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Be a leader with Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections

Farm Service Agency County Committees



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Your Voice Matters



FSA needs your help in making sure all farmers are represented and increasing the diversity of FSA county committees.

- In 2017, approximately 81% of voting county committee members were male while women represented approximately 18% of voting members
- In 2017, approximately 6.95% of elected voting county members were targeted underserved producers



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Your County Committee Needs You!



If elected to serve, you can:

- Organize and oversee FSA programs that make a difference for farmers and ranchers in your community;
- Hire the county director that oversees daily FSA office operations; and
- Make recommendations on programmatic and policy changes.

VOTE!

- Represent your county
- Support local candidates
- Make your voice heard



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Be the Voice of Your Community

As an FSA county committee member, you will:

- Deliver and administer farm programs in your community.
- Represent local farmers and ranchers.
- Provide local agricultural guidance and insight.
- Make critical decisions impacting local producers.
- Help share information about FSA opportunities within your community and focus outreach efforts to underserved producers and beginning farmers.





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Lead . . . Serve . . . Give Back

More than 7,000 dedicated farmers and ranchers serve on FSA County Committees in rural areas.

FSA County Committees:

- Informed decisions made by FSA service centers across the country that impact producers.
- Represent the priorities and voice of producers in their community.
- Ensure USDA's farm programs continue to serve farmers, ranchers and families.





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Commitment

- Elected members serve three year terms and committees consist of three to 11 members.
- County committees meet monthly to discuss critical decisions impacting local producers.





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Eligibility

To be eligible a producer must:

- Have an interest in farming or ranching operations;
- 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 (LAA) in which they will be serving.

You must be in a LAA (Local Administrative Area) that has member openings during the election period.

Producers can learn more about eligibility by contacting their local office.





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County Committee Leader Profiles



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Newly-Elected Member: Miranda Sandoval

FSA Conejos County Committee, Colorado

Miranda grew up on her family's operation, Sandoval Ranches, and now, as a fifth-generation farmer, she is carrying on the family tradition.

On the family ranch, they raise cattle and grow alfalfa. When she's not working on the ranch, she's studying agribusiness at Adams State University.

Miranda learned about FSA county committees from her local office and decided to run for the seat representing her Local Administrative Area (LAA). She was elected in the fall of 2017.

"As a young farmer, I think it's important for us to be involved. Just do it. It's been a great opportunity for me to learn about what's available to producers in my area at FSA."





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First-Term Member: Willie Scott Smith

FSA Greene County Committee, Alabama



Willie Scott owns Andrew Smith and Sons Farm, Inc., a pine tree operation, along with his four brothers. Pine trees span over 350 acres and are sold to a lumber mill.

He has served on his local FSA county committee for three years.

“County committees are important because they help get information out to their peers about what is going on.”



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Newly-Elected Member: Lucas Goodman

FSA Fulton County Committee, Kentucky

Lucas is a third-generation farmer. Along with his dad and a full-time employee, they produce corn, wheat and soybeans.

Lucas was elected to his local FSA county committee last fall. As a new member, he attended training to learn about his responsibilities as a committee member.

He feels it is his role is to focus on customer service and letting producers in his community know the committees serve on their behalf.

“You are their voice and you support them. Starting here, with the local committee, very important decisions can be made. That is where it all begins.”





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Don't Delay ... Nominate Today

Mark Your Calendars

Deadline for nominations: Aug. 1, 2018

Election ballots mailed to eligible voters: Nov. 5, 2018

Newly elected members take office: Jan. 1, 2019

Learn more at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or visit your local USDA service center.



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