

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, DC 20250

fsa.usda.gov | farmers.gov

Dear Agricultural Partners,

The 2025 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee election season is officially underway. If you know an agricultural producer interested in serving on their local FSA County Committee, please submit their name as a nominee.

FSA county committees are a critical component of our day-to-day operations, allowing grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs. Nationwide, more than 7,700 agricultural producers have been elected by their peers to serve on FSA county committees.

Annual county committee elections are held in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) within a county or multi-county jurisdiction. Farmers and ranchers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, live within an LAA that is up for election, and are of legal voting age can be a candidate. Customers can identify which LAA they or their agricultural operation is in by using our GIS locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

From June 16 to Aug. 1, 2025, individuals can nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Tribal Nations and organizations representing farmers or ranchers are also encouraged to nominate candidates.

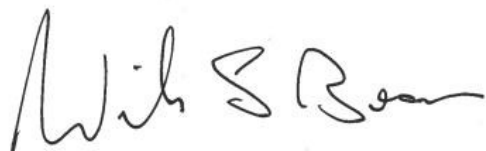
County committee nomination forms are available on our website or from the FSA county office. Forms must be postmarked or delivered to the FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025. Voting takes place this fall, and new members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2026.

For more details, contact a USDA Service Center and visit fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Thank you for helping us ensure FSA county committees represent American agriculture and the producers they are elected to serve.

FSA counts on you to nominate and vote!

Respectfully,



Bill Beam
Administrator



County Committee Elections



Overview

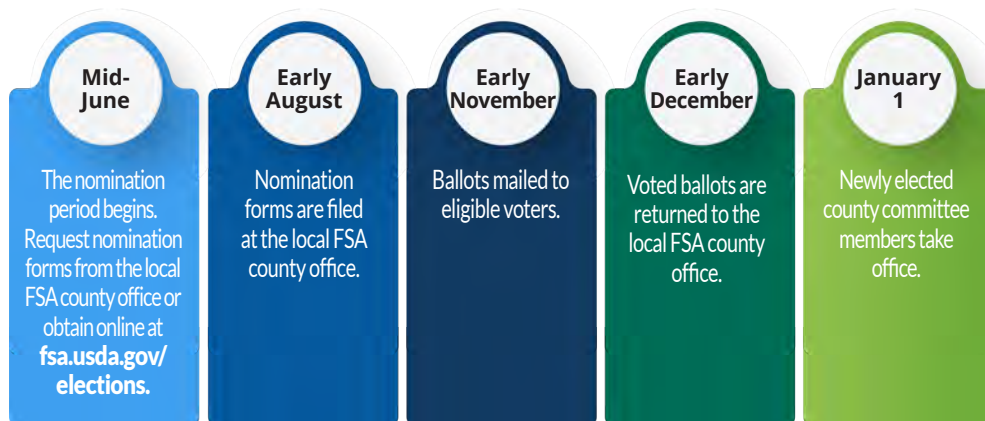
Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Farmers and ranchers who are elected to serve on FSA county committees apply using their judgment and knowledge to help with the decisions necessary to administer FSA programs in their counties, ensuring the needs of local producers are met. FSA county committees operate within official federal regulations and provide local input on:

- Income safety-net loans and payments, including setting county average yields for commodities;
- Conservation programs;
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities;
- Emergency programs; and
- Payment eligibility.

Every eligible agricultural producer should participate in FSA county committee elections—whether a beginning or established producer, historically underserved producer (minority and women), or whether a large or small operation—because FSA county committees are producers’ link with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Election Period



**An election calendar can be found at fsa.usda.gov/elections or by contacting your local FSA office.*

Local Administrative Areas

A county or multi-county jurisdiction served by an FSA county committee is divided into 3 to 11 local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the FSA county committee. A person may only vote in one LAA (the LAA in which he or she participates or cooperates in FSA programs or programs administered by FSA).

Individuals can identify the LAA they or their farming interests are located in via a county committee election GIS locator tool on fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Multiple Farm Interests in Same County or Area

Eligible voters who participate or cooperate in FSA programs on separate farms in more than one LAA

in the same county or multi-county jurisdiction may only cast one ballot. Such voters must choose only one LAA in which they wish to cast their ballots.

