

Farm Service Agency

Election Newsletter

July 2009

County Committee Elections

It's County Committee election time, and this special issue of the Rhode Island County Office newsletter is your guide to the 2009 election. Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAA's. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in a LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring.

Rhode Island's Local Administrative Areas

Rhode Island consists of 5 Local Administrative Areas (LAA's);

- ◆ **LAA#1-Providence County ***Up for County Committee Election*****
- ◆ LAA#2-Kent County
- ◆ LAA#3-Washington County
- ◆ LAA#4-Newport County
- ◆ LAA#5-Bristol County including Tiverton & Little Compton of Newport County



Nominations Open June 15th

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election 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 farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. A nomination form, FSA-669A (English version), is included in this newsletter. Additional forms (including the Spanish version) and details may be picked up at your local USDA Service Center, FSA county office or downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>.

Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or post-marked by midnight Aug. 3.



2009

Election Dates:

June 15th

Nomination period begins

August 3rd

Last day to nominate

November 6th

Ballots mailed

December 7th

Last day to return ballots

January 1st

Elected members take office

Election

- The County Committee election is held by mail.
- Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

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USDA - Farm Service Agency
60 Quaker Lane, suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886

Phone: 401-828-3120 Option 1 or
1-800-551-5144
Farm Loan Option 2
Fax: 401-821-0780

County Office Staff
Melissa Turrisi - CED
Anne Belleville - PT
Devon Marsden - PT
Leila Naylor-PT

Farm Loan Staff
Roxanne Boisse - FLM
Sandy Ford - PT
Katie Ryan-FLOT

COC Members
Ruth James-Chairperson
Vincent Confreda-Vice Chair
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member
George Goulart-Member
James Steere-Member



Voter Requirements

Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or a partner in a general partnership, or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; and
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall 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.

Nominate a Representative from your area using the enclosed FSA-669A

A list of eligible nominees is available for viewing; Please contact the Rhode Island County Office at 401-828-3120 Option 1 or 1-800-551-5144, if you wish to obtain a copy or stop in and review it.

FSA encourages beginning farmer, minority and socially disadvantaged group participation.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382

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