

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Yolo County Farm Service Agency, 221 W. Court Street Suite 3B, Woodland, CA 95695

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS BEGIN

WOODLAND, CA – November 7, 2005 – Farm Service Agency County Executive Director Marianne A. Morton today announced the election period for FSA county committees has begun, as ballots should reach eligible farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers this week. Eligible producers should contact their FSA County Office if they do not receive a ballot. All ballots must be signed and returned to the voter's FSA County Office on or be postmarked by **December 5, 2005**.

"The Yolo County Committee is vital," said Morton. "The Committee helps implement federal farm programs, working to assist the county's agricultural producers. We are committed to having the Committee reflect a cross-section of producers in our community. I encourage all eligible producers, especially minorities and women, to make a difference by voting in this year's FSA County Committee elections."

FSA County Committees help ensure that FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committees provide input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs and disaster assistance. FSA Committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. The Yolo County Committee consists of three elected members and two appointed advisors to further represent the interests of minority and women farmers and ranchers. Approximately one-third of the nearly 8,000 committee seats nationwide are up for election annually. This year's election is for Local Administrative Area 3 (Elkhorn, West Sacramento and Clarksburg).

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in any FSA program and are of legal voting age can vote. A person supervising and conducting the farming operations on an entire farm, but not of legal voting age, and spouses of agricultural producers of legal voting age may also vote.

The candidate receiving the most votes serves a three-year term as the elected County Committee member. The person receiving the second most votes serves a three-year term as the first alternate. The candidate receiving the third most votes serves as second alternate for three years.

Newly elected Committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2006.

Producers can learn more about FSA County Committees by contacting a FSA County Office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/>

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