



NEWSLETTER



2011 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

Election Period

June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 2, 2012 - Newly elected COC members take office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

Nominations

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa_0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age (18 years) may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility

May 2011

Caribou
FSA Office

390 East Hooper Ave.
Soda Springs, ID
8327

208-547 4396 phone
208-547-4801 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/ID

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Chad Bye
Heather Ainscough
Stacey Grant
Stacey Moyles

FSA-669A (03-31-11)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)</i>	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
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>	5. COUNTY	
<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.	6. LAA	7. STATE
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
		8B. DATE
(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).		

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: 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.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> American 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	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1** 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.
 - ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
 - ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
 - ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
 - ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
 - ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the 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 10 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. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

**NOTICE
TO HISPANIC
AND/OR
WOMEN
FARMERS OR
RANCHERS
COMPENSATION
FOR CLAIMS OF
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is your first year in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and need to show

crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing the Notice of Loss is required for **ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Crop Reporting

Producers must file their acreage reports by **June 30, 2011** to avoid late filing penalties!

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm **must** be reported to receive benefits from the DCP and ACRE, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments, and crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

Prevented Planting: Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage: Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the

county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If multiple owners and/or operators do not agree about program participation and want to separate acres by programs, for example to enter only a segment of property into the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. **NOTE:** to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1, 2011 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with credit to meet their business needs. Farmers having trouble obtaining financing have both direct and guaranteed loan options.

Farmers who have had a setback and whose lenders are reluctant to extend or renew credit can ask their lender if they qualify for an FSA loan guarantee

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner prior to production credit needs.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Caribou County FSA Office
 390 East Hooper Ave.
 Soda Springs, ID 83276



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Did Your Bank Change?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are now electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and have incorrect routing numbers, there could be problems. For FSA to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay

Selected Interest Rates for May 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Direct Farm Operating Loans	2.625%
Direct Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.5%

Dates to Remember	
June 1	Deadline for Farm Record Changes
June 1	DCP Sign Up Ends
June 1	ACRE Sign Up Ends
June 30	Crop reporting deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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