

For: State and County Offices

Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office When Producer Requests a New Administrative Office

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Field Operations



1 Overview

A Background

3-CM, Part 3 provides guidance on procedures to follow when a producer selects an alternative County Office to administer their farm records.

B Purpose

This notice:

- provides revised policy for determining eligibility to vote and hold office for those producers who have selected an alternative administrative County Office to administer their farm records
- is being issued to assist producers who may be making a decision in the near future on selecting an alternative administrative County Office.

2 Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office

A Voting Eligibility

Producers who meet all eligibility requirements in 15-AO are eligible to vote for COC in both of the following COC jurisdictions:

- where the producer’s farm is physically located
- where the producer’s farm records are administered.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2008	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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2 Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office (Continued)

B Eligibility to Hold Office

A producer is eligible to hold office on COC if the producer meets all eligibility requirements in 15-AO.

A producer can be a candidate to hold office only in the county in which the producer resides and also has a farming or ranching interest, regardless of where the producer's farm records are administered.

Effective immediately, producers who select an alternative administrative County Office outside of the COC jurisdiction of their residence:

- **will** be eligible to hold office on COC in the jurisdiction where they:
 - reside
 - have farming or ranching interest
- will **not** be eligible to hold office on COC in their new alternative administrative jurisdiction.

Example: Mr. Smith lives in County A. County A is consolidated with County B. Mr. Smith requests to have his records transferred to County C, instead of County B, because it is closer to his residence. Mr. Smith may be a candidate and hold office on COC in County B, which is now the multi-county jurisdiction where he lives. He will **not** be eligible to hold office in County C, where his records are administered, because he does not live in County C's COC jurisdiction.

Note: This example also applies when an alternative administrative County Office is chosen because of reduced hours of operation or reduced staffing.

Important: CED shall ensure that a brief statement shall be mailed or given to the producer **before** the request for transfer is approved according to 3-CM, with a copy placed in the producer's file, with wording similar to the following.

“This is to inform you that by selecting a new administrative County Office you will still be eligible to hold office on the COC where you live; however, you will **not** be able to hold office on the COC where your records will be administered. You will be eligible to vote in both counties, if you meet FSA's voting eligibility requirements found in FSA Handbook 15-AO.”

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2 Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office (Continued)

C Contact

For questions about this notice, County Offices contact their State Office; State Offices contact either of the following DAFO employees:

- Ken Nagel by:
 - e-mail at **Kenneth.Nagel@wdc.usda.gov**
 - telephone at 202-720-7890

- Deborah Johnson by:
 - e-mail at **Deborah.Johnson@wdc.usda.gov**
 - telephone at 202-720-0067.