



June 2008

Nominations Open June 15

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008.

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 and details may be picked up at the county office or downloaded from the Michigan FSA Web site. Simply go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi> and click on the "Vote, Make a Difference" graphic.

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 Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1.

Who Can Hold Office

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

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

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 your local county office staff.

Service Center	LAA	Townships and/or County
Allegan	LAA #2	Laketown, Fillmore, Saugatuck, Manlius, Heath, Monterey, Ganges, Clyde, Valley, and Allegan
Alpena-Alcona-Montmorency	LAA #5	Haynes, Greenbush, Gustin, Harrisville, and Mikado of Alcona County
Antrim-Otsego	LAA #3	Custer, Elk Rapids, Forest Home, Helena, Kearney, and Milton
	LAA#4	Bagley, Elmira, Hayes, Livingston, and Otsego Lake
Arenac	LAA #3	Standish, Lincoln, and Arenac
Baraga-Houghton-Ontonagon-Keweenaw	LAA #4	Ontonagon County and Duncan Township of Houghton County
	LAA #5	Gogebic County
Barry	LAA #1	Thornapple, Irving, Yankee Springs, Rutland, Orangeville, Hope, and Prairieville
Bay	LAA #1	Gibson, Mt Forest, Pinconning, Garfield and Fraser
Berrien	LAA #3	Chikaming, Weesaw, Buchanan, New Buffalo, Three Oaks, Galien, and Bertrand
Branch	LAA #3	Batavia, Coldwater, Bethel, Ovid, Gilead, and Kinderhook
Calhoun	LAA #3	Albion, Clarence, Claredon, Eckford, Homer, Marengo, and Sheridan
Cass	LAA #1	Volinia, Marcellus, LaGrange, Penn and Newberg
Chippewa-Mackinac-Luce	LAA #2	Trout Lake, Rudyard, Pickford, Drummond Island, and Detour in Chippewa County. St. Ignace, Marquette, Clark, Mackinac Island, Bois Blanc Island, and Round Island in Mackinac County
Clinton	LAA #3	Bath, DeWitt, Eagle, Olive, Victor and Watertown
Delta-Alger-Schoolcraft-Marquette	LAA #1	Champion, Humbolt, Negaunee, Sands, Chocolay, Ishpeming, Powell, Skandia, Ely, Marquette, Republic, Tiden, Forsyth, Michigamme, Richmond, and West Branch Townships in Marquette County
Eaton	LAA #3	Delta, Windsor, Eaton, Eaton Rapids, Brookfield, and Hamlin
Emmet-Charlevoix	LAA #2	Resort, Bear Creek, Springvale, Hayes, Bay, Evangeline, Melrose, Chandler, and Hudson
Genesee	LAA #2	Argentine, Atlas, Fenton, Flint, Gaines, Grand Blanc and Mundy
Gladwin-Clare	LAA #2	Buckeye, Hay, South Grim, Tobacco, Billings, and Bentley

