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**A . S . C . S .**

**ORGANIZERS**

**HANDBOOK**

ASCS stands for Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services. It is part of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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## How Is The ASCS Set Up

Farmers run ASCS. In each county all over the country they get together in small groups called communities. Each community has between 100 and 300 farm families in it. Each community has an election every year.

Five farmers are elected in each community this year. The three who got the highest number of votes go to a county-wide meeting called the ASCS County Convention.

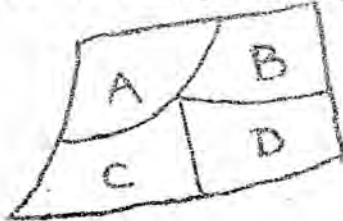
At the County Convention they choose five farmers to be on the ASCS COUNTY COMMITTEE. The five farmers elected to the COUNTY COMMITTEE can be any farmers in the county who can vote in the ASCS elections.

The five farmers elected in each ASCS Community are called the ASCS Community Committee. The five chosen at the County Convention are called the ASCS COUNTY COMMITTEE. The COUNTY COMMITTEE is most important to farmers. It decides how many acres of cotton each farm gets to plant. It decides who gets loans. It also hires the County Office Manager.

Since the COUNTY COMMITTEE is really important, we have to get people on the COUNTY COMMITTEE. The only way to do this is for your candidates to win the majority of positions on all the County Committees in your county. This means that in each community in your county, you have to win 4 or 5 out of the 5 seats on the community committee.

# How Members Of The ASCS County Committee Are Chosen

This is Henry County.



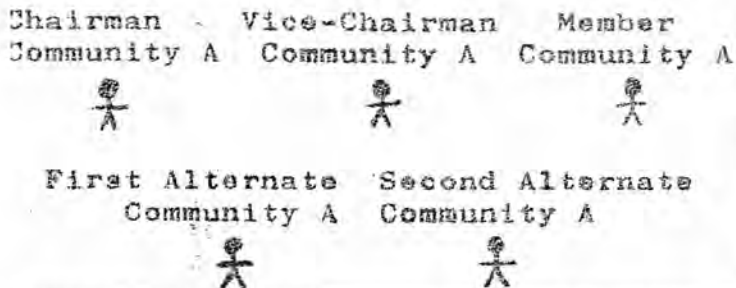
There is a map like this of your county divided into ASCS Communities in your ASCS County Office. You can go and make a copy of it.)

Henry County has 4 ASCS Communities--  
 Community A  
 Community B  
 Community C  
 Community D

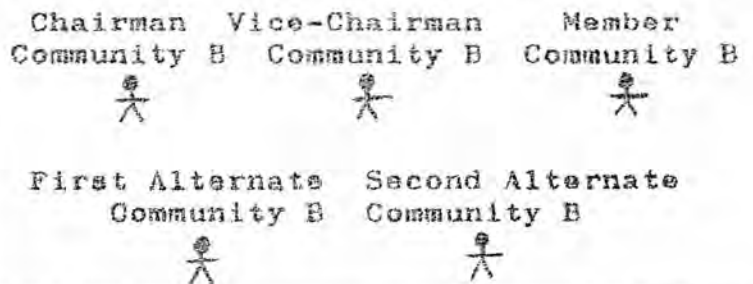
(There may be more or less than 4 ASCS Communities in your county.)

In each Community, the farmers elect 5 farmers to the Community Committee.

For example, in Community A, the Community Committee looks like this:



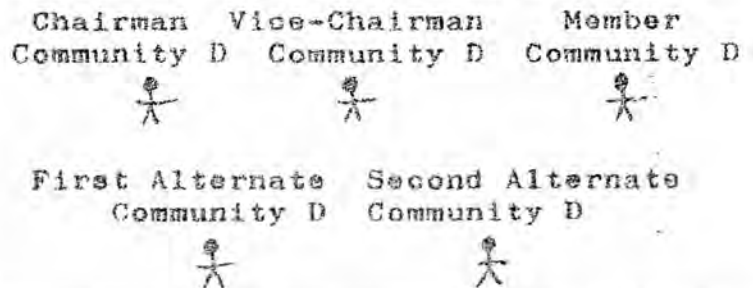
In Community B, the Community Committee looks like this:



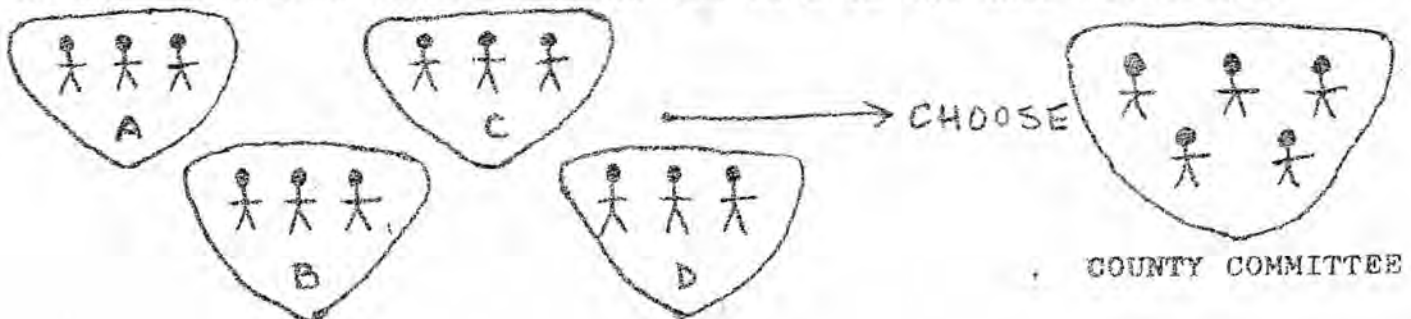
In Community C, the Community Committee looks like this:



In Community D, the Community Committee looks like this:



At the County Convention, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the Member from each Community Committee get together and choose 5 farmers to be members of the ASCS County Committee. The 5 farmers elected to the County Committee can be any farmers in the county who can vote in the ASCS elections.



# WHAT DO ASCS COMMITTEEMEN DO ?

## Community Committeemen:

In each ASCS Community, the farmers elect the 5 ASCS Community Committeemen. These are some of the things the ASCS Community Committeemen do.

1. They receive information from the COUNTY COMMITTEE about ASCS programs, and pass it on to their neighbors.
2. They help the COUNTY COMMITTEE by letting them know how ASCS programs are working in their community.
3. They serve as measurers if qualified. An ASCS measurer can make from \$15 to \$20 a day.
4. They make recommendations about the kind of Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) that should be used in the county.
5. The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the Member of the Community Committee help elect the COUNTY COMMITTEE.

Every once in a while, ASCS Community Committeemen meet together. They get paid \$6 for the day if their meeting lasts four hours or less, and \$12 for the day if the meeting lasts more than four hours.

The Community Committeemen also get paid for attending a one day training session which is held soon after they are elected.

## COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN:

5 ASCS COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN are chosen by the 3 highest members of all the Community Committees in the county. In general, COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN spread information about ASCS programs and decide who can take part in them. These are some of the more important ASCS programs.

1. Acreage allotments and market quotas  
The COUNTY COMMITTEE supervises the measuring of crops.  
It appoints the measurers.  
The COUNTY COMMITTEE helps decide how much cotton each farmer will plant. It sets penalties for farmers who plant more than their allotments.  
The COUNTY COMMITTEE decides who is eligible to vote in the referendum on the cotton quota.
2. Price support (This is a program set up by the Federal Government to make sure that farmers get a fair price for their crops.)  
The COUNTY COMMITTEE decides who eligible for price supports.  
It decides who can get a CCC loan. (This is a loan to pay for storing your crop until the price goes up and you can sell it for a better price.)  
It decides who can take part in government storage programs.

What do ASCS Committeemen do? continued

3. Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)

Under the ACP, the Federal Government pays farmers part of the cost of taking part in a conservation program. A conservation program is a program for enriching and improving the soil. This can be done through planting of special crops, changing from one crop to another, using fertilizers and new methods of farming, building dams, and other ways.

