

June 2013



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2013 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, with large or small operations. 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.

The Belmont/Monroe Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the County Committee. The counties are divided into Local Administrative Areas (LAA). This year LAA-4 and LAA-5 will be having elections. LAA-4 is comprised of the following townships in Belmont County: Flushing, Wheeling, Colerain, Pease, Kirkwood, Warren, Union, Richland and Pultney. LAA-5 includes the Belmont County townships of Goshen, Smith, Mead, Somerset, Wayne, Washington and York. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The Nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Belmont/Monroe County FSA office and [online](#).

Members of socially disadvantaged groups (a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities) are strongly encouraged to complete the Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) and nominate themselves or another eligible candidate.

Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to the Belmont/Monroe County Executive Director, Christy Collins at 740-425-2300 or stop in the office located at 1119 E Main St., Ste 1, Barnesville, OH, for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections> .

The nomination period begins June 17th and runs until August 1, 2013. Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters November 4th and must be returned by December 2, 2013. The elected Committee Member and Alternates will take office January 1, 2014.

Questions?

Please contact Christy Collins, County Executive Director, at (740) 425-2300, christy.collins@oh.usda.gov. or for Farm Loans, please contact Sam Raber, Farm Loan Manager, at (330) 339-5585, samuel.raber@oh.usda.gov for Belmont County loans. For Monroe County loans, contact David Drake, at (614) 255-2543, david.drake@oh.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).