Multi-County Jurisdictions

Eligible voters with separate farming interests in more than one county or in more than one FSA county committee jurisdiction (which may include more than one county) are eligible to vote in each election conducted for each jurisdiction’s committee. Voting is limited to one LAA in which farming interests are located per each FSA county committee jurisdiction. Only one vote may be cast in each county or multi-county jurisdiction.



Who is Eligible to Hold Office?

To hold office as an FSA county committee member, a person must meet each of the basic eligibility requirements described below:

1. Be eligible to vote in an FSA county committee election.
2. Reside in the LAA that is up for election.
3. A person must not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from:
 - FSA county committee membership or alternate membership, or
 - FSA employment.
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony.
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations

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

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. Nomination forms are filed in the FSA office that administers a producer's farm records and is available at the FSA county office or online at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

All nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local FSA county office by the August deadline.

Who Can Vote

The following requirements must be met for a person to be eligible to vote in county committee elections:

1. Be of legal voting age or, if not of legal voting age, supervise and conduct the farming operation of an entire farm.
2. Have an interest in a farm or ranch as either:
 - An individual who meets one or more of the following:
 - Is eligible and capable to vote in one's own right.
 - Is a partner of a general partnership.
 - Is a member of a joint venture.
3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided for by law. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.



Customers who are uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the FSA county committee election should contact their local FSA office. Affirmation of eligibility to vote must be determined in order for a vote to count in an election.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in early November and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by the December deadline. During the election period, individuals not receiving a ballot in the mail may obtain a ballot directly from their FSA county office.

American Indian Tribal Lands

Members of American Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote in an FSA county committee election if the tribal member meets the voting requirements. For purposes of FSA county committee elections, every member of an American Indian tribe is considered an agricultural landowner if the land on which the tribal member's voting eligibility is based is tribally owned or held in trust by the United States for the tribe, even if the individual does

not personally produce a crop on that land. Members should contact their local FSA county office to update their voter eligibility.

For additional information on voting eligibility for members of American Indian tribes, visit fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Interpretation of Voting Eligibility for Spouses in Community Property States

In community property states, the spouse of an eligible voter is also eligible to vote.

Uniform Guidelines

USDA issued uniform guidelines for county committee elections to help ensure that FSA county committees fairly represent the agricultural producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction, especially underserved (minority and women) producers. Targeted underserved producers are African-Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders. In addition to minority and women producers, USDA strongly

encourages beginning farmers to actively seek a position on a county committee. The guidelines govern the FSA county committee election process and are designed to increase participation of underserved (minorities and women).

The following are just some of the specifics of the guidelines:

- If no valid nominations are filed, the Secretary of Agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot.
- FSA county committees annually review LAA boundaries to ensure the fair representation of minority and women producers in their county or multi-county jurisdictions.
- FSA county offices locate and recruit eligible candidates identified as minority and women farmers and ranchers as potential nominees for the FSA county committee elections through outreach and publicity, including the development of partnerships with community-based organizations.

The guidelines can be found at fsa.usda.gov/elections.





Appointed Voting Members

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to appoint targeted underserved committee members with voting privileges to serve on FSA county committees in county or multi-county jurisdictions that lack fair representation from those groups. Secretarial appointees do not replace elected members but join them as voting members on the committee. Individuals serving as non-voting minority advisors are encouraged to submit a nomination form. These forms are also accepted from community-based organizations representing targeted underserved producers. Targeted underserved voting members are appointed by the Secretary from the nominations received.

Role of Advisors

In addition to elected or appointed members, FSA county committees may also include non-voting minority advisors. Advisors are appointed to county committees to ensure underserved (minority or women) producers are fairly represented. Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of underserved (minorities and women) in decisions made by county committees. Anyone interested in serving as a county committee advisor may submit their request in writing to the local FSA county office. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community-based organizations.

