



National Association of Farmer Elected Committees

Representing Farm Service Agency County Committee Members since 1965

July 23, 2025

Dear Agriculture Friends:

We, the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC), that represents all Farm Service Agency County Committees who are responsible for the delivery of Farm Programs, are writing to all of the major agriculture and commodity organizations on behalf of the Farm Service Agency and our local USDA service centers. With the recent passage of the Title 1 farm programs in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, your FSA county office staffs and committees will be very busy over the next year, working to help ensure the United States maintains the strongest agriculture sector of any nation in the world. Whether it is delivering disaster funds to hurricane or drought victims, forage loss payments to livestock producers, or emergency conservation funds to repair damaged farmland, our staff has remained committed to you, our American farmers and ranchers. That is why this letter is of critical importance to all of you.

With recent buyouts and early retirements, the staffing levels in our counties has never been lower. Already at a breaking point, we are now faced with having to develop base acres on over 36 million new acres, as well as maintain all of the Title 1 programs that ensure a strong Farm Safety net. Frankly, we need your help if we are to be able to deliver the farm programs in the fast and efficient manner our producers have come to expect and deserve.

Recent visits to Capitol Hill made by our NAFEC officers have made it clear the only path to increase our staffing levels is through the 2026 Agriculture appropriations process. We urge your group to contact the Appropriation Committees for both the House and the Senate, as well as both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and let them know FSA is at a breaking point. Without staffing increases, critical services will be impacted.

We appreciate your service to American Agriculture and stand ready to assist each of your members to the fullest and most effective extent of the law with the resources we have. If NAFEC can provide more information or assistance please let us know.

Sincerely,

Jim Zumbrink, President – Ohio, on behalf of the NAFEC Executive Committee

Craig Turner, Executive Vice President – Texas

Jim Densberger, Vice President – Nebraska

Bob Braden, Secretary Treasurer – Iowa

Ronnie Wagoner, Northeast Area Director – Massachusetts

Stuart Fitzgerald, Southeast Area Director – Florida

Theresa Whitney, Southwest Area Director – New Mexico

Dan Noteboom, Northwest Area Director – Washington

Waylon Smolinski, Midwest Area Director – Michigan

Cole Sims, At Large Director - Louisiana