



# 2025 County Committee Elections Tribal Toolkit

Nominations for local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee elections began on June 16. Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Agricultural producers who serve on committees work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.

To hold office or vote in FSA county committee elections, there are specific provisions for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) citizens.

To further amplify information on tribal participation in FSA county committee elections, I am sharing a toolkit containing suggested newsletter content and social media messages and graphics.

**We need your help to spread the word to eligible tribal members.** This toolkit includes:

- Suggested Newsletter Article
- County Committee Information
- Graphics (attached)
- Social Media Suggestions
- Reference Card - can be printed to hand out or placed in offices
- [Tribal Agricultural Landowner Voting Eligibility Poster](#)
- [2025 Nomination Packet](#)
- [2025 Nomination Packet for Urban Producers](#)
- [2025 Nomination Packet for Tribal Leaders](#)

Additional resources, such as fact sheets, posters, FAQs and nomination packets can be found at [fsa.usda.gov/coc](https://fsa.usda.gov/coc).

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Lenoir-Giles at [Diane.Lenoir-Giles@usda.gov](mailto:Diane.Lenoir-Giles@usda.gov).



## Suggested Newsletter Article

### Amplifying Tribal Voices in USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members are vital to how FSA administers disaster assistance, conservation, commodity and price support programs, advises county office employment and addresses other agricultural issues.

To hold office or vote in FSA county committee elections, there are specific provisions for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) citizens.

[Watch this video](#) to hear from agricultural producers, current and retired USDA staff and tribal government officials about the importance of tribal participation in FSA county committee elections.

#### Nominations

Tribal nation leaders and farm and ranch organizations can nominate agricultural producers for County Committees serving tribal lands. Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:

- Participate or cooperate in a USDA program; and
- Reside in the [Local Administrative Area](#) that is up for election this year.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates.

To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an [FSA-669A](#) nomination form. This form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections). All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.

#### Voting

Since the 1990s, 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 an agricultural commodity on that land. Members of American Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote in an FSA county committee election if the tribal member meets the age requirement of 18 years and older. Tribal agricultural landowner voting eligibility applies only to members of federally recognized Tribes.

#### How to Vote



Tribal agricultural landowners 18 years and older can contact their USDA Service Center to register to vote with FSA. After providing FSA with contact information, including a current mailing address, tribal landowners will be updated as an [eligible voter in the FSA county committee election database](#).

### **Tribal Engagement**

Additionally, FSA can collaborate directly with Tribal Nations to obtain names and addresses of tribal members 18 years and older to get tribal membership registered in the FSA election system. [View FSA's 2025 call for tribal nominations](#).

### **Additional Information**

All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by the Aug. 1, 2025, deadline. Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November 2025.

For more information, including a USDA Tribal Agricultural Landowner Voting Eligibility [poster](#), visit your local [USDA Service Centers](#), [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) and [farmers.gov/tribal](https://farmers.gov/tribal).



## County Committee Information

### *Important Election Dates*

- June 16, 2025: The nomination period begins.
- Aug. 1, 2025: Last day to file nomination forms.
- Nov. 3, 2025: Ballots mailed to eligible voters.
- Dec. 1, 2025: Last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center.
- Jan. 1, 2026: Newly elected county committee members take office.

### *Background on County Committees*

- The Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees enable producers to make important decisions on how federal farm programs are administered locally to best serve local community needs, make determinations on hiring decisions, and assist with local education and outreach efforts.
- FSA county committee members are local agricultural producers who help ensure fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their county or multi-county jurisdiction. They are under the general supervision of the State Committee and are the eyes and ears of the producers who elected them.
  - Committees should share information about FSA opportunities within the community.
  - Committees represent the priorities of producers and serve as their voices in the community.
  - Committees ensure USDA's farm programs continue to serve local agricultural producers and families.
- It is crucial that every eligible producer participates in these elections, as FSA county committees are an important link between the agricultural community and USDA.
- The election of eligible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to all farmers, ranchers, and foresters with large or small operations.
- Nearly 7,700 producers serve on more than 2,200 FSA County Committees nationwide.
- FSA county committees are comprised of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas, each serving a three-year term.
- FSA County Committee members apply their judgment, experience, and knowledge when making local decisions that help deliver FSA programs and services such as:
  - Helping to share information about FSA opportunities within the community
  - Producer appeals
  - Commodity price support
  - Conservation programs
  - Hiring County Executive Directors
  - Disaster programs

### *Background on the COC Nomination Process*



- To become an FSA COC nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669-A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).
- The nomination period is June 16, 2025, through August 1, 2025.
- All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by the August 1 deadline.

#### *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 U.S. 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 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.
- For more information, visit [COC Tribal Agricultural Landowner Voting Eligibility](#).

## Suggested Social Media Posts



*@USDAFSA and @FarmersGov will be posting about FSA County Committee elections on Facebook and X beginning June 16 through the end of the election. We would appreciate your shares and retweets of these posts. To join the conversation about FSA County Committee elections, use the hashtag #LeadYourFSA or tag us @USDAFSA.*

## **X Post**



- To hold office or vote in @usdafsa county committee elections, there are specific provisions for American Indian and Alaska Native citizens. Learn more about county committees and make sure your voice is heard.  
[https://www.fsa.usda.gov/coc?utm\\_campaign=COC2025\\_tribal&utm\\_source=X&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=post1](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/coc?utm_campaign=COC2025_tribal&utm_source=X&utm_medium=social&utm_content=post1)

## **Facebook**





*Sharing county committee-related Facebook posts from Farmers.gov and FSA's Facebook accounts is a great way to spread the word within your professional and personal networks. We'd love if you'd help us promote awareness of the FSA County Committee Election by sharing this information on your page and to agricultural-related Facebook Groups where you participate.*

### **Facebook Post**



Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. Committee members are vital to how FSA administers disaster assistance, conservation, commodity and price support programs, advises county office employment and addresses other agricultural issues.

To hold office or vote in FSA's county committee elections, there are specific provisions for American Indian and Alaska Native citizens. Learn more about county committees and make sure your voice is heard.

[https://www.fsa.usda.gov/coc?utm\\_campaign=COC2025\\_tribal&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_content=post1&utm\\_medium=social](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/coc?utm_campaign=COC2025_tribal&utm_source=facebook&utm_content=post1&utm_medium=social)

## **Reference Card – Printed Size: 6 x 4**



### Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee Elections

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### Tribal Agricultural Landowner Voting

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 an agricultural commodity on that land.**

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

Scan the QR code for more information or visit [farmers.gov/blog/tribal-voices](https://farmers.gov/blog/tribal-voices).



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