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FSA County Committee (COC) Awareness

May 31, 2018

**Farm Service Agency
County Committees**

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Before We Begin

- Audio is streaming through your computer.
- Questions should be submitted via text in the Chat box Feature.
- This session is being recorded and will be posted to www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach after it's been captioned.



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Welcome and Agenda

Cynthia Cuellar: *Overview of FSA County Committees (COC)*

- National Outreach Specialist

Jan Joannides: *Stakeholder Engagement Perspectives*

- Executive Director and Co-Founder of Renewing the Countryside

Judy Kahn: *COC Member Perspectives*

- Current COC Member in Minnesota

Craig Turner: *COC Member Perspectives*

- Previous COC Member in Texas



What is a County Committee?

- Authorized by Congress in 1930s
- Critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA
- More than 7,700 committee members serve on more than 2,200 committees nationwide





Who serves on a County Committee?

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee.

- ✓ Be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations
- ✓ Participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law
- ✓ 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.



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Why is Outreach important?



**Increase Diversity on
County Committees**

**Ensure a variety of
perspectives**



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Demographics of COC

Voting Members by Percent	Gender		Race/Ethnicity							SDA (Race)	Ethnicity	
	Female	Male	African American or Black	American Indian or Native Alaskan	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	SDA (White)	Total SDA	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
2014	16.5%	83.5%	2.2%	2.3%	1.8%	0.3%	--	93.6%	--	6.5%	--	--
2015	17.3%	82.7%	2.1%	2.2%	1.9%	0.3%	--	93.5%	--	6.6%	--	--
2016	17.8%	82.2%	2.2%	2.3%	2.0%	0.3%	--	93.4%	--	6.7%	--	--
2017	18.16%	81.84%	2.15%	2.49%	1.68%	0.22%	0.08%	93.05%	0.33%	6.95%	1.68%	98.32%



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How does FSA encourage Outreach?

- ✓ County Committee Members
- ✓ Stakeholder Engagement
- ✓ Resource Toolkits
(<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections/>)
- ✓ Webinars and Meetings





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Stakeholder Engagement

Jan Joannides
Executive Director and
Co-Founder of Renewing the
Countryside





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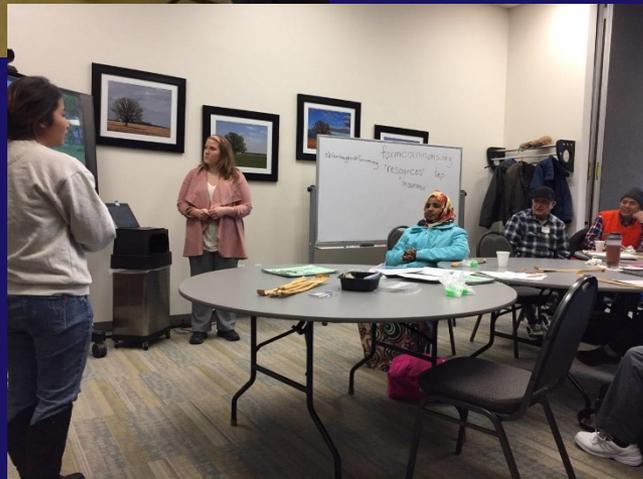


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COC Member Perspectives

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Questions? And for more information...

Find Your Local FSA Service Center at:
<http://offices.usda.gov>

Find out more about Renewing the Countryside at:
www.renewingthecountryside.org

Find out more about Farmer Elected Committees at:
www.fsacountycommittees.org



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Thank you for joining!

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