Service Center	LAA	Townships and/or County
Grand Traverse-Kalkaska-Leelanau	LAA #1	Bingham, Leelanau, Leeland, and Suttons Bay
	LAA #4	Blair, Grant, Green Lake, Mayfield, Paradise, Union, and Fife Lake
Gratiot	LAA #1	Arcada, Bethany, Pine River, Seville, and Sumner
Hillsdale	LAA #1	Litchfield, Scipio, Moscow, Somerset, Allen and Fayette/Hillsdale
Huron	LAA #1	Lake, Caseville, McKinley, Chandler, Fairhaven, Winsor, Oliver, Sebewaing, Brookfield, and Grant
Ingham-Livingston	LAA #5	Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Handy, Howell, Iosco, Marion, Putman, and Unadilla
Ionia	LAA #3	Lyons, Orange, Portland, Sebewa, and Danby
Iosco	LAA #3	Grant, Tawas, and Baldwin
Isabella	LAA #1	Union, Rolland, Fremont, Lincoln, and Coe
Jackson	LAA #3	Henrietta, Waterloo, Leoni, Grass Lake, Napoleon, Columbia and Norvell
Kalamazoo	LAA #1	Alamo, Cooper, Richland, Ross and Oshtemo
Kent	LAA #3	Vergennes, Wyoming, Paris/Kentwood, Cascade, Lowell, Byron, Gaines, Caledonia, and Bowne
Lapeer-Oakland	LAA#2	Burlington, Burnside, North Branch, Arcadia, Attica, and Lapeer
Lenawee	LAA #2	Rollin, Hudson, Dover, Madison, Medina, Seneca and Fairfield
Mason-Oceana-Lake-Manistee	LAA #3	Amber, Custer, Eden, Hamlin, Pere Marquette, Riverton and Summit Townships in Mason County
	LAA #4	Pentwater, Weare, Golden, Hart, Benona, Shelby, Claybanks and Grant Townships in Oceana County
Mecosta	LAA #3	Martiny, Sheridan, Wheatland, Millbrook, and Hinton
Menominee-Dickinson-Iron	LAA #2	Holmes, Lake, Mellen and Menominee
Midland	LAA #2	Geneva, Lee, Greendale, Jasper and Porter
Monroe	LAA #2	Summerfield, Ida, Whiteford, Bedford, and Erie
Montcalm	LAA #1	Home, Richland, Day, Ferris, Evergreen and Crystal
Newaygo-Muskegon	LAA #4	White River, Montague, Whitehall, Blue Lake, Holton, Fruitland, Dalton, Cedar Creek, Laketon, Muskegon, City of Norton Shores and Fruitport
Ogemaw-Oscoda-Roscommon-Crawford	LAA#3	Oscoda, Roscommon and Crawford Counties
Ottawa	LAA #2	Spring Lake, Grand Haven, Robinson, Port Sheldon, Olive, Park, Holland, Crockery and Zeeland
Presque Isle-Cheboygan	LAA #1	Mackinaw, Hebron, Munro, Beauprand, Inverness, Benton, Aloha, and Grant
Saginaw	LAA #1	Tittabawassee, Richland, Jonesfield, Lakefield, Fremont, Swan Creek, James and Thomas
St. Clair - Macomb	LAA #1	Bruce, Washington, Ray, Shelby, Macomb, Chesterfield, Clinton, and Harrison in Macomb County
	LAA#5	Kimball, Port Huron, St. Clair, Casco, China, East China, Ira, Cotterville and Clay Townships in St. Clair County
St. Joseph	LAA #3	Burr Oak, Colon, Fawn River, Sherman, and Sturgis
Sanilac	LAA #1	Greenleaf, Austin, Minden, Delaware, Evergreen, Argyle, Wheatland, Marion, and Forester
Shiawassee	LAA #2	Caledonia, Hazelton, New Haven, Rush and Venice
Tuscola	LAA #1	Wisner, Akron, Fairgrove, Columbia, Almer, Elmwood, Ellington and Elkland
Van Buren	LAA #2	Columbia, Bloomingdale, Pine Grove, Arlington, Waverly, and Almena
Washtenaw-Wayne	LAA #1	Bridgewater, Dexter, Freedom, Lyndon, Manchester, Sharon, and Sylvan
Wexford-Benzie-Missaukee-Osceola	LAA #1	Benzie County
	LAA#5	Burdell, Sherman, Leroy, Rose Lake, Lincoln, Osceola, Sylvan, Richmond, Hershey, Evart, Orient, and Cedar Townships in Osceola County

County Committee Elections

It's county committee election time, and this newsletter is your guide to the 2008 election.

Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Most counties are divided into three LAAs. Combined counties may have three to five LAAs.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

The three steps in the election process are the call for nominations, the election and installing the new committee member.

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 on 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 or marital or family status.

Election Timetable

- June 15 Nomination period begins.
- Aug. 1 Deadline to submit nomination forms.
- Nov. 3 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
- Dec. 1 Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA county office.
- Jan. 1, 2009 New committee members and alternates take office

FSA-669A
(02-25-08)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

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> <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>	5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i> 6A. COUNTY 6B. LAA NO. 7. STATE
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
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.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <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	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.
- 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 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. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

This form is available electronically.

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(02-25-08)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY (FSA) COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held 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 a challenge.

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.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 program. (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 to 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.