

FSA County Committees Supporting Veteran Farmers

Be The
Link
between your
agricultural
community and
the USDA



fsa.usda.gov/elections

Introduction



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August 14, 2025

What is the Farm Service Agency (FSA)?



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)



Administers programs for loans, disaster assistance, conservation, price support and more



Helps agricultural producers strengthen operations and manage risks



Maintains a strong local presence throughout County Office Service Centers nationwide



Serves as a trusted partner for producers navigating USDA programs and policies.



Provides the opportunity for local producers to serve on the County Committee (COC)

How FSA Supports Veteran Farmers

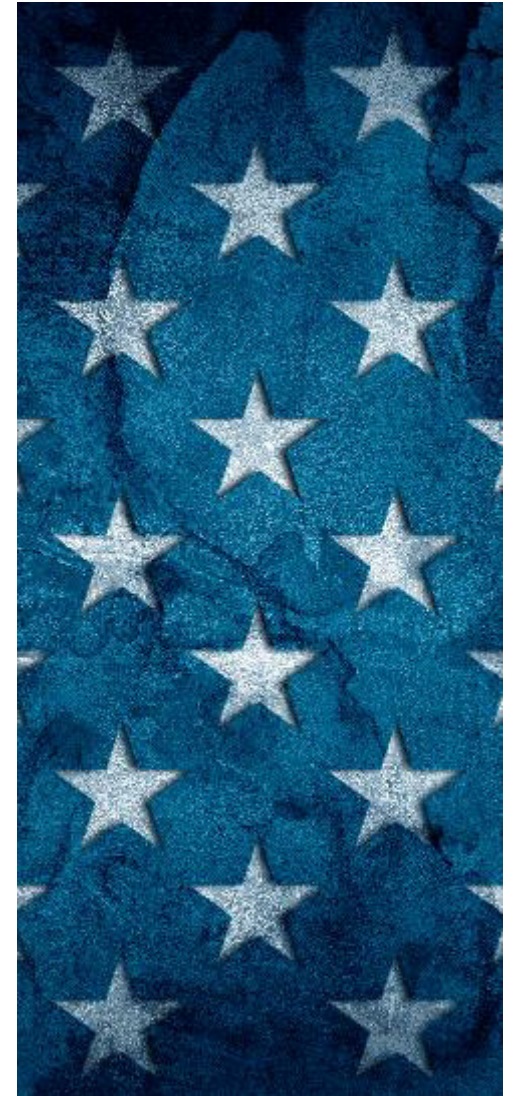
Veterans may qualify for additional assistance as part of an underserved group

Specialized loan programs are available

Provides information and tools to support veterans transition to farming

FSA offices are available nationwide to provide in person support

Every FSA office is under the oversight of local producers elected to the County Committee (COC)



A Brief History on County Committees

Created under the Agricultural Adjustment act of 1933 to involve local farmers in administering FSA programs by ensuring policies were fairly applied and reflected local agricultural decisions during the Great Depression



Today, COCs serve as a trusted presence to ensure that FSA programs are delivered fairly and effectively by incorporating local knowledge and input into program decisions.



What is FSA COC and What is their Role?



A group of local agricultural producers who are elected by their peers



Advises FSA on how programs are administered on a local level



Helps ensure decisions reflect the needs of the area's local producers



Review and approve program applications, assist with county outreach, and hear appeals



Meet regularly with FSA staff and provide operational oversight



Participate in the selection process for the County Executive Director

County Committee Structure

Each FSA Office is required to have a COC

Each COC is made up of 3 or more elected members

Each member represents a local administrative area (LAA) within the county or multi-county jurisdiction.

Committee members serve a 3-year term

Elections are held annually with at least 1 seat or 1 LAA up for election each year.



Why COC Representation Matters

Decisions made by the committee affect how programs are applied in your area

Input from local producers improves how programs are tailored to the local farming conditions

Promotes support of underserved groups such as veterans, beginning farmers, and others who need a seat at the table.

Being involved helps build an understanding of program available

Who is Eligible to Serve on the County Committee?

- Be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations
- Participate or cooperate in any FSA program
- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be of legal voting age
- Meet the basic eligibility requirements
- Reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.



How to Get Involved

VOTE	Vote in your local FSA county committee elections
Nominate	Nominate yourself or another eligible producer
Serve	Serve if elected, you will serve a 3-year term
Connect	Contact your County office to learn more about ways to participate



Why Veterans Producers Should Consider Serving



Veterans are an underserved population



Your leadership experience and service mindset are a great asset to farmers and ranchers in your area



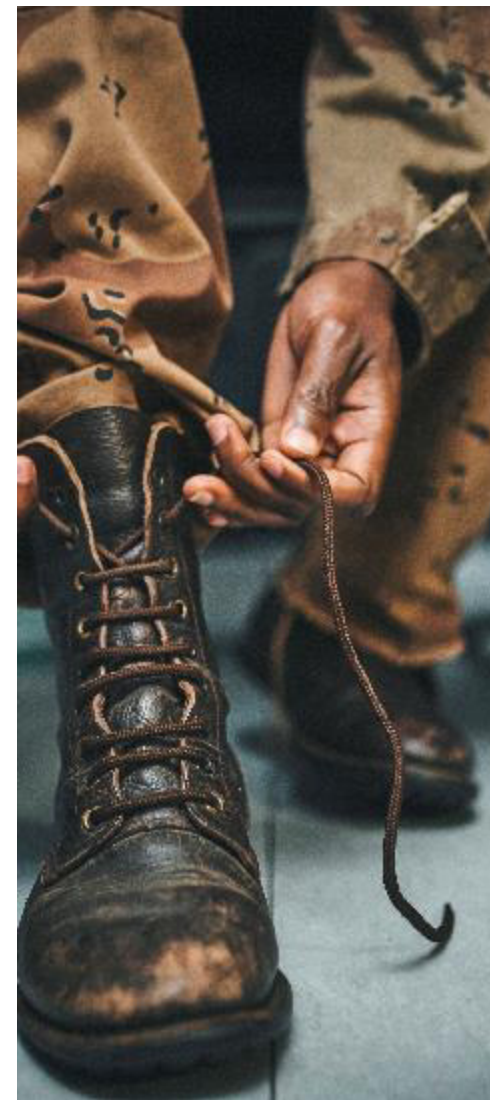
Provides you an opportunity to influence decisions that affect funding, outreach, and program access



Allows you to assist fellow veterans and underserved producers navigate FSA resources



No prior experience, outside of being a producer in the community, is required



What COC Service Looks Like



Employ the County Executive Director



Attend regular scheduled meetings (monthly to quarterly)



Review program applications and policy guidance



Work with local FSA office to engage producers in your area



Collaborate with FSA staff to improve delivery of service



Share updates and provide support to your farming community

Final Takeaways



FSA programs are here to help you succeed in agriculture



County Committees are an important part of how programs are implemented at the local level




You can get involved by voting, nominating or serving





Your experience and participation can make a real difference in your community

Election Timeline



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE










BE THE LINK

between your agricultural community and the USDA

2025 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

				
JUN. 16, 2025 Beginning of nomination period. Forms available at fsa.usda.gov/elections .	AUG. 1, 2025 Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA county office.	NOV. 3, 2025 Ballots mailed to eligible voters.	DEC. 1, 2025 Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA county office.	JAN. 1, 2026 Newly elected county committee members take office.

Resources for More Information on COC Participation



Visit www.farmers.gov various FSA resources including a service center locator tool to help you connect with your local county office



Visit the County Committee Election website for additional information and election resources at: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>

Questions?

