

NASCOE SCOOP



President's Message

As we reach day fifteen of this shutdown, we know the uncertainty and waiting can be difficult. Yet through it all, your strength, patience, and commitment continue to shine. Our members are the heart of this organization, and your dedication — not only to serving producers in your daily work but also to supporting one another — truly defines who we are.

Behind the scenes, your NASCOE team has been working tirelessly — closely following congressional actions, monitoring OMB updates, and staying abreast of directions from USDA and FSA leadership to ensure we remain informed and ready to respond as developments occur.

At the same time, we continue to move forward with our regular priorities: growing membership, strengthening communication, building our PAC, researching potential new benefits, nominating deserving individuals for our Distinguished Service Awards, and sharing our work with both members and non-members alike.

Our team has been posting daily updates in the app (excluding weekends), so please take a moment to visit if you haven't already. And remember — if you have questions, reach out through your state leadership and Area Executives. This communication helps us keep our messaging timely and relevant to what members are hearing and asking about.

While some of us have returned to work for certain duties, there is still time to enjoy the little things. Personally, I've been grateful for extra time with my grandson, visiting my grandparents, and organizing my home. Each day, I find new ways to be thankful for this pause and to focus on caring for myself and, most importantly, my family.

Together, we will come through this stronger and more connected than ever. Thank you to all our members for what you do and for the spirit you bring to our NASCOE family every day.

On the Horizon

- Monitor Senate & House actions regarding CR
- EC Meetings 1st Tuesday of the month
- Monitoring Agriculture Appropriations in House and Senate
- Monitoring Farm Bill 2.0 discussions in House and Senate
- Reorganization Plan Impacts for FSA
- Quarterly Call with DAFO & Administrator
- Programs and Negotiations Submissions deadline
- Legislative Leadership Training and WDC Trip

If you're going to be able to look back on something and laugh about it, you might as well laugh about it now!

~ Marie Osmond

Get to Know NASCOE: NWA Executive



NASCOE NWA Executive: Matt Weddingfeld

Location: Nebraska

FSA County Location(s): Otoe

Family: Abby (Wife), Kade (Son), Kolby (Son), and one dog Jax.

Something Others May Not Know: I love to spend time with family in my down time. I find enjoyment helping my brother-in-law with his show cattle to just helping him with day-to-day duties on the farm. Anytime I am not involved with any of that fun, you will find me on the golf course. I also am an absolute sports nut. If I could do anything outside of working for FSA, I would've gotten a job in an athletic dept. for a football team - sports, especially football, is my JAM!



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Get to Know NASCOE: NWA Alt. Executive

NASCOE NWA Alt. Executive: Jessica Wienk

Location: South Dakota

FSA County Location(s): Hamlin

Family: Gatlin (son), Gracyn (daughter), Cooper (1 yr old puppy)

Something Others May Not Know:

My absolute favorite thing to do is to get in the car and go on an adventure with my kids. I love taking in new places with the two of them. I would love for us to make it to all 50 states someday.



Get to Know NASCOE: SWA Executive

NASCOE SWA Executive: Terry Cater

Location: New Mexico

FSA County Location(s): Lovington, Lea County

Family: Indoor cat- Candy Corn "C.C.", outdoor dogs- Schroeder, Peggy Jean and an outdoor cat- Charlie

What Has Been the Most Rewarding Part of Being Involved in NASCOE?

The amazing people I have gotten to know, and the friends I have made have been the most rewarding things about being involved in NASCOE. Even though we are scattered across the country, we share the same struggles and are the only folks who really understand the language of our struggles. There's no other part of my life where I know so many people with care and dedication for their communities. Also, I would not have traveled to so many interesting places if it weren't for NASCOE conventions and rallies!



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Get to Know NASCOE: SWA Alt. Executive

NASCOE NWA Alt. Executive: Sabrina Blaser

Location: Oklahoma (Go Pokes!)

FSA County Location(s): Garfield

Family: Married to my best friend Jim for 38 years! If you've been to any Rallies or National Conventions, he's most likely in tow. We have 2 grown daughters Mindy and Molly.

My NASCOE Story:

NASCOE has afforded me the opportunity to be part of something bigger than a CO employee in Oklahoma (which is important.) I have had the pleasure of nominating co-workers for DSA Awards resulting in two national winners and several SWA winners. There is no better feeling that having a co-worker recognized for all the good things they are doing. NASCOE is the voice of CO Employees and I am honored to carry our mission and message to anyone that will listen.



Get to Know NASCOE: MWA Executive



NASCOE MWA Executive: Janice Acree

Location: Indiana

FSA County Location(s): Bartholomew & Decatur

Family: Married been married to my high school sweetheart Daniel for 20 years and we live on the back side of my parent's small hay farm where we run an even smaller herd of commercial beef cattle. We have 3 kids; Joseph (17-a senior!), Trevor (15-sophomore), and Abigail (5-kindergarten) and 3 Australian Shepherds (Tex, Lucky, and Yogi) and the boss cat Kringle. Joe & Trevor are both active in FFA where Joe serves as VP, Trevor plays baseball for Columbus North, and Abigail just started gymnastics. In our spare time we volunteer at church, fish and hunt (the guys!), shop (the girls!), and show steers. I love a good book (All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker) and dancing!

