



Farm Service Agency
2405 Texas Ave. South
College Station, TX 77840
www.fsa.usda.gov/tx

News Release

Contact: Shawn McCowan
shawn.mccowan@tx.usda.gov
979-680-5248

FSA County Committee Elections Begin; Producers Receive Ballots Week of Nov. 6 *Farmers and Ranchers Have Voice in Local Farm Program Decisions*

COLLEGE STATION, Texas, October 31, 2017 – Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting State Executive Director for Texas, Erasmo (Eddie) Trevino, today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin mailing ballots Monday, Nov. 6, 2017, to eligible farmers and ranchers for the 2017 FSA County Committee elections. Producers must return ballots to their local FSA office by Dec. 4, 2017, to ensure their vote is counted.

“County Committee members represent the farmers and ranchers in our Texas communities,” said Trevino. “Producers elected to these committees have always played a vital role in local agricultural decisions. It is a valued partnership that helps us better understand the needs of the farmers and ranchers we serve.”

Nearly 7,700 FSA County Committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members apply their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs; conservation programs; indemnity and disaster programs; emergency programs and eligibility.

Trevino said producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the county committee election. Farmers and ranchers who supervise and conduct the farming operations of an entire farm, but are not of legal voting age, also may be eligible to vote.

Farmers and ranchers will begin receiving their ballots the week of Nov. 6. Ballots include the names of candidates running for the local committee election. Voters who did not receive a ballot can pick one up at their local FSA office. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 4, 2017. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2018.

For more information, visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. You may also contact your local USDA Service Center or FSA office. Visit <http://offices.usda.gov> to find an FSA office near you.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer.