

Farm Service Agency U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Farm Service Agency in Minnesota to Host Webinar on COC Nominations and Elections on June 24

News Release | Minnesota | June 10, 2021

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SAINT PAUL, MN, June 10, 2021 – Do you or someone you know have a passion to support fellow farmers? Consider a nomination for your local USDA FSA County Committee (COC). To help you learn more, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Minnesota is hosting a webinar on COC nominations and elections that is open to the public on **Thursday**, **June 24 from 12:00- 1:30 p.m. CDT.**

The nomination period for FSA's annual county committee elections begins June 15 and continues through Aug. 2, 2021. County committee members are farmers elected by their peers to serve as a direct link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers on the committee help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level, help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer, and work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Producers and others involved in agriculture will have an opportunity to learn more about?the COC nomination and election process. Three current or former County Committee members will speak about their experiences serving on COCs and participants will be provided an opportunity to ask questions. The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers.

You can join the Minnesota FSA COC Election webinar through the following link or call in information:

Click HERE to join Minnesota Webinar

1-202-650-0123 access code: 717 995 160#

When you join the meeting, attendees will be taken to a page where you can choose to either join on the web or download the desktop app. If you already have the Teams app, the meeting will open there automatically. If you don't have a Teams account, you may join the meeting as a guest.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Daniel Mahoney at (651) 602-7710, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, and daniel.mahoney@usda.gov by June 21, 2021.

Aug. 1, 2021 is the last day to file <u>FSA-669A</u> COC election nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center. Since Aug. 1 falls on a weekend this year, nomination forms will be accepted through Aug. 2, 2021

For more information on FSA county committee elections, contact your?<u>local FSA office</u>?or visit?<u>?</u> fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some <u>USDA Service Centers</u> are open to limited visitors. Contact your Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

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