The COUNTY COMMITTEE makes recommendations to the State ASCS Committee about the kind of conservation program that would be best in their county.

It decides which farmers can take part in the ACP.

The COUNTY COMMITTEE works with the Community Committees on getting information out to farmers. Information can be spread by speaking at meetings, by putting articles in the newspaper, and talking on the radio.

The COUNTY COMMITTEE also supervises the ASCS County Office. They hire the Office Manager, and together with the Office Manager they decide what duties the office employees will perform.

PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT POWER THAT THE COUNTY COMMITTEE HAS IS THAT THEY CAN HIRE AND FIRE THE OFFICE MANAGER. THE OFFICE MANAGER IS OFTEN THE ONE WHO REALLY MAKES THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THE COUNTY AND YOU.

Some time during January, all the newly-elected ASCS COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN attend a one-day training session in a city near where they live. They get paid \$15 for attending. Then they go back and set up training sessions in their counties for the Community Committeemen. The County Office Manager helps with the training sessions.

The ASCS COUNTY COMMITTEE has to meet at least once a month. If necessary they can meet more often than that. COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN get paid \$7.50 for the day if the meeting lasts four hours or less, and \$15 for the day if the meeting lasts more than four hours.

## How The ASCS Can Help Farmers

The local ASCS committees, together with the Federal Government, can help teach farmers better ways of farming and can help farmers get loans to improve their land and their methods of farming.

For example, in Macon County, Tennessee, much of the land was very bad. So most of the farmers were poor, and many had to work part-time at other jobs besides farming in order to support their families.

The United States Department of Agriculture chose Macon County for special help. Representatives of the Department of Agriculture worked with the State ASCS Office and with COUNTY and Community ASCS Committees to develop a program that would help the small farmers of Macon County.

The best idea seemed to plant a new and better kind of grass on land that was not being used, on pasture land, and on some land that was used for row crops. This new grass would be a conservation measure. It would keep the soil from washing away. It could also help feed the livestock that was kept by many farmers in the county.

It was decided to help pay for this program from loans made through the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). COUNTY and Community ASCS Committeemen made it their business to contact all the farmers in the county to tell them about the conservation program and to encourage them to take part. They explained how this program would improve the land. They explained that if the farmers paid some of the cost of planting the grass, the rest of the money would be loaned through the ACP.

Three years after the program was started, 288 farmers who had never taken part in an ACP program were now taking part. They were improving their land at the same time they were learning about better farming methods.

This is an example of how the ASCS could help farmers if the members of the ASCS Committees were people who were interested in helping all the farmers in their county.

## Why It Is Important To Take Part In The ASCS Elections

In most counties, white plantation owners have no trouble getting extra acres to plant when they ask for them. But we all know how hard it is for small Negro farmers to get a few extra acres. Also Negro farmers have a hard time getting loans, and no one is interested in helping them learn about new methods of farming.

There are about 226,000 Negro farmers in the South. Last year, out of 37,000 Community Committeemen, only 75 were Negro. Last year for the first time there were a few Negro Community Committeemen in Mississippi. There has never been a Negro COUNTY COMMITTEEMAN in Mississippi.

Why it is important to take part in the ASCS Elections continued

In order to make sure that we get a fair share of land on which to plant cotton, and so we can start learning about other programs to help us farm better and live better, WE HAVE TO GET TOGETHER WITH OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AND ELECT THE PEOPLE WHO WILL CHOOSE THE ASCS COUNTY COMMITTEE. We have to run our own candidates for the ASCS Committee in each community. And we have to make sure that everyone who is eligible to vote in the ASCS election takes part and votes for our candidates.

## How People Can Win In The ASCS Elections

The first thing to do is find people in each ASCS Community in your county who will work on ASCS elections. You should try to get some one from each community to be the Community Captain. The Community Captain and other volunteers from the community should talk to their neighbors about the ASCS elections. They have to let their neighbors know how important the elections are, and make sure they take part. Community workers can talk to their neighbors at meetings, or by going from door-to-door. They should give out leaflets about the elections, or leave them in public places like stores and churches.

