

Teri Moss, County Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Chase County, reminds farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers that they have until Aug. 3, to nominate eligible candidates to serve on local FSA county committees.

"County committees are important to Chase County because they assist local farmers and ranchers," said Moss.

"They help deliver federal programs to Chase County, which is an important aspect of our service to agriculture. I encourage all producers to get involved by nominating eligible candidates to serve on county committees," she said.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate.

Producers may also nominate themselves, and organizations representing minority and women may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A.

The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms.

Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6. The voted ballots will be due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 7.

Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1.