



FSA News

North Dakota Farm Service Agency

www.fsa.usda.gov

June 2009

County Committee Election

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 link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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.

Committees are comprised of 3-5 members each from a different geographical area called a Local Administrative Area. (LAA). One committee member is selected from each LAA and serving a 3 year term. Generally only one LAA election is conducted each year. Included in this newsletter is a map of the state with the LAA highlighted that will be conducting the election.

Election Period

June 15, 2009 - Nomination period begins. A nomination form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. You may also request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

August 3, 2009 - Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.

November 6, 2009 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 7, 2009 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

January 1, 2010 - Newly elected committee members take office.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program and have their farm administered in the LAA holding the election. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm can also vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements

can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers

may nominate candidates. The nominee must reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction.

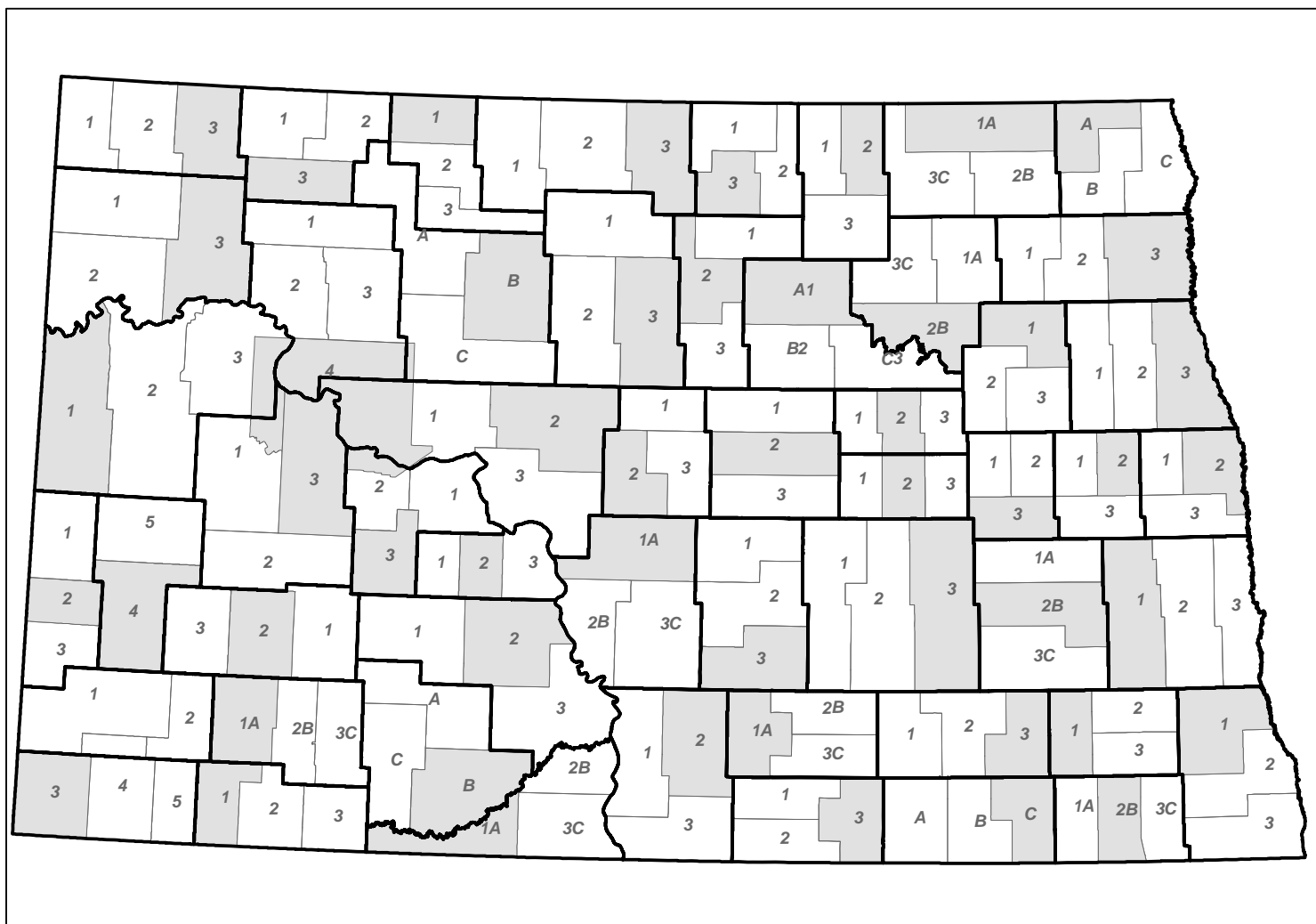
Don't Miss Out on Voting

Ballots will be mailed to voters by Nov. 6, 2009, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 7, 2009. Eligible voters may contact their local FSA county office before the final date to return ballots if they do not receive a ballot.

For More Information

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

2009 County Committee Elections Local Administrative Areas



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| FSA-669A (04-17-09) | 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.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 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 3.

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.

FSA-669A
(04-17-09)

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 3.

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