

Perkins County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Mary Karash, announced that county committee election nominations begin June 15.

Farmers, ranchers and landowners are encouraged to nominate farmer and rancher candidates to serve on their local FSA county committee by the Aug. 1, 2011 deadline.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

“County committee members are a valuable asset because they are local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community,” said Karash. “I would like to see a high level of participation in this year’s nomination and election process,” she said.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations that represent minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. Nominees must participate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections are available online at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

“It is important that the county committee reflects the demographics and agricultural interests of the community these individuals represent,” Karash said. “I strongly encourage all producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers to participate in the nomination and election process,” she said.

County committees are comprised of three to five members elected by local producers.

All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office Jan. 2, 2012.

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business Aug. 1, 2011.

For more information about county committees, please contact the Perkins County FSA office at 308-352-4747 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).