



## COUNTY COMMITTEES (COC)



Butler County, MO County Committee

Moving from an advisory role to an elected member role gives Buttrey and Jones a vote in the decision making process.

Lamb said the majority of the minority producers in his county farm smaller acreage, so having minority representation on the committee also lets the small farmer feel represented.

In preparation for the election, Lamb mails election materials to underserved groups, community organizations and minority churches. Additionally, he encourages his previous advisors to be active in the outreach efforts along with all members of his committee. Lamb actively reaches out to producers through outreach meetings throughout the year and makes personal contacts with minority producers encouraging them to run for the committee.

According to Lamb, "Outreach is the key to obtaining a diverse county committee."

It's county committee nomination time and counties across the nation are reaching out in their communities for a diverse group of nominees. Butler County, Missouri, has seen firsthand the benefits of their outreach efforts. During the 2010 election, two minorities were elected to serve as members of the committee, making it the first time the county has not had to identify a minority advisor.

The current committee is comprised of Jim Hover, chairperson; Isaiah Jones, vice-chairperson; and member, Karen Buttrey. Hover was first elected to the COC in 2009. Jones and Buttrey have previous experience on the Committee, only serving in an advisory capacity. Jones served as an advisor to the committee from 2006 until being elected to the committee in 2010. Buttrey served as an advisor from 2001 to 2007.

Stanley Lamb, Butler County executive director knows having a diverse committee impacts his county. "Since it is a diverse mix of farmers, I think the minority producers are more comfortable meeting with the committee," Lamb said. "Since they are represented on the committee, they are also more likely to contact that committee person and ask questions or express concerns."

### FSA COUNTY COMMITTEES



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## Fast Facts

### Program: County Committee

- The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers with large or small operations.
- Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA.
- Committee members help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level.
- Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer.

For more information on this and other farm programs, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency or visit us online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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