



NASCOE

Legislative Update

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NASCOE Leadership Advocates on Capitol Hill
June 12, 2025

Last week, NASCOE was in Washington, D.C., advocating on behalf of our membership and the thousands of Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office employees we represent. NASCOE leaders met with FSA leadership and members of the House of Representatives and Senate to share the realities, challenges, and critical needs faced by county office staff across the nation.

President Joel Foster, Vice President Kayla Mattson, NASCOE Co-Legislative Chairs Katie Frandrup and Amanda Ahrens, and Legislative Consultant Hunter Moorhead held constructive discussions with key lawmakers and staff. These meetings highlighted NASCOE's dedication to advocating for policies and resources that empower FSA employees to deliver on the agency's mission.

Discussions centered around five core priorities:

- **County Office Staffing:** NASCOE emphasized the urgent need to increase staffing levels at the county office level. Chronic understaffing is placing a significant strain on employees and limiting the ability of offices to effectively serve producers.
- **Service to Producers:** FSA offices operating with bare-bones teams threaten program delivery and customer service. NASCOE leadership shared real-world examples of delayed program processing, reduced face-to-face support, and mounting workloads that risk burnout and employee attrition. We stressed the importance of having a fully staffed, well-trained workforce to serve the needs of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.
- **Appropriations and Resources:** NASCOE advocated for adequate appropriations to ensure that FSA has the tools, technology, and personnel needed to do the job. NASCOE urged Congress to prioritize operational funding that matches the scale of FSA's mission.
- **H.R. 1 – One Big Beautiful Bill Act:** NASCOE discussed the Title I – Committee on Agriculture proposals along with the need of adequate appropriations to administer the Safety Net and Conservation programs. It was emphasized the proposed changes to retirement benefit in Title IX – Committee of Oversight and Government Reform do not necessarily create a savings and will adversely affect recruitment.



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- Passage of a Strong Farm Bill: NASCOE stressed the importance of passing a bipartisan Farm Bill that provides long-term stability for producers and for the programs FSA administers. A delayed or weakened bill creates uncertainty not just for producers, but also for the employees who carry out the day-to-day work of farm programs. We encouraged Congress to maintain and strengthen County Office and County Committee roles within the legislation.

These messages were shared in meetings with the following offices:

U.S. House of Representatives:

Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD)	Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC)
Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN)	Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS)
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)	Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH)

U.S. Senate:

Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)

U.S. House Committee on Agriculture

Trevor White- Senior Professional Staffer on Policy, Crop Insurance, and Disaster aid.

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture

Carley McLean- Professional Staffer on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

NASCOE remains steadfast in its mission to be the voice of FSA county office employees and to ensure that their expertise, service, and dedication are recognized at the highest levels of government. We thank all the congressional offices who took the time to meet with us and look forward to continued collaboration on the issues that matter most to agriculture and rural America.



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