

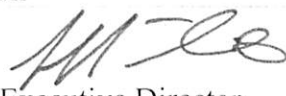


United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
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June 10, 2021

To: Whom it may concern

From: Jeff Turbville 
Madison County Executive Director

Subject: Committee Election, LAA 2

Attached you will find Committee election information, and LAA Map of Madison County. This year's election will be held in LAA 2. A copy of the eligible voters list for LAA 2 is available for your review in the Madison County FSA Office. Your help in obtaining nominees for the upcoming election would be greatly appreciated. Nomination forms are available in the Madison County FSA office or can be provided by regular mail or email.

Nominations must be received by August 2, 2021.

Give me a call if you have any questions.

Farm Service Agency

2021 County Committee Elections

Eligibility to vote and hold office as a county committee member



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 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages all eligible producers with farming or ranching operations to vote or hold office as county committee members, including beginning, established, women, African-American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic, Asian American, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander producers.

How it Works

Voter Requirements

A person who meets the requirements in No. 1 or No. 2, as well as No. 3, is eligible to vote in the 2021 county committee elections:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest¹ 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.
 - An authorized representative of a legal entity, such as:
 - A corporation, estate, trust, limited partnership, or other business enterprise, excluding general partnerships and joint ventures.
 - A state, political subdivision of a state, or any state agency.

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

OR

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

AND

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.

Note: i.e. have legal documentation of ownership or tenancy of a farm or ranch, with the farm or ranch in FSA records.

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.

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.

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.



Who is Eligible to Vote?

Local Administrative Areas

A county or multi-county jurisdiction served by an FSA county committee is divided into three 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).

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.

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

People 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.

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.

More Information

For more information about FSA county committees, visit fsa.usda.gov/elections or visit your local USDA Service Center. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov.

**Jun. 15
2021**

Beginning of nomination period. Forms available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

**Aug. 2
2021**

Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA county office.

**Nov. 1
2021**

Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

**Dec. 6
2021**

Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA county office.

**Jan. 1
2022**

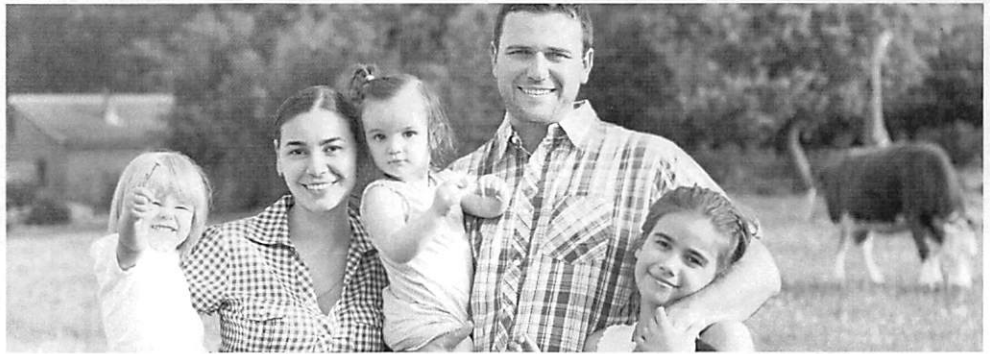
Newly elected county committee members take office.

fsa.usda.gov/

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Farm Service Agency

County Committee Elections 2021



Overview

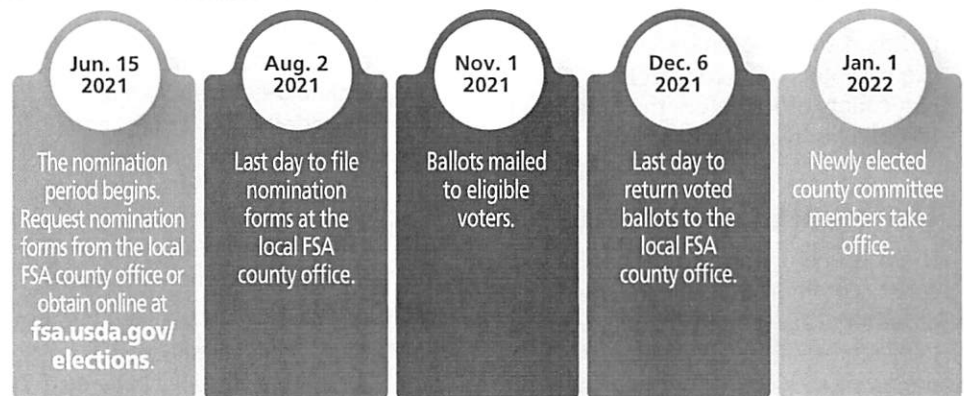
Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

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 you are a beginning or established producer, historically underserved producer (minority and women), or whether you have a large or small operation—because FSA county committees are your link with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Election Period



Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or 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. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the 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," located at fsa.usda.gov/elections. Producers may contact their local FSA county office for more information. To find your local FSA county office, visit farmers.gov.