In the ASCS County Office is a list of everyone who is eligible to vote in the ASCS election. Every farmer should make sure he is on the County Office list. Otherwise he will not be able to vote. Community workers in each community should make sure that all farmers are on the list. If a farmer is not on the list, we have to make sure that he goes down to the County Office with proof that he is eligible to vote.

The people in each community should try to find 3 farmers who will make good candidates. Then they have to sign petitions to put each of their candidates on the ballot, and bring the completed petitions to the ASCS County Office by November 12.

Ballots are mailed out to each farmer on November 22. Community workers in each community have to make sure that everyone knows who your candidates are so they can vote for them. You can give out leaflets and put up posters with your candidates' names on them. The candidates themselves can talk to people at meetings and in their homes.

Community workers should keep records of how people voted. That way, we can make complaints if votes are lost or changed. We have to make sure that all completed ballots are mailed in by December 2.

The votes will probably be counted a day or two later at the ASCS Office. People from each community should go to the office and watch the counting.

Some time before December 12, the three top winners in each community go to the ASCS County Convention. All the Negro Community Committeemen who were just elected should get together before the Convention and decide who they want to elect to the COUNTY COMMITTEE. We should make sure that all our winning candidates, as well as any other interested farmers, attend the County Convention.



# ASCS ELECTIONS - Step By Step

## I. VOTING

### Who Can Vote in ASCS Elections

Anyone who has a legal interest in the cotton crop is allowed to vote in the ASCS elections. This means that all farm owners, part owners, tenants, and sharecroppers over 21 can vote. If a person is under 21 but runs or owns a whole farm, then he can vote, too.

The ASCS County Office has a list of all the people it thinks are eligible to vote. Last year not everyone who should have been allowed to vote was on the list.

**WHAT TO DO:** First of all, you have to find out where the community boundary lines in your county are. That way you can find out what community each farmer lives in. You can get a map showing ASCS Community boundaries at the ASCS Office.

While you are at the Office, ask to see the list of eligible voters. This is a public list, and anyone who wants to can see it. Make a copy of all the eligible to vote if you can. (The County Office can make a copy for you, but they will charge 8¢ or 15¢ a name.)

After November 2, each person who is on the County List is supposed to get a letter from the ASCS Office telling him about the ASCS Community Election. This means that he will be able to vote in the election. If a farmer does not get a letter when his neighbors do, he should go down to the ASCS Office and complain.

When a farmer goes to the ASCS Office to get on the list, he must bring proof with him that he is eligible to vote.

The letters sent out by the County Office also let a person know what community he lives in. They place a number next to his name. For example if the number next to your name is 300 A, this means that you live on Farm Number 300 in Community A.

**WHAT TO DO:** If your name isn't on the county list, or if you don't get a letter after November 2, or if you don't get a ballot after November 22, go down to the County Office with some proof that you are eligible to vote.

You can vote in the ASCS election this year if you can prove that you are eligible by December 2.

## How Do You Prove You Are Eligible To Vote ?

You can prove you are eligible to vote in the ASCS election

- 1) if you are a farm owner bring your deed or receipts for things like seed or fertilizer
- 2) if you are a tenant bring a rent receipt or a warehouse receipt or a receipt for something you bought to work the land like seed or fertilizer
- 3) if you are a sharecropper bring a receipt of some sort or you can also bring a written statement from your landlord saying that you are a tenant or sharecropper. This proves that you have a legal interest in the crop.

## Can Wives Of Farmers Vote ?

Some people say that wives can vote in ASCS elections and some people say they can't. Be sure everyone understands that a wife can vote in only three cases:

- 1) if her name is on the deed of ownership she can vote
- 2) if her name is on the contract as a joint operator with her husband as a tenant or sharecropper. If you don't have a written contract try to get a written statement from the landlord.
- 3) if she alone is the owner of the farm or if she is the one on the contract (because she doesn't have a husband or because he doesn't work on the farm)

If a wife does not meet one of these three conditions, she can't vote in the ASCS election.

