

For: State and County Offices

**Encouraging Beginning Farmers for Nominations for COC Elections**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Field Operations



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

The USDA Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (the Committee) was established under Pub. L. 102-554 on November 25, 1998. The Committee:

- meets to discuss how USDA can develop programs and opportunities to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to establish economically viable and productive farming and ranching operations
- issues recommendations to the Secretary that are considered in assisting beginning farmers and ranchers toward becoming successful producers of agricultural products.

**Note:** On July 9-10, 2007, the Committee met in Des Moines, Iowa, and 1 of the recommendations to the Secretary was to encourage CED's and COC's to provide beginning farmers and ranchers information about their eligibility to run for COC positions.

**B Purpose**

This notice serves as notification to County Offices to emphasize including beginning farmers and ranchers in **all** COC election publicity.

**C Contact**

If there are questions about this notice, contact either of the following DAFO employees:

- Kenneth Nagel by telephone at 202-720-7890 or e-mail to **kenneth.nagel@wdc.usda.gov**
- Deborah Johnson by telephone at 202-720-0067 or e-mail to **deborah.johnson@wdc.usda.gov**.

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
January 1, 2009	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices
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### 2 County Office Action

#### A Publicizing COC Elections

County Offices should provide COC election information to all organizations whose membership includes beginning farmers and ranchers.

#### B Outreach Efforts

CED's and COC members should consult with FLP staff, county extension educators, high school and college instructors, and any additional sources that may provide beginning farmer and rancher contacts, such as representatives of State Agricultural Finance Programs (at [www.stateagfinance.org](http://www.stateagfinance.org)) and Farm Link Programs (at [www.farmtransition.org](http://www.farmtransition.org)).

CED's:

- are encouraged to include COC election information at public meetings and specifically address FSA's need for beginning farmer and rancher nominees
- shall express the need for diversity of nominees and COC members at all public meetings.