

Farm Service Agency U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Urban Producers in San Francisco Bay Metropolitan Area Must Submit Ballots by June 5 for Urban County Committee

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has started mailing ballots for the urban agricultural producers in the San Francisco Bay Metropolitan Area. Ballots must be submitted by June 5th, 2023, to elect members of their <u>urban county committee</u>, which helps deliver USDA <u>Farm Service Agency</u> (FSA) programs.

Urban committee members are nominated and elected to serve by local urban producers in the same jurisdiction. Urban county committee members will provide outreach to ensure urban producers understand USDA programs and serve as the voice of other urban producers and assist in program implementation that support the needs of the growing urban community. Like traditional county committee members, urban committee members make important decisions about how FSA programs are administered locally. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who each represent a Local Administrative Area (LAA). Each year, at least one LAA will be up for election.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning **May 5th**, **2023**. Ballots are due back in the Sonoma County FSA office no later than **June 5**, **2023**. Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot in the mail can request one from their local FSA office. Ballots will be counted in the Sonoma FSA office on June 9, 2023, and all newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office July 3, 2023.

To find your local USDA service center visit <u>farmers.gov/service-locator</u>. For more information about county committees, please contact the Sonoma County FSA office at 707-794-1242 ext. 2 or visit <u>fsa.usda.gov/elections</u>.

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