Something Others May Not Know: I was hired with FSA straight out of Purdue in 2003 as a PT in Bartholomew County, promoted to Key PT for Farm Records/MIDAS/Recons in 2015, and CEDT in 2022. I returned home as CED in 2023 and am currently in shared management with Decatur County. I've been active with IASCOE since 2015 and am blessed to serve the MWA.

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Get to Know NASCOE: MWA Alt. Executive

NASCOE MWA Alt. Executive: Stacia Slover

Location: Illinois

FSA County Location(s): White, Gallatin, and Hardin

Family: Justin (husband), Jaxson (son) Jakin (son), & Slate (daughter)

Why Do I Serve NASCOE? From the very first day I began my career with the Farm Service Agency, I am proud to say I have been a member of IASCOE and NASCOE!

Over the years, it has been truly eye-opening to witness just how hard NASCOE works on behalf of its members. From advocating for Paid Parental Leave, to achieving PT reclassification, to ensuring continuous software enhancements that make our daily work easier, NASCOE continues to make meaningful progress that benefits employees across the nation.

But NASCOE is more than just an association. Through my involvement, I've had the opportunity to network with some of the most amazing people in the nation and build life-long friendships that I treasure deeply. To me, NASCOE is more than an association—it's a FAMILY, it's a TEAM, and it's a dedicated community that will always work hard to represent and support every COF employee.



Get to Know NASCOE: NEA Executive

NASCOE NEA Executive: Sandra "Sandy" Scott

Location: New York

FSA County Location(s): Montgomery, Fulton, and Hamilton

Family Life: I can be found at my husband's hunting camp with him or on my family's farm, Dreamroad Jerseys. We have 80 registered Jersey cows. We have worked to raise high-quality animals that we show at county, regional, state, and national levels. We also market cattle both privately and through sales. We also opened a farm store where we sell our meat and local products including Cabot cheese where our milk goes, and local honey, maple and milk.

My NASCOE Story: After completing the COT program, I was hired as a CED in the Hudson Valley, where I managed six counties and two offices — with the closest office 55 miles from home. After five years in the beautiful Hudson Valley was able to move closer to my family farm, a shared management office. A year later I took on a third office which was my home county office and after a couple years I was able to be hired into my home county and give up the other 2 offices.

While working on contracts with our conservation Key PT, Lorri Dandignac, she encouraged me to run for Vice President of NYASCOE. Although I had been a member since the beginning of my career, I hadn't been active up to that point. After a few months I took over as President and attended my first Rally and Convention and I was hooked. A couple of years later I was asked to serve as Alternative Executive for NEA alongside my old COT classmate Tina Williams. I served three years as NEA Alternate before being elected Northeast Area Executive in 2024.



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Get to Know NASCOE: NEA Alt. Executive

NASCOE NEA Alt. Executive: Barbie Parsons

Location: West Virginia

FSA County Location(s): Mill Run

Family: My husband, Lacey, and I enjoy life on our small West Virginia farm. We're proud parents to Zack and his wife Anna, and Maggie, and grandparents to two energetic boys, Ford and Moe.

Why Do You Serve NASCOE?

Working alongside Sandy Scott, our Northeast Area Executive, our focus this year is growing membership and strengthening communication across all NEA states. Together, we can ensure every voice is heard and continue building a strong NASCOE community.

I look forward to connecting with many of you at the combined Midwest, Northeast, and Southwest Area Rally, as well as the NASCOE Convention in Michigan next year. Thank you for your continued support — I'm excited for what we'll accomplish together!



Get to Know NASCOE: SEA Executive

NASCOE SEA Executive: Dawn Ovesen

Location: Kentucky

FSA County Location(s): Logan

Family: Barry (Husband), Cash (Cat), Squeaker (Cat)

Something Others May Not Know:

I have a passion for books, mostly about national intrigue right now. My preferences change from time to time. Reading is my number one hobby and has been since I was in elementary school and read *Gone with the Wind* over Thanksgiving break. Reading is my favorite way to relax after a stressful day. I inherited my love of books from my parents, as did my siblings, and we can all be caught reading a book while we are together, or playing games, another long-standing family tradition.



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Get to Know NASCOE: SEA Alt. Executive

NASCOE NEA Alt. Executive: Madeline Redmond

Location: North Carolina

FSA County Location(s): Yadkin

Family: Ben (husband), Paisley (daughter), Liam (son), Maddie (daughter), Halli (daughter), Millie (shipoo), Bucee (golden doodle) and Dolly (mini golden doodle)

Something Others May Not Know:

I own a women's clothing boutique called The Mustard Seed Boutique. I bought the boutique from another couple we knew, 2 years ago! This has been such a fun adventure and a good way to step away from the seriousness of life and just enjoy something a little more laid back and fun!



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