

December 2013



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

County Committee Elections

NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened.

New ballots will be mailed to producers on December 20, 2013. These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

The corrected ballot must be returned to the Northern and Southern County FSA Offices or postmarked by January 17, 2014. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expires on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an 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.

The candidates in this year's election are:

The following are this year's candidates who have been nominated in their LAA's to serve as a committee member.

Northern County LAA-1

LAA-1 Includes the area that encompasses the following areas: North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Yukon-Koyukuk and Nome Census areas, as well as the Denali and Fairbanks North Star Borough.

McLaren “Mac” Carter resides in Central, AK, a diversified farmers market vegetable producer who raises a large variety of crops from tomatoes to potatoes and has lived and farmed in the Central, Alaska community for 16 years. The Carter's are very involved with the community and each year celebrate a annual bringing in of the crops through a community festival for the whole area.

Lawrence “Bruce” Davis resides in Nome, AK, is a second generation Nome Reindeer Herder who manages and oversees the family Reindeer herd on the Seward Peninsula. Lawrence is involved with different USDA conservation and farm programs that promote sound conservation practices, herd health and grazing measures.

Election Ballots will be Counted in Public at the Northern County FSA Office at 10:00 a.m. on January 23, 2014.

Southern County LAA -2

LAA-2 Includes the municipality of Anchorage, Valdez/Cordova Census area south of Chugach Mtns. Kenai Peninsula Borough north of Kasilof River.

Abby Ala, a 2nd generation farmer in Soldotna on land that has been in her family for over 66 years. Abby operates a greenhouse, produces vegetables as well as hay, and boards horses.

Natasha Ala, a 3rd generation Alaska homestead family in Soldotna follows in a long tradition of farming and soil and water conservation.

William L. Hightower grew up on his grandmother's farm in Iowa and attended Iowa State University studying forestry. Since moving to Sterling, Alaska in 1975 he has been involved in mini farming, raising produce and livestock.

Election Ballots will be Counted in Public at the Southern County FSA Office at 2:00 p.m. on January 23, 2014.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Questions?

Please contact Lloyd Wilhelm, Northern County Executive Director, at (907) 895-4242, lloyd.wilhelm@ak.usda.gov. or Chris Dickinson, Southern County Program Technician, at (907) 761-7772. Please contact for Northern County Farm Loans, Lloyd Wilhelm, Farm Loan Officer, at (907)895-4242, lloyd.wilhelm@ak.usda.gov or contact for Southern County Farm Loans, Jeff Curry, Farm Loan Specialist, at (907) 761-7773, jeff.curry@ak.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).