

County Committee Elections

Make a Difference: Nominate and Vote!

Overview

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

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Committees provide local input on:

- ◆ Commodity price support loans and payments;
- ◆ Conservation programs;
- ◆ Incentive, indemnity, and
- ◆ disaster payments for some commodities; and
- ◆ Emergency programs.

FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

There are three steps in the election process;

1. Call for nominations
2. Election
3. Installing the new committee members

Nomination Period

June 15—August 1, 2007

Nominations for candidates to run for the FSA county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) will be accepted from June 15 through August 1, 2007.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms may be picked up at your county office or download the form at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>

Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 1, or postmarked by midnight August 1, 2007.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Role of Advisors

In addition to elected members, FSA county committees may also include advisors. Advisors are appointed to county committees in counties or multi-county jurisdictions that have significant numbers of SDA producers and lack minority or women-elected members on FSA county committees.

Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of minorities and women in decisions made by county committees. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community based organizations.

For More Information

For more information about FSA county committees, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> on the World Wide Web or visit your local USDA Service Cen-

County Committees



**Farmers
Serving
Farmers**

Don't Miss out on Voting

Ballots will be mailed to voters by November 2, 2007, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 3, 2007.

If you do not receive a ballot, eligible voters may contact their local FSA county office before the final date to return ballots.

See next page for townships where the County Committee Elections are to be held in 2007.

***Make a Difference:
Nominate and Vote!***

New Uniform Guidelines

On January 18, 2005, USDA issued new uniform guidelines for county committee elections to help ensure that FSA county committees fairly represent the agricultural producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction, especially socially disadvantaged (SDA) producers. SDA persons are African Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asians, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders, and women. The guidelines, authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill, govern the FSA county committee election process and are designed to increase participation by minorities and women.

The following are just some of the specifics of the guidelines that are now in effect:

- ◆ If no valid nominations are filed, the Secretary of Agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot.
- ◆ County committees must annually review local administrative area boundaries to ensure the fair representation of SDA producers in their county or multi-county jurisdiction.
- ◆ FSA county offices shall actively locate and recruit eligible candidates identified as SDA farmers and ranchers as potential nominees for the county committee elections using any reasonable means necessary, including the development of partnerships with community based organizations.

To read the guidelines in their entirety, visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>.

FSA-669A
(03-08-06)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)
COMMITTEE ELECTION**

The County FSA Committee election will be held this year on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters not less than 4 weeks before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file an appeal in accordance with 7 CFR Part 780.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

FSA-669A (03-08-06)	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	
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. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	6A. COUNTY
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	6B. LAA NO.
4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>	7. STATE
DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR	

8. 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.

<u>ETHNICITY</u>	<u>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</u>	<u>GENDER</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

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.
- ITEM 4** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEM 8** Completing this item is voluntary.

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

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for 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 5 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. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