## Other Facts About Who Can Vote

1. How long does your name have to be on the deed of ownership before you can vote?  
--Anyone who has his or her name on the ownership deed by December 2 can vote in the ASCS elections. Also anyone who can prove he or she is a tenant or sharecropper by December 2 can vote.
2. If someone owns or farms land in more than one community in the same county, can he vote in each community?  
--No. You can only vote in one community in a county.
3. If someone owns or farms land in more than one county, can he vote in each county?  
--Yes. You can vote once in each county where you own or farm land.
4. If you are not registered to vote at the Courthouse, can you vote in the ASCS elections?  
--Yes. You do not have to be registered at the Courthouse to take part in the ASCS elections.
5. If you can't read or write can you take part in the ASCS elections?  
--Yes. You don't have to be able to read or write in order to vote in the ASCS elections.

## 2. Running Candidates

### How Do You Run Candidates In The ASCS Community Elections ?

If you can vote in the ASCS elections, you can run in them.

If you can vote in the ASCS elections, you can nominate other farmers to run in them.

You can put farmers on the ballot for Community Committeemen by making up nominating petitions for them.

For each farmer that you want to nominate, draw up a piece of paper that looks like this:

We the farmers of Community _____, nominate _____ (name of candidate)
who lives at _____ for the ASCS Community (address of candidate)
Committee. He also lives in Community _____.

Six or more farmers who live in the same community as the candidate must sign their names.

Each farmer can sign as many petitions as he wants to. You must make sure that you live in the same community as the person you are nominating. Both you and the person you are nominating must be able to vote in the same community.

You have to bring your completed petition to the County ASCS Office by November 12.

**WHAT TO DO:** Have more than 6 farmers sign each petition in case some signatures do not qualify (like he made a mistake about the community he lives in). Also try to bring in the petitions before November 12. This will give you time to write up a new petition if the first one is disqualified.

### Who Will Run

There are three ways that names of people can be put on the ballot to run for Community Committeeman:

1. The Community Committee can put names on the ballot. They must make sure that at least 6 people are running.
2. The COUNTY COMMITTEE can put names on the ballot. This year the ASCS COUNTY COMMITTEE must see that Negroes are on the ballot in the same proportion as they live in the county. This means that if your county is half Negro, then half of the names on the ballot must be Negroes.

BUT WE ALL KNOW WHAT NEGROES THE COUNTY COMMITTEE WILL PICK.

3. Farmers themselves can decide who should run in each community by signing nominating petitions for the candidates they want.

The farmers in each ASCS Community should get together and decide who they want to run in the ASCS elections. There are 5 positions on the ASCS Community Committee, so if possible the Negro farmers in each community should try to find five farmers who will make good ASCS Committeemen to run. If you can't find five, then run as many people as you can, one, two, three, or four.

Six or more farmers who live in the same community as the person being nominated should then sign nominating petitions for each candidate, and the petitions should be brought to the ASCS Office by November 12.

**WHAT TO DO:** The farmers in each ASCS community should get together and choose 5 candidates for the ASCS election. Then they should bring completed petitions for each candidate to the ASCS Office before November 12.

When the Community Committee gets the names of all the people who have been nominated, they go around to each farmer and ask him if he wants to run. Last year, many Negro farmers who had been nominated were warned that they better not run. But many of them ran anyway, and 8 Negro candidates won as ASCS Community Committeemen last year.

IF YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT BEFORE NOVEMBER 12, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO ELECT YOUR CANDIDATES LATER THROUGH A WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN.

### Some Reasons Why A Person Can't Run In The ASCS Elections

1. A person cannot be a candidate for ASCS Committeeman if he is over 70 years old. But he can vote.
2. A person cannot be a candidate for ASCS Committeeman if he was ever convicted of a serious crime, such as fraud, larceny, embezzlement, or forgery. But he can vote.
3. A person cannot be a candidate for ASCS Committeeman if he is an officer of a political party or political organization. This means that if a farmer is an officer in the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, or the Freedom Democratic Party, he cannot run in the ASCS elections. But he can vote! (Members of County Executive Committees are considered officers of a political organization.)

