

March 2008



IASCOE

SPRING NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE DESK OF DERRYL MCLAREN, SED

Only two months have elapsed in 2008, and I can already tell it will be a year to remember! And I am not talking about the weather, although this has been very reminiscent of a good, old-fashioned Iowa winter. The calendar has rolled over into March, and we still do not have a Farm Bill. Lawmakers are formulating legislation against a backdrop of record prices being paid for corn, wheat, and soybeans, along with red ink in the livestock sectors. Will the recent prosperity for grain producers last? No one is sure, and that is why the American farmer needs a safety net.

In any event, there will be a Farm Bill, which means there will be the need for someone to deliver-the-goods. That is where the Farm Service Agency (you) comes into play. We are the agent (Agency) of the Commodity Credit Corporation (money) that has employees in local offices, nationwide, linked by a computer system which operates on the software that will provide the services that Congress and the President have promised. That is how it all works! So has anyone checked-out that computer system lately?

Everyone is now aware of our computer problems, including Congress. While there have not been any specific appropriations for a new system, steps are being taken to address our dilemma. A project manager has been hired to oversee the development of a new computer system for FSA, and his name is Patrick Hanley. The new system will use "off-the-shelf" software, which means our processing must be modified and streamlined to "fit" the software. This is good!! In fact, consultants have already been hired to analyze our current process and make specific recommendations for modification.

The consultants are employing a methodology called Lean Six Sigma to study our process flow from producer application through to issuance of payment. And guess what! They are coming to the field, to local offices, to grassroots employees, to gain your knowledge in making the system efficient and effective. And where did they come first to establish their mode of operation? Well, Iowa, of course! Iowa, along with Pennsylvania, were chosen as the first of eight states to visit.

A team of three consultants established temporary residence in the Kossuth County office for three weeks to accomplish their examination and analysis of DCP, MAL, CRP, CDP, and Eligibility. To assist them, we deployed PT's and CED's from throughout the State to provide them with expertise and recommendations to improve our delivery system. It is seldom that grassroots input is solicited in a bureaucracy!

In fact, Man differs greatly from Nature in the efficiency of our systems. In Nature, for example, precipitation cascades from the sky in the forms of rain, hail, sleet, fog, snow, drizzle, and frost. This moisture returns through a feedback loop by transpiration and evaporation. In politics, election cycles substitute for long-range planning. Lawmakers collect taxes, appropriate money, pass legislation, and receive feedback through votes. Public and private bureaucracies, on the other hand, formulate policy and provide output through departments (stovepipes) and must receive feedback on occasion through consultants.

In any event, help for our computer dilemma is on the way, and we have been exposed to the front-end of this process. My many thanks to those who participated, and I am totally convinced that this is an earnest effort to ensure our necessary presence in delivering the Farm Bill for many more years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Derryl McLaren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Derryl" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "McLaren" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script.

Where is the Farm Bill???

The President's Corner by Steve Kennedy



In the September issue of the IASCOE Newsletter I wrote about the 2007 Farm Bill legislation. In December issue, I wrote about the 2007 Farm Bill. Now that we are in 2008, what shall I write? Well, how about the Farm Bill!!!! As I am sure you are aware, the previous Farm Bill that expired on September 30, 2007, was extended until March 15, 2008. This was done to give the US House, Senate, and the Administration time to hammer out the details of the new bill.

As March 15, 2008 quickly approaches, where do we stand today? Unfortunately (as of this writing), things are still very much up in the air. There are two major hurdles which must be cleared before we will see a new farm bill. The first hurdle is to find enough money without an increase in new taxes. Secondly, there must be reform in payment limitation / AGI. Without either one of these requirements being met, the President has threatened to veto the bill. The Senate may be able to override a veto, but it is unlikely the House could.

So what is the future of the Farm Bill? Quite frankly no one knows for sure. There are three possible scenarios. One is that the House, Senate, and the Administration iron out their differences. There is a lot of miles to go before that can happen, but these things can happen rather quickly. Whether they can meet the March 15th deadline is doubtful at the moment. Another possibility is that they decide to extend the current Farm Bill for another year. There has been a lot of work put in to a new Farm Bill and many groups would be disappointed if this were to happen. Finally, they could let the current Farm Bill expire on March 15 and we would return to the 1949 law!!! Personally I don't see this happening because there are too many ramifications to reverting to the 1949 law.

As NASCOE members, what can we do? The Farm Bill negotiations are at a very critical stage. My concern is that if they are looking to reduce the cost of the Farm Bill, cuts to programs will have to be made. It is imperative that the nation's farmers (and FSA) don't take the brunt of the cuts. **As NASCOE members we need to stay involved and continually remind our legislators of the important functions we provide.**

Joint IASCOE, STC, SED Meeting

Perhaps you didn't know, but each year your IASCOE officers meet with the Iowa FSA STC and the SED to sign an Employment Management Cooperation Agreement. This year's meeting was held in February. This meeting offers an excellent opportunity to discuss current issues and concerns with the STC / SED in a very non-confrontational setting. To me this is the heart of IASCOE's purpose....to provide a voice for all FSA employees.



(Employment Management Cooperation Agreement with the STC and SED)

A Big Event in My Life

If you will permit me, I need to brag a little bit. My wife Mary and I became first-time grandparents on January 1, 2008!!! Teagan Kennedy Sowers was 8'8oz and 21 inches long. Many of you who are already grandparents, have been telling me that being a grandparent is the greatest thing in the world. I am beginning to realize that. I am a big believer that "family" is one of (if not the most) important part of our lives. For me, that includes my IASCOE "family" too!!! Let's have a "family" reunion at the IASCOE Convention March 28 & 29 at Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston!!! See you there!!!



Grandpa Steve and grand daughter, Teagan)

February 18, 2008

IASCOE Quarterly Newsletter article



Reflections submitted by Cindy Mensen, IASCOE Vice-President

Winter sometimes gives us plenty of time to reflect—especially on those days of blowing snow. We reflect on our life, our families, our health, and our future. Take some time to reflect on the choices you have made in the past and how they have affected where you are today. You applied for a job at the ASCS or FSA office. It has been a good job with good benefits. Now reflect on this a moment—what have you done to protect your job? Have you taken an interest in your employee association? Are you a dues paying member or do you expect others to pay your way? Do you enjoy your wages and multiple benefits and hope to retire someday from the agency?

NASCOE has established a system to keep you informed at the click of a mouse. