

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of Agriculture, FSA State Office
6311 Ridgewood Rd Suite W100 – Jackson MS 39211
www.fsa.usda.gov/ms

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CONTACT: J. Latrice Hill 601-965-4300 x 108
Public Relations/Outreach Specialist
Latrice.hill@ms.usda.gov

USDA URGES FARMERS TO PARTICIPATE IN FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

JACKSON, MS- July 12, 2007 – Mississippi Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Mickey L. Black urges the state's farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to submit a nomination in FSA's county committee elections by August 1st, the deadline for submitting nomination forms.

"FSA county committees provide producers with the opportunity to help implement federal farm programs in their communities," said Black. "It is vital that all farmers and ranchers, especially women and minorities, participate in the elections process to ensure the opinions expressed in committee meetings reflect an area's agricultural sector."

FSA county committees help administer federal farm programs at the local level. Committee members make decisions on conservation programs; commodity price support loans and payments; disaster assistance payments; and other agricultural issues.

County committees consist of three to five elected members who serve three-year terms. Committees may also have one or more female or minority advisors to further represent the local interests of women and minority farmers and ranchers.

For more information about FSA county committee elections, visit
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.

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