Discrimination Prohibited

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For program specifics or additional information about FSA county committees, visit a local USDA Service Center or the FSA county committee webpage at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Find your Local USDA Service Center

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.

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County Committee (COC)

Frequently Asked Questions for Stakeholders

June 2025

Do FSA county committees make a difference?

County committees impact the administration of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) within a community. They help make determinations on programs such as disaster assistance, hiring decisions, and assist with outreach. County committee members can impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture.

What is an FSA county committee?

Every FSA office in the country is required by law to have an advisory board made up of local farmers and ranchers. Members of the board (called a county committee) are elected by their peers (local farmers and landowners) in the fall of every year.

What do county committees do?

County committees make informed decisions in FSA county offices across the country. Every FSA office is required to have a county committee, and they are made up of local farmers who are elected by local farmers.

What kind of voice does a member have?

Committees conduct business, decisions are made by consensus, and committee members represent the priorities and voice of the diversity of producers and all production types.

What issues can they speak to?

Conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmers and ranchers are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs, and inform farmers and ranchers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs.

What positions are there within a county committee?

Committees have a chair, vice chair, voting member, minority non-voting advisor, and if applicable, an appointed voting SDA member.

How do I become committee chair?

The positions are voted on among the current COC members at the organizational meeting held each January. If you are interested in a particular role, you should communicate this during the initial January meeting after elections take place.

What's the history of county committees?

The county committees were authorized by Congress in the 1930's to allow for grassroots input and local administration of "Agricultural Adjustment Administration" programs.



What is the time commitment?

Meetings are held monthly and last approximately two to three hours, depending on the amount of materials needing review. Meetings will not be held if there is not sufficient business to address on a given month. If impromptu work or pressing issues arise between meetings, a conference call can be held instead of a physical meeting.

How long are the terms?

Three years.

Are there term limits?

A limit of three terms for a total of nine consecutive years.

What are the differences between elected and appointed COC members?

Both positions require a nomination form, but the elected member is voted in by the winning number of votes tallied in their county. An appointed member is selected by the Secretary of Agriculture to represent the underserved in that county. Both positions are voting members.

What is the incentive? What kind of benefits or compensation do COC members receive?

Committee members get reimbursed for travel to and from committee meetings. Committee members also receive a stipend for their time.

Are COC members considered federal employees?

No.

Although COC members are not federal employees, they are still required to obey some of the same rules that apply to federal and county employees. For example, COC members complete security and ethics training.

How can stakeholders support producers who are running for office or who want to vote?

Stakeholders can help producers by sharing information online and by word of mouth at public meetings or when interacting with farmers and ranchers.

How do COC's affect decisions for Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)?

COCs approve cost-share rates used in conservation programs in conjunction with NRCS. COCs also approve eligibility, which may affect NRCS program payments and producer eligibility.

Why should organizations promote COC elections?

County committees provide local input on the administration of FSA programs, including commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and emergency programs. Farmers who serve on committees help decide administrative details of programs and provide input on how to improve program delivery. County committees play critical roles in outreach. They help shape the culture of their local offices and improve customer service. Organizations can help make sure their producers are being served by promoting representation on county committees.



How do I know if I'm eligible to be nominated to serve on a county committee?

To hold office as a COC member or alternate, a person must fulfill each requirement: be a producer who owns or operates a farm or ranch; participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law; be a U.S. Citizen; be of legal voting age; meet the basic eligibility requirements; and reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

What does it mean to "cooperate in any FSA program"?

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.

Can I nominate myself?

Yes. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing underserved (minority and women) farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are

filed for the county committee at the office that administers a producer's farm records. 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 your FSA county office and online at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

What happens when someone is nominated? Are they notified?

Nominees will be notified because the FSA-669A needs to have the nominee's signature. If the candidate is nominated by someone else or an organization, the county office will contact that person to inform them they have been nominated. If they accept the nomination, they will need to sign the nomination form.

How do I know if I'm eligible to vote?

To be eligible to vote, producers must be currently farming in the county and participating in a USDA program or have a loan with FSA. Only certain districts of the county are up for election each

year, and if you are eligible to vote, you should receive a ballot in the mail in November. If you are in the FSA system for a current Local Administrative Area (LAA) election, you will also receive a ballot.

