FSA news releases on the agency's Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

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