If a farmer who is also an officer of the Freedom Democratic Party wants to run in the ASCS election, he will have to resign his position with the Freedom Democratic Party. He can do this by writing a letter saying he wishes to resign to his County Executive Committee. He should send a copy of this letter to the FDP State Office, 507½ N. Farish St., Jackson, Mississippi.

### 3. Marking Your Ballot

On November 22, the County ASCS Office mails out the ballot to everyone who is eligible to vote. These ballots must be returned to the County ASCS Office by December 2.

**WHAT TO DO:** Make sure that everyone who is eligible receives a ballot. If someone who can vote does not receive a ballot, he should go down to the County Office and ask for one. He should bring proof with him, like a letter from the ASCS Office, or a deed or a receipt.

If the County Office says they mailed out your ballot but you didn't get it, ask for another one. If you lose your ballot ask for another one. The Office is supposed to give people Second Ballots if they ask for them.

Last year some voters were told by the plantation owner or the mailman that they had to fill out their ballots right away. This is not true. You can fill out your ballot when and where you want to. Just make the ballot gets back to the County Office by December 2.

On the ballot are the names of everyone who was nominated by the farmers in the community, plus farmers who were placed on the ballot by the County Committee and the Community Committee. There are also five blank spaces at the bottom for write-in votes. PEOPLE CAN VOTE FOR 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 CANDIDATES.

The candidates have to become known in their communities. They can speak at meetings and workshops to other farmers. Community workers can go from door-to-door and talk about your candidates. They can give out leaflets telling about the election with the candidates' names on them. Posters and leaflets telling about the elections and the candidates can be put in public places like stores and churches.

**WHAT TO DO:** It is important that people know who your candidates are and vote ONLY for your candidates. LAST YEAR MANY NEGRO FARMERS VOTED FOR NEGRO CANDIDATES, BUT THEY VOTED FOR SOME WHITE CANDIDATES TOO BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD TO VOTE FOR 5 CANDIDATES. THIS WAY THE WHITE CANDIDATES GOT BOTH THE WHITE VOTES AND THE NEGRO VOTES, AND THEY WON.

BE SURE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY SHOULD VOTE ONLY FOR YOUR CANDIDATES, EVEN IF THIS MEANS THAT THEY VOTE FOR LESS THAN 5 PEOPLE. You can vote for 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 candidates. YOU DON'T HAVE TO VOTE FOR 5.

If your candidate didn't get on the ballot, let people know that they can write in his name at the bottom of the ballot. Electing people by writing their names at the bottom of the ballot is called a WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN or a WRITE-IN VOTE.

## Keeping Records Of How People Voted

Last year, many ballots sent in by Negro farmers were lost, destroyed, or changed. In order to make sure that all the ballots voted by Negro farmers are counted, it is a good idea to keep records of the way all the Negro farmers in your community vote this year.

One way to keep a record of how people voted is to have everyone fill out their ballots together at a mass meeting. Make sure everyone knows who your candidates are and vote only for your own candidates. If you have a blackboard, maybe you can draw a sample ballot and show people how to mark it. If a person can't read or write, someone can help him fill out his ballot.

After everyone has marked his ballot count how many votes each candidate got. Then fill out a form like this:

On <u>(date people voted)</u> , <u>(the number of farmers who voted)</u> eligible voters of ASCS Community ____ in _____ County voted for the following people.
---

Then write down the names of the candidates they voted for, and how many votes each candidate received.

Make several copies of these records and see that they are kept in safe places until needed. You will need them when the votes are counted.

## Sealing Your Ballot

Along with the ballot will be two other envelopes. One envelope will be plain. The other will have the address of the ASCS County Office on it.



