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Farm Service Agency U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency County Committee Nominations Open June 14

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#LeadYourFSA and be the Voice of Farmers in Your Community

WASHINGTON, June 3, 2019 – USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting nominations for county committee members on Friday, June 14, 2019. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate.

"I encourage America's farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards to nominate candidates to lead, serve, and represent their community on their county committee," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. "There's an increasing need for diverse representation including underserved producers, which includes beginning, women and minority farmers and ranchers."

Committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. Their input is vital on how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made of three to 11 members and typically meet once a month. Members serve three-year terms. Producers serving on our FSA county committees play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the agency.

Producers should visit their local FSA office today to find out how to get involved in their county's election. Check with your local USDA service center to see if your local administrative area is up for election this year. Organizations, including those representing beginning, women and minority producers, also may nominate candidates.

To be considered, a producer must sign an <u>FSA-669A</u> nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections. All

nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2019.

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 4, 2019. Read more to learn about important election dates.

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