What if I farm with my parents? How do I know if I will receive a ballot?

If you are in our system and actively farming, you will receive a ballot when your LAA is up for election.

How do I find out if I'm farming in an LAA that is up for an election?

You can contact your local FSA office and ask if your LAA is up for an election. Additionally, postcards are mailed at the start of the nomination period to all eligible voters in the LAA that is up for election that year.

How do I know what LAA my farm is located in?

Your local FSA office can tell you what LAA you are located in. Additionally, a county committee election GIS locator tool is available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.



Who can I contact to make sure I get a ballot?

You can contact your local FSA office to find out if you are eligible to vote. If you're eligible to vote, but did not receive your ballot in the mail, you may pick one up at your local FSA office.

How do I vote?

Ballots are mailed to all eligible farmers and landowners the first Monday in November. You can either mail your ballot or turn it in at your local FSA office. You will receive a receipt for service if you return your ballot to your local office.

When do I vote?

All ballots are due back the first Monday in December. Check with your local office on the exact date, as it changes year to year.

Who counts the ballots?

The ballots are counted by current COC members, the county executive director and other office staff, if needed.

Is the ballot counting public?

The counting of the ballots is open to the public. The date and time will be printed on the ballot you receive in the mail.

Will my vote even matter?

Absolutely! Generally, only a fraction of eligible farmers vote in their local county committee elections. With such a low turnout, your vote matters even more. Every ballot sent in is another step closer to making sure family farmers and ranchers are heard.

If I am a member of a Native American tribe am I eligible to vote in COC elections?

Yes, all members of Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote if they meet the age requirement. As a member of a federally recognized tribe, you are considered a landowner if the land is tribally owned or held in trust for the tribe by the United States.

Are the eligibility requirements the same for a tribal member who wants to run for the COC?

Yes, eligibility requirements are the same for a tribal member as they are for any other nominee who wants to run for the COC.

Can tribal leadership or a tribal organization nominate a farmer or rancher for the COC?

Yes, as an organization that represents underserved producers, tribal governments and local organizations that represent historically underserved producers can nominate farmers and ranchers for county committees.

fsa.usda.gov/elections

Contact your local FSA county office to learn more about County Committees.

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FSA-669A
(03-13-25)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE 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://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. 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 1, 2025.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on 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.

This is a non-salary public service position. A small stipend is provided to offset expenses.

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.

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.

FSA-669A
(03-13-25)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. Name of Nominee (<i>Type or Print Nominee's Full Name</i>)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
		4. Initials of Employee Receiving Form and Date Received	
2. Address of Nominee		5. County	
		6. LAA	7. State
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> <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>		8. Nominator's Certification: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. Signature of Nominee	3B. Date (<i>MM/DD/YYYY</i>)	8A. Signature of Nominator	8B. Date (<i>MM/DD/YYYY</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.</i>		<i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>	

9. 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.

Race and/or Ethnicity (<i>Choose as many boxes as applicable</i>)		Sex
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern or North African	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American	<input type="checkbox"/> White	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino		

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.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (*If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.*)
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2025.

Privacy Act Statement: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (16 U.S.C. 590, et. al) and 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the nominee name, address, signature/date and nominator signature/date (when applicable) information is voluntary, but necessary for processing the form. Failure to furnish the nominee name, address, signature/date and nominator signature/date (when applicable) information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act): 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. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden by emailing to: askusda@usda.gov (Subject: OMB NO. 0560-0229).

Non-Discrimination Statement: In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2025 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



JUNE 16, 2025
Beginning of
nomination period.
Forms available at
[fsa.usda.gov/
elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).



AUG. 1, 2025
Last day to file
nomination
forms at the
local FSA
county office.



NOV. 3, 2025
Ballots mailed
to eligible
voters.



DEC. 1, 2025
Last day to
return voted
ballots to
the local FSA
county office.



JAN. 1, 2026
Newly elected
county committee
members take
office.



BE THE LINK
between your agricultural community and the USDA