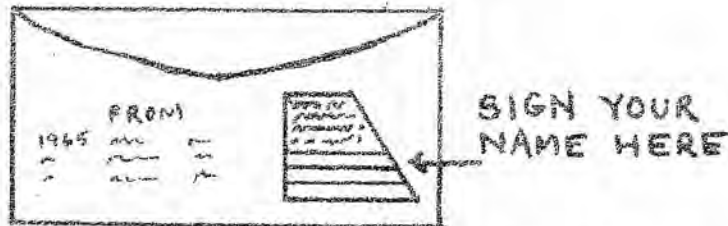
When the farmer has filled out his ballot, he should put the ballot into the plain envelope and seal it.



Then he should put the plain envelope into the addressed envelope and seal it.



On the back of the addressed envelope is a place for the farmer to sign his name. This shows that nobody forced him to vote. If the farmer cannot sign his name he should make an X and another person should sign his name as a witness.



If the farmer does not sign his name or make a mark on the addressed envelope, his vote will not be counted.

Mail your ballot or take it in person to the ASCS Office. YOUR BALLOT MUST BE MAILED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 2.

**WHAT TO DO:** Make sure everyone understands the correct way to seal and sign the ballot. Be sure everyone mails or brings his ballot to the ASCS Office by December 2.

## 4. Counting The Votes

The ballots that are mailed in to the ASCS Office are all kept in a locked box until the count. The counting is supposed to take place in a public building, probably the ASCS Office. Anyone who is interested can go and watch the ballots being counted.

Some time before December 7, the ballots are counted. The ASCS Office is supposed to let the public know in advance when and where the counting of ballots will take place. They are supposed to put up posters or announce it over the radio.

This is how the votes are counted: Farmers who voted mailed their envelopes back to the ASCS Office by December 2. The Office workers can tell by looking at the outside envelope what community the envelope came from. All the envelopes from each community are put into a separate box. On the day the votes are counted, each box is opened up. The vote counters are supposed to look through all the outside envelopes to make sure that they were all signed. If an envelope was signed it is opened up and the plain envelope with the ballot inside is taken out and put in one pile. All the outside envelopes that were opened up are put in another pile. If any outside envelopes were not signed they are not opened but they are put in a third pile. Then the plain envelopes with the ballots inside are all mixed up. The plain envelopes are opened up and the votes are counted.

This way nobody can tell how you voted.

**WHAT TO DO:** Find out when and where the votes will be counted. Encourage people to go down and watch the counting.

When all the votes are counted, the 5 people with the highest number of votes are the new ASCS Community Committeemen. The person in each community with the highest number of votes is the Chairman. The person with the second highest number of votes is the Vice-Chairman. The person with the third highest is the Member. The last two are the First and Second Alternates.

If two people get the same number of votes, something will have to be done to break the tie. A tie can be broken either by chance (for example tossing a coin) or by having a revote. The candidates can choose the method of tie-breaking they want to use.

**WHAT TO DO:** If you kept a record of how people voted, you will be able to tell if any votes were lost or changed. For example, according to your records Farmer Johnson got 80 votes. When the votes are counted at the ASCS Office, you find out that Farmer X only got 30 votes. Then you know that 50 ballots got lost somewhere.

## The County Convention

Some time between December 5 and 12, the County Convention will be held. The ASCS Office should announce when and where the County Convention will be held. It must let all the newly-elected Community Committeemen know about the County Convention so they can come and vote. Anyone who wants to watch the County Convention can come also.

At the County Convention the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the Member from all the newly-elected Community Committees in the County choose five farmers to be on the COUNTY COMMITTEE. The 5 farmers elected to the COUNTY COMMITTEE can be any 5 farmers in the county who are eligible to vote in the ASCS election.

**WHAT TO DO:** Make sure all your winning candidates know when the County Convention will be. See that everyone who is supposed to vote attends the County Convention.

The Negro farmers who were elected to the Community Committee in each community should all get together before the Convention and decide who they will nominate and vote for to be on the COUNTY COMMITTEE.

If any of the people we elected are Alternates, they should also help decide who they want to elect to the COUNTY COMMITTEE and they should go to the County Convention. Alternates do not usually vote, but if voting members are absent the Alternates will vote in their place.



# TIMETABLE

DATE

THINGS TO DO

As soon as possible

- Go to ASCS County Office; get map showing community boundaries; get list of eligible voters if possible
- Find people in each community who will work on ASCS elections
- Find a place in each community where meetings and workshops can be held
- Each community should have meetings to choose their 5 candidates
- Have 6 or more farmers sign a petition for each candidate
- Any farmer whose name is not on the county list must go to ASCS Office with proof that he is eligible to vote

November 2 - Letters from ASCS Office go to farmers telling about election

- Community workers should canvass everyone in the community door-to-door to find out if people got a letter; if not they should tell farmers about ASCS and encourage them to go to ASCS Office to get their names on the list; maybe take people down themselves
- Any farmer who did not get a letter should go to ASCS Office with proof that he is eligible

November 12 - Nominating petitions have to be brought to ASCS Office

- Be sure all nominating petitions are brought to ASCS Office by November 12
- Try to get the petitions to the Office a few days earlier. That will give you time to get another petition signed in case first petition is disqualified
- People in each community should be canvassing, talking about elections and their candidates

November 22 - Ballots mailed to farmers

- Any farmer who did not get a ballot should go to County Office with proof that he is eligible to vote
- If a farmer knows he is on the county list but he didn't get a ballot, he should go to ASCS Office and ask for a Second Ballot

## TIMETABLE CONTINUED

DATE	THINGS TO DO
November 22 - Ballots mailed to farmers (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--Be sure people know who your candidates are and vote only for your candidates</li> <li>--If your candidates are not printed on the ballot, let people know they can write their names in</li> <li>--People in each community should keep records of how folks voted and how many sent in ballots</li> </ul>
December 2 - Ballots have to be back in ASCS Office	--Be sure that people know how to seal and sign ballots correctly; be sure all ballots are brought or mailed to ASCS Office by December 2
Between December 3 and 7 - Vote Counting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--Find out when and where counting will take place, encourage people to attend</li> <li>--Check vote counting</li> </ul>
Before December 12 - County Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--Winning candidates from all communities should meet before County Convention and decide who they want to choose for County Committee</li> <li>--Only the top 3 from each community vote at the Convention, but anyone can attend; find out when and where Convention is being held and encourage people to attend</li> </ul>
During the whole election period	--Keep records of complaints

FROM	I certify that the enclosed ballot filed in the ASCS Community Election was voted personally by me without duress, menace, or undue influence by any person whomsoever. (Criminal penalty for making a false statement: Fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both (18 U.S.C. 1001)) Signature of voter _____ Date _____ ADDRESS (where to witness if no voter sign or mark) _____
1965 Clyde Cottonseed 161 81 F Box 10, Rt. 2 L15B OP Kirksey, Mississippi	

This is the back of the envelope that goes back to the County ASCS Office.

Sign it where it says "Signature of Voter" and write in the date.

This is the front of the same envelope.



United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Official Business	Please Mail US Dept. of Ag.
<p><b>PLEASE POSTMARK</b></p> <p>Henry County ASCS Office          101 Cotton St.          Kirksey, Mississippi</p>	

# Where to Get More ASCS Information

The information in this handbook came from the following pamphlets and from visits and telephone calls to the State ASCS Office.

If you would like to check on something in the handbook, or you want more information about something, look in these pamphlets.

## HOW ASCS ELECTIONS:

County Administration Handbook, I-CA, Revision 1, Part 1.

Title 7--Agriculture.

## HOW ASCS COMMITTEE WORK:

Program Facts for ASCS Committeemen.

Agricultural Conservation Program--A Guidebook for ASCS Farmer Committeemen.

The Farmer Committee System.

Water Development--Suggestions for ASCS Committeemen.

All of these pamphlets are put out by the United States Department of Agriculture. Write to:

Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C. 20425

Your County ASCS Office should also have copies of these pamphlets. If they do not, you will have to write for them.

One good pamphlet about ASCS and other farm programs called Equal Opportunity in Farm Programs.

To get it, write to this address and send 60¢:

United States Commission on Civil Rights  
Washington, D. C. 20425.