

Vol. 1, Issue 9

April 2026

NASCOE

SCOOP



President's Message

As we navigate the current landscape within FSA, one thing is abundantly clear—our County Offices remain the backbone of service delivery to America's farmers and ranchers. Even as we face significant challenges, your dedication continues to define the strength of this agency.

Ceiling numbers have been released, and they are significantly lower than many of us anticipated. Remember that these numbers are based on annual appropriations and the budget dollars that remain for the year. At the same time, workloads continue to grow. New programs are being developed and implemented, rules are evolving, and deadlines remain firm. Many offices are feeling the strain of fewer staff, limited resources, and little time to pause, regroup, and organize. It is understandable that, lately, the outlook may not feel like a "glass half full."

We are also experiencing gaps in communication—particularly the lack of clear, timely notices that provide consistent direction on expectations, requirements, and changes. A recent example includes Performance Plans, where many employees did not receive comprehensive guidance outlining updates and timelines. These challenges only add to the complexity of the work you are already managing.

Despite this, County Office employees continue to show up every day and deliver. You serve your customers with professionalism and commitment—with or without complete guidance—and that does not go unnoticed.

NASCOE is actively advocating for you. We continue to push for clear, timely, and transparent communication through official notices, handbooks, and amendments. We are also working to ensure that information is shared consistently—not limited to select groups—but reaches the County Offices where it is needed most.

What I am happy to report is that these new programs that have been rolling out, there has been needed input and action from our COC members. This is something that NASCOE feels strongly about and continues to ensure that the role of our COCs is not diminished.

As Title 7 employees, we are uniquely supported by our locally elected County Committees. Their role is vital, and we must continue to utilize and inform them. Please remember to share the NAFEC Membership packet with your COC members and encourage engagement. You may also support NAFEC's association as an associate member.

While staffing shortages are real, it is important to be clear—the quality of work in County Offices remains strong. Employees continue to provide accurate, reliable service under increasingly difficult conditions. The challenge is not the dedication or ability of our workforce, but the resources available to them.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your customers, your coworkers, and to NASCOE. Your work matters, and it is appreciated.

On the Horizon

- EC Meeting 1st Tuesday of the Month
- Awaiting response from National Office regarding Negotiation Items submitted
- Rally – Reno, NV
- Monitor Farm Bill Legislation
- Watch Appropriations Legislation
- Quarterly call with DAFO
- 2026 Reorganization Plan
- Leadership Development
- PAC Promotion
- Membership Promotion and Growth
- National Convention

Don't Gamble With Your Benefits - Keep A Winning Hand With NASCOE

I am excited to announce our new NASCOE engagement and membership initiative. This has been in the works for awhile now and has been developed to not only try to increase the physical number of members across the nation, but to also ensure that there is engagement with our current members. Each month there will be a focused feature item that will draw attention to specific things that NASCOE does, benefits to being a member, etc. Members that wish to participate in this engagement and promotion will register by scanning the QR code to the right or going to the website to enter your information. Registering is important as it will help us to track your engagement which will result in a NASCOE Token. Tokens will be tracked electronically and there will be a special prize for the highest number of tokens obtained by a member from each Area. Watch for further information regarding how to earn tokens and more in the near future.

Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.
~Henry Ford

SCAN ME to participate



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/t/r/rTvec7SURm?origin=lprLink>

NASCOE SCOOP



Get to Know NASCOE



NASCOE County Office Advocacy Chair: Brian Gould

Location: Maryland

FSA County Location(s): Caroline and Talbot County

Family: Fiancée, Lisa Hamilton, and our two cats, Fuzz and Scooter.

Something Others May Not Know About Me: Although I live and in Maryland, I still own and operate an 80-acre family farm in West Virginia. It is currently dedicated to timber production.

Why Do You Serve NASCOE? I am honored to serve in my role with NASCOE. I believe in our united voice to advocate for the betterment of COF employee positions and benefits. Through NASCOE, COF employees can retain the benefits that those before afforded us access to. The dedication and commitment of my NASCOE colleagues and the NASCOE community serves as a motivating factor for my continued efforts and service.

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<https://nascoe.org/committee/county-office-advocacy>

