

New FSA County Committee Election Ballots

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened.

New ballots were mailed to producers on December 20, 2013. These ballots indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

The corrected ballot must be returned to the Stanly County FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expires on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

The candidates in this year's election are:

John S Pickler II, of Long Creek Farms Inc., is nominated in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, Stanly County, to serve as a committee member. Pickler resides in New London, and has produced wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton for many years.

Aaron L. Burleson, of Thurman Burleson & Sons, is nominated in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, Stanly County, to serve as a committee member. Burleson resides in Richfield, and has produced wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton for many years with the family partnership.

The newly elected LAA 1 representative will replace Charles F. "Butch" Brooks, who has served his term limit of three, three year terms, most of which he served as chairperson. The farmers, landowners, and FSA staff appreciates his service to the county over the past nine years.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.