

USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections

Tribal Agricultural Landowner VOTING ELIGIBILITY

FSA County Committee Elections

The United States Department of Agriculture county committees (COC) impact the administration of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) within a community. They help make determinations on farm 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. FSA county committee elections are held annually for representation in county Local Administrative Areas (LAAs). Nominations are open each summer; voting occurs each fall.

Tribal Agricultural Landowner Voting Eligibility

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.**

Tribal agricultural landowners 18 years and older can contact their local USDA Service Center to register. After you provide FSA with your contact information, including a current mailing address, you will be updated as an eligible voter in the election database. Contact your local FSA office with any questions.

QUESTION: I'm an 18-year-old+ tribal agricultural landowner and want to vote with FSA. How do I participate?

ANSWER:

1. Register

Locate your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator and connect with the office to register by providing the following:

- Notification that you are a Tribal Agricultural Landowner.
- Address and contact information required to complete an AD-2047 Customer Data Form.

2. LAA Assignment

Registration is now complete, you will be:

- Assigned to a Local Administrative Area (LAA) in the county or multi-county jurisdiction.
- Each LAA is up for election once every three years. Consider nominating a willing producer within the county or multi-county jurisdiction up for election.

3. Eligibility

After registration is complete, you are eligible to vote in the yearly COC election.

- All eligible voters, who have provided a current mailing address to FSA, will receive a ballot by mail when their assigned LAA is up for election. Ballots are mailed in November each year.

4. Ballot not received

If you did not receive a ballot by mail:

- FSA will provide you with one upon request.
- Ensure your current mailing address is on file with FSA.
 - Failure to update your address will result in the voter being considered ineligible.

5. To Vote

Return your signed and complete COC election ballot with a candidate selection enclosed.

- Ballots not received or postmarked by the required deadline will not be counted towards the election results.

6. Election Results

Election tabulation is complete in December of each year with new members taking office in January of each year.

- Continue to encourage future election participation in Native American and Tribal Communities. Your vote matters!

Note: *persons under the age of 18 may also be eligible to vote. Please check with your local FSA office.*