



National Association of FSA County Office Employees

Greetings County Committee Members and Advisors,

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as President of the National Association of FSA County Office Employees (NASCOE). Our association represents County Office employees across the nation who have the distinct privilege of being managed and supervised by you—our locally elected County Committee (COC) members.

While NASCOE is sustained by its membership, I want to assure you that we advocate for and represent all County Office employees, regardless of membership status. NASCOE is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of two members from each state in good standing, along with an Executive Committee made up of our officers and Area Executives representing five regions across the nation. Our leadership team continues to work with energy, integrity, and a deep commitment to our mission.

For those who may not know me, I currently serve as a County Executive Director (CED) in a multi-county shared management operation in north-central Minnesota. This operation oversees six counties, four offices, and two COCs, with a total of fourteen COC members. For the past 17½ years, I have had the privilege of serving NASCOE in various roles at the state, area, and national levels.

As President, my goals are simple and focused:

- Empower County Office Staff
- Strengthen Communication
- Grow Leadership and Membership

At our Organizational Meeting this summer, NASCOE leadership reviewed our roles and responsibilities as an important reminder of our shared expectations. Central to that responsibility is our commitment to actively promote and support the County Committee system, while remaining vigilant to any efforts that may diminish the critical role COC members play in fulfilling FSA's mission.

NASCOE has a deep-rooted relationship with the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC), and I continue to stress the importance of NASCOE members supporting NAFEC and the County Committee system—which is vital to our positions within FSA and USDA. As FSA employees, NASCOE's advocacy has defined limits; there are issues we cannot directly address. This is why NAFEC's role is so essential. Together, our organizations are stronger in advancing and protecting the COC system.

Within NASCOE, our County Office Advocacy Committee (COAC), chaired by Brian Gould, works closely with NAFEC to support County Office employees and strengthen the COC structure. Together, we have set priorities focused on improving training, functions, support, and communication related to how County Offices and programs are managed.

Recently, NASCOE leadership traveled to Capitol Hill to advocate for staffing, appropriations, and continued support of the County Committee system. We will continue working with NAFEC, COAC, and our Legislative Team to advance these priorities and others as needed.

While I may serve as NASCOE President, my voice carries weight only because of the strength and unity of our members and leaders. The same is true for each of you as County Committee members. You are needed. Your voice matters. Thank you for your willingness to serve your communities, FSA, and our nation.

Respectfully submitted,

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NASCOE President

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