Nominations

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county office. 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 for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA county office by August 2, 2021.



Don't Miss Out On Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 1, 2021, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 6, 2021. 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 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 local administrative area 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 are located at FSA County Committee Elections page 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

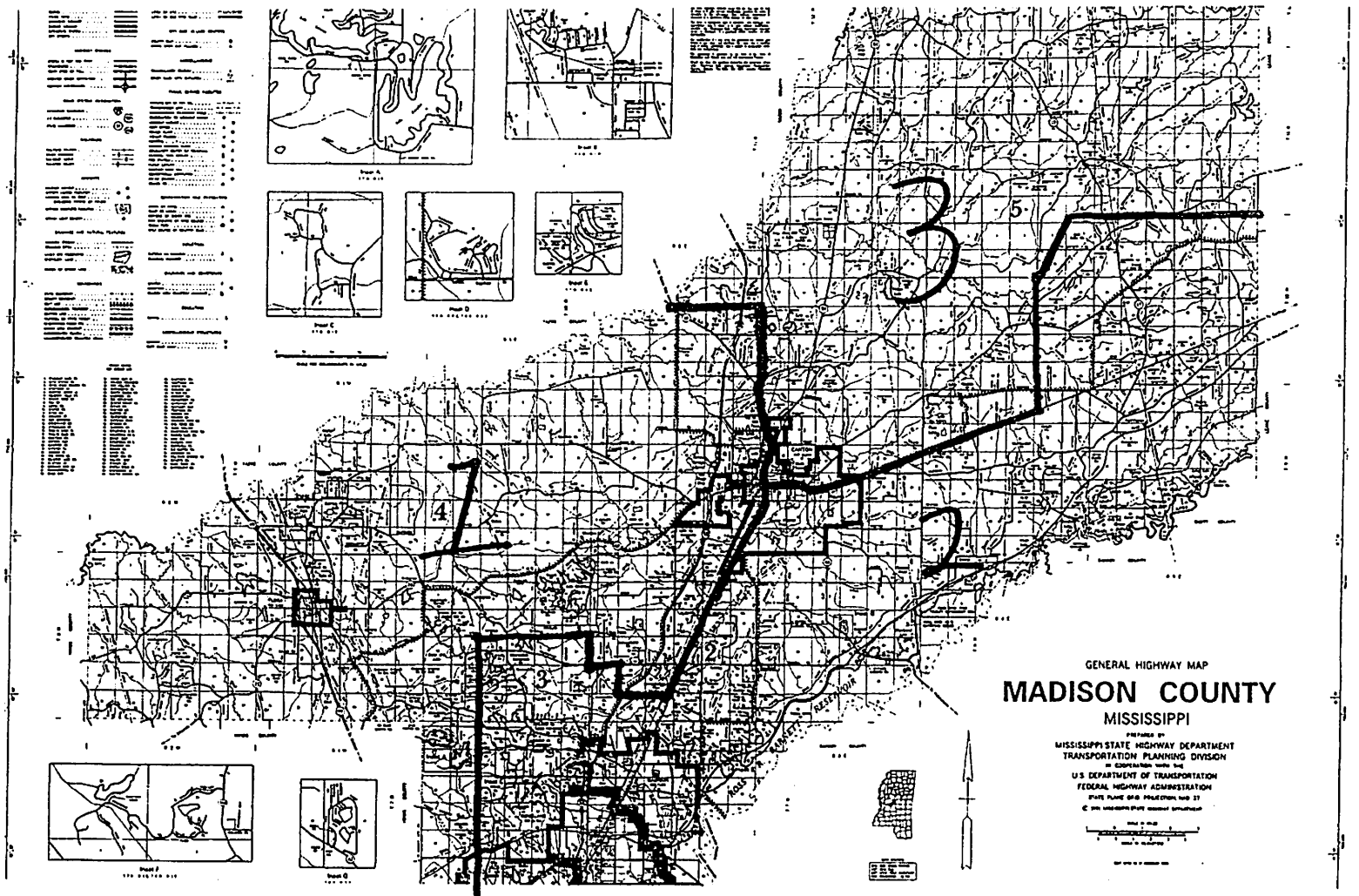
In addition to elected or appointed members, FSA county committees may also include non-voting minority advisors. Advisors are selected to county committees in counties or multi-county jurisdictions that have significant numbers of underserved (minority or women) producers but lack such members on FSA county committees. 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. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community-based organizations.

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 website at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Find your Local USDA Service Center

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov.



County Committee Local Administrative Areas