

FSA-669A  
(03-24-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		5. COUNTY Swain/Jackson	
		6. LAA 3	7. STATE NC
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>		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>	
<input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.			
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).	

**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.

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>	<b>GENDER</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	

**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 2, 2010.**

**NOTE:** 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 (Pub. L. 110-246). 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 requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

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. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

**FSA-669A**  
(03-24-10)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 2, 2010.
- 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 files 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.

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.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

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.

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



# FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

April 2010

## FSA County Committee Election

### Overview

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official

regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

### Election Period

June 15, 2010—The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Aug. 2, 2010—Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 5, 2010—Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 6, 2010—Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2011—Newly elected county committee members take office.

### Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. Members of American Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote if voting requirements are met. More information about voting

eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

### Nominations

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 USDA Service Centers and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

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. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.



## FACT SHEET

# FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

April 2010

### Don't Miss Out on Voting

Ballots will be mailed to voters by Nov. 5, 2010, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 6, 2010. Eligible voters must contact their local FSA county office before the final date if they did not receive a ballot.

### 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 minority and women producers. Minorities are African-Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asians, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders. The guidelines govern the FSA county committee election process and are designed to increase participation by minorities and women.

The following are just some of the specifics of the guidelines that are now in effect:

- If no valid nominations are filed, the secretary of agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot.
- County committees must annually review local administrative area boundaries to ensure the fair representation of minority and women producers in their county or multi-county jurisdictions.

- FSA county offices shall actively locate and recruit eligible candidates identified as minority and women farmers and ranchers as potential nominees for the county committee elections through outreach and publicity, including the development of partnerships with community-based organizations.

To read the guidelines in their entirety, visit the County Committee Elections page at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

In addition to minority and women producers, USDA strongly encourages beginning farmers to actively seek a position on a county committee.

### Role of Advisors

In addition to elected members, FSA county committees may also include advisors. Advisors are appointed to county committees in counties or multi-county jurisdictions that have significant numbers of minority or women producers and lack such members on FSA county committees. Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of minorities and women in decisions made by county committees. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community based organizations.

### For More Information

For more information about FSA county committees, visit a local FSA or USDA Service Center or the Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

April 2010

## FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member

### *Prospective Voter Requirements*

A person who meets the requirements in No. 1 or No. 2 below, as well as No. 3 is eligible to vote.

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either:

- An individual
- The authorized representative of an entity

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm.

3. Participates or cooperates in any U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) program that is provided for by law.

### *Discrimination Prohibited*

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

### *Types of Eligible Voters*

#### **1. Individual Voter**

An individual voter is someone who meets one or more of the following:

- Is eligible to vote in one's own right
- Is a partner of a general partnership
- Is a member of a joint venture

#### **2. Nonindividual Voter**

A nonindividual voter is a legal entity, such as a:

- Corporation, estate, trust, limited partnership or other business enterprise, excluding general partnerships and joint ventures
- State, political subdivision of a state or any state agency

Only the designated representative may cast a vote for the entity.

#### **3. Interpretation of Voting Eligibility for Spouses in Community Property States**

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

#### **4. American Indian Tribal Lands**

Every member of an American Indian tribe is considered a landowner if the land in question is tribally owned or held in trust for the tribe by the United States. Members of American Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote if voting requirements are met.

### *Voting Eligibility*

#### **1. Local Administrative Areas**

A county or multi-county jurisdiction served by a county committee is divided into three to 11 Local Administrative Areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. A person may only vote in one LAA in which he or she participates or cooperates in FSA programs or programs administered by FSA.

#### **2. 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.

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**FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote**  
**and Hold Office as a County Committee Member**

April 2010

**3. Multi-County Jurisdictions**

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

***Eligibility to Hold Office***

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

1. Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
2. Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
3. Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

NOTE: In special cases, this requirement may be waived. Check with the local FSA office.

4. A person must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- 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

People uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the 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.

Any candidate may request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective FSA state office in lieu of being returned to the FSA county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local FSA county executive director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

During the election period, individuals not receiving a ballot in the mail may obtain a ballot directly from their FSA county office. The ballot must be cast on or before the election deadline.

***For More Information***

For more information about FSA county committees, visit a local FSA or USDA Service Center or the Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> elections.

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