2007 Wisconsin County Committee Elections Will be Held in the Following Townships

DISTRICT	COUNTY	LAA	TOWNSHIPS													
1	Ashland	1 & 5	All Townships in Ashland and Iron Counties													
1	Barron	2	Chetek	Dovre	Stanley	Sumner	Dallas	Maple Grove	Prairie Lake	Sioux Creek						
1	Chippewa	1	Arthur	Birch Creek	Bloomer	Cleveland	Colburn	Estella	Lake Holcombe	Ruby	Sampson					
1	Dunn	2	Stanton	Sherman	Tainter	Colfax	Lucas	Menomonie	Red Cedar	Elk Mound						
1	Eau Claire	3	Bridge Creek	Fairchild	Ludinton	Otter Creek	Filson									
1	Pepin	1	Pepin	Stockholm	Frankfort Sections 26-35											
1	Pierce	3	Diamond Bluff	Hartland	Isabelle	Maiden Rock	Salem	Trenton	Union							
1	Polk	1	Bone Lake	Clam Falls	Eureka	Georgetown	Johnstown	Laketown	Lorain	Luck	McKinley	Milltown	Sterling	West Sweden		
1	Rusk	2	Atlanta	Big Falls	Dewey	Flambeau	Hubbard	Murry	Wilkinson	Wilson						
1	Sawyer	4	Draper	Hunter	Meadow Brook	Meteor	Ojibwa	Round Lake	Spider Lake	Weirgor	Winter					
1	Saint Croix	1	Somerset	St. Joseph	Hudson	Troy	Warren	Kinnickinnic								
1	Washburn	3	Bashaw	Blaine	Dewey	Jackson	Warren	Sand Lake	Scott	Webb Lake						
1	Washburn	5	Barronett	Beaver Brook	Birchwood	Long Lake	Madge	Roosevelt	Stone Lake	Sarona						
2	Brown	1	Pittsfield	Suamico	Howard	Hobart	Lawrence	De Pere	Ashwaubenon	City of Green Bay						
2	Clark	1	Thorp	Withee	Hixon	Worden	Reseburg	Longwood	Butler	Mead	Warner	Hendren	Eaton			
2	Lincoln	1	Somo	Wilson	Tomahawk	Harding	Corning	Scott								
2	Langlade	5	Bradley	King	Skanawan	Russell	Harrison	Parish	Summit	Vilas	Elcho	Upham	Ainsworth	Peck		
2	Marathon	2	Hull	Cassel	Cleveland	McMillan	Bergen	Frankfort	Brighton	Emmet	Day	Wien	Eau Pleine	Spencer	Green Valley	
2	Marinette	1	Middle Inlet	Wausaukee	Amberg	Silver Cliff	Athelstane	Beecher	Pembine	Dunbar	Goodman	Niagara				
2	Menominee	2	ALL TOWNSHIPS													
2	Oconto	3	Morgan	Abrams	Pensaukee	Chase	Little Suamico									
2	Oneida/Florence/Forest/Vilas	2	All of Forest County													
2	Outagamie	3	Black Creek	Bovina	Cicero	Deer Creek	Libery	Maine	Maple Creek							
2	Shawano		No Election													
2	Taylor	3	Browning	Chelsea	Deer Creek	Goodrich	Greenwood	Rib Lake	Westboro							
2	Price	NONE														
3	Calumet	1	Brillion	Harrison	Woodville											
3	Dodge	3	Elba	Lowell	Clyman	Hustisford	Portland	Shields	Emmet	Lebanon						
3	Door	3	Gardner	Union	Forestville	Brussels	Clay Banks									
3	Fond du Lac	2	Byron	Oakfield	Empire	Fond du Lac	Lamartine	Taycheedah	Friendship							
3	Green Lake	3	Kingston	Manchester	Marquette											
3	Kewaunee	3	Red River	Luxemburg	Lincoln											
3	Manitowoc	3	Centerville	Eaton	Liberty	Meeme	Newton	Schleswig								
3	Marquette/Adams/Waushara		ALL TOWNSHIPS													
3	Portage	1	Eau Pleine	Carson	Dewey	Sharon	Hull	Linwood								
3	Sheboygan	1	Greenbush	Mitchell	Rhine	Russell	Scott									
3	Waupaca	3	Matteson	Larrabee	Bear Creek	Lebanon	Mukwa	Caledonia	Weyauwega	Fremont						
3	Winnebago	2	Poygan	Winneconne	Rushford	Omro	Nepeuskun									
3	Wood County	1	Lincoln	Marshfield	Cameron	Rock	Richfield	Cary	Wood							
4	Columbia	1	Newport	Lewiston	Caledonia	Dekorra	Arlington	Lodi	West Point							
4	Dane	1	Mazomanie	Black Earth	Vermont	Roxbury	Berry	Cross Plains	Dane	Springfield	Middleton	Vienna	Westport	Madison	Windsor	
4	Green	2	Albany	Brooklyn	Decatur	Spring Grove	Sylvester									
4	Jefferson	2	Aztalan	Farmington	Concord	Jefferson										
4	Lafayette	1	Kendall	Elk Grove	Seymour	Benton	New Diggings	Belmont								
4	Ozaukee	5	Port Washington	Cedarburg	Grafton	Mequon										
4	Racine/Kenosha	2 & 3	Raymond (2)	Caledonia (2)	Yorkville (2)	Mount. Pleasant (2)	Brighton (3)	Wheatland (3)	Randall (3)	Salem (3)						
4	Rock	2	Fulton	Harmony	Janesville	Johnstown	Lima	Milton								
4	Sauk	3	Bear Creek	Franklin	Honey Creek	Sumpter	Spring Green	Troy	Prairie du Sac							
4	Walworth	3	Richmond	Sugar Creek	Delavan	Darien	Sharon									
4	Washington	3	Hartford	Polk	Erin	Richfield	Germantown									
4	Waukesha	1 & 4	Brookfield (1)	New Berlin (1)	Muskego (1)	Waukesha (1)	Vernon (1)	Milwaukee Co. (4)								
5	Buffalo	1	Maxville	Canton	Mondovi	Naples	Nelson									
5	Crawford	2	Eastman	Seneca	Haney	Scott										
5	Grant	1	Beetown	Bloomington	Cassville	Glen Haven	Little Grant	Millville	Mount Hope	Patch Grove	Potosi	South Lancaster	Waterloo	Woodman	Wyalusing	
5	Iowa	3	Mifflin	Linden	Mineral Point	Waldwick	Moscow									
5	Jackson	2	Adams	Albion	Curran	Hixton	Springfield									
5	Juneau	3	Lindina	Seven Mile Creek	Summit	Wonewoc										
5	LaCrosse	2	Farmington	Holland	Onalaska											
5	Monroe	2	Ridgeville	Wilton	Clifton	Glendale	Wellington	Sheldon	Jefferson							
5	Richland	1	Forest	Bloom	Dayton	Sylvan	Marshall									
5	Trempealeau	2	Arcadia	Burnside	Caledonia	Dodge	Trempealeau									
5	Vernon	3	Clinton	Forest	Greenwood	Hillsboro	Kickapoo	Liberty	Start	Union	Webster	Whitestown				

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

1. Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
2. Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
3. Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
4. 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; or
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact your local FSA office.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can 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 can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status. If you are unsure of your eligibility, contact your local FSA county office.

2007 Election

The county committee election is held by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 2, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on December 3, or post-marked by midnight December 3, 2007.

Election Timetable

June 15, 2007

Nomination period begins. Nomination forms also available from your local USDA Service Center and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

August 1, 2007

Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.

November 2, 2007

Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 3, 2007

Last day to return voted ballots to the local USDA Service Center.

January 1, 2008

Elected committee members and alternates take office.

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE