



## National Association of FSA County Office Employees

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Dear County Office Committee Member,

To introduce myself I am Joel Foster, President of the National Association of FSA County Office Employees (NASCOE). I have nearly 33 years of service, most of which have been as a County Executive Director in Northeast South Dakota.

In 1958, county office employees organized state associations to work for employee benefits. In early 1959, the State Associations formed the National Association of County Office Employees (NASCOE) as the national affiliate of the various state associations. NASCOE is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of two members from each state and an Executive Committee which serves as the executive arm of the Board of Directors. Dues to join NASCOE are nominal and are paid through an individual's state association.

Our objectives are to assist in every way possible to assure successful operation of FSA and the attainment of FSA's objectives, to cooperate with other groups and organizations, to conserve and improve our soil resources, to secure equitable salaries, working conditions, and retirement provisions for all county office employees, and to promote the professionalism of our employees. NASCOE also takes an active role in the preservation of the FSA farmer-elected County Committee system (COC) that serves as the backbone of our agency providing a key role in the successful administration of farm programs since the 1930s. NASCOE values the members who serve on the COC, and the importance of their role.

NASCOE has a long-standing relationship with the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC). We have exhibited a strong commitment to the COC structure and what it stands for by passing two resolutions in recent years to provide support and ensure continued cooperation between NAFEC and NASCOE. NASCOE voices their support of NAFEC to the National Office with a standing resolution that is presented annually at our national convention.

NASCOE is fortunate to have a strong membership but has only one voice. The collaboration with NAFEC is vital to the success of FSA and the implementation of the federal programs that are imperative to the success of our agricultural producers. NAFEC needs your help by becoming a member to strengthen their collaborative presence. NASCOE encourages you to join NAFEC and welcomes you to be an associate member of NASCOE. They say knowledge is power and by joining both memberships you will see a commitment to keep you informed and provide support in all aspects of the associations and county offices. Yes, I am an associate member of NAFEC.

If I can ever be of service, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [joel.foster@nascoe.org](mailto:joel.foster@nascoe.org) or to the NASCOE County Office Advocacy Committee (COAC) Chairperson, Jeannine Wendel at [jeannine.wendel@nascoe.org](mailto:jeannine.wendel@nascoe.org). The COAC Committee works directly with NAFEC to advocate the COC system. Thank you for serving on the County Office Committee and helping to keep integrity and safety in our farm programs.

Sincerely,

Joel Foster  
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