



United States Dept.  
of Agriculture



**Flagstaff, Arizona**  
**USDA Service Center**

1585 S. Plaza Way, Ste 120  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7156

**Phone Number**

(928) 774-2401 Ext. 2

**Fax Number**

(928) 774-2780

**Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (MST)

**County Committee**

Marilyn Savoini - Chair  
Anita M. Waite – Vice  
Diana Kessler - Member  
Joel J. Querta - Member  
Jonathan Haskie - Member

**County Executive  
Director**

Arnie Schlittenhart  
(928) 774-2401 Ext. 105

**County Office Staff**

Rose Gene, PT  
Calvin Johnson, PT

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**Website**

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)



# Newsletter

June  
2011

Flagstaff, Arizona - Farm Service Agency - Servicing Coconino, Mohave and Yavapai Counties

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AREA (LAA) 3 & 4

**COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

The Farm Service Agency is a “grass roots” agency that utilizes county committees to provide oversight and input in administering USDA farm programs. County committees are comprised of ranchers and farmers who actually participate in USDA farm programs.

The three (3) counties serviced by the Flagstaff Farm Service Agency (Coconino, Mohave, Yavapai) are divided into 5 local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA elects one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee. Each year, an election is held in at least one LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring.

The current LAA 3 representative, **Joel J. Querta's** 3 year term will be expiring at the end of 2011; and

The current LAA 4 representative, **Anita M. Waite's** 3 year term will be expiring at the end of 2011.

**Nominations**

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee LAA 3 and 4 representatives election will be accepted beginning June 15 through Aug. 1, 2011. Producers who reside in LAA 3 and 4 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women or beginning farmer or ranchers are also encouraged to nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is provided on page 3. The form is also available at the county office or may be downloaded from [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating their agreement to serve if elected.

The completed nomination form must be returned to the Flagstaff county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2011.

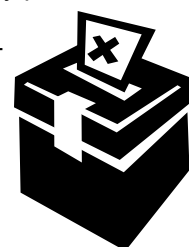
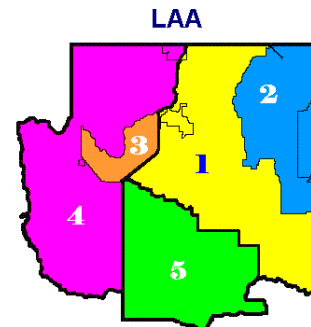
**Voting**

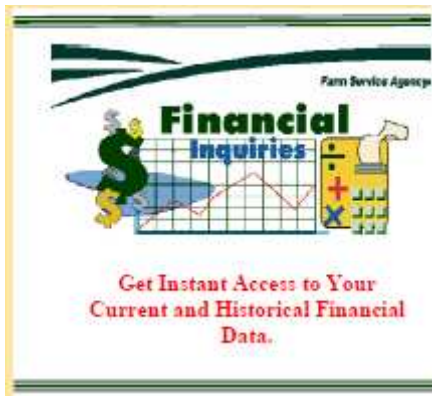
Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 4, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

**Candidate Eligibility**

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
  - ♦ Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
  - ♦ Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
  - ♦ Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.





## New FSA Financial Services Web Site

The FSA Financial Services website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. Registered producers may view summary and detail information about specific payments, collections, outstanding debt (excluding loans) and CCC-1009 information. Registered producers may also enter their own information to assign a payment to a third party, request that a payment be made jointly to themselves and a third party, or route their program payments to their account at a financial institution.

Producers must have internet access and must register for an e-Authentication Level 2 Account. Producers may sign up for an e-Authentication Level 2 Account online at [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov) in the following manner;

1. To obtain a Level 2 Account you must complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email. You must respond to the email within 7 days to activate your account.
3. You must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo I.D. such as your driver's license.

The benefits of the Financial Services website are;

1. Convenience - Provides instant access to both current and historical data
2. Availability - Financial information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
3. Security - The website is only accessible to registered e-Authentication users

The Financial Services website can be accessed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi/>

### Market Prices for Wool & Mohair Exceed Loan Values

Loan deficiency payments (LDP) for eligible commodities are triggered when the national average price for the commodity drops below the established loan value. For wool the loan value is \$0.40 per pound and for mohair the loan value is \$4.20 per pound. Currently, the national average market prices for wool and mohair are much higher than their loan values, which results in no LDP payments. Our office will continue to accept wool and mohair LDP applications but because of the high market prices, no LDP payments will be issued.

### Livestock Forage Disaster Program Update

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of May 3, 2011, a portion of southeast Coconino County began experiencing a D2 severity drought. According to LFP regulations, 8 consecutive weeks of D2 drought trigger a one-month LFP payment. Should the D2 drought continue, the 8 week threshold will be reached the week of June 21st. Should the drought intensify to a D3 severity, a two-month payment is triggered and a D4 severity triggers an automatic three-month, or maximum payment. LFP eligibility regulations require producers to have disaster insurance (NAP) unless they meet one of the following exemptions;

Socially Disadvantaged  
Limited Resource  
Beginning Rancher/Farmer

Our office will send out notifications should an LFP payment be triggered but we welcome inquiries regarding this or any other FSA programs.

**FSA-669A**

(03-31-11)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency

**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
  - B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.
- Note:** Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1, 2011.
  - D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

This is a non-salary public service position. A small stipend is provided to offset expenses.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

FSA-669A  
(03-31-11)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		5. COUNTY	
		6. LAA	7. STATE
3. <b>NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</b>  <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		8. <b>NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:</b>  <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).	

**9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>	<b>GENDER</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

Complete the form as follows:

**ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

**ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.**ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.**ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.**ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)**ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.**

**NOTE:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

**United States Department of Agriculture**

Farm Service Agency  
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Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7156



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Important County Committee Election Dates**

- **June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.**
- **Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center**
- **Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters**
- **Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center**
- **Jan. 2, 2012 - Newly elected COC members take office**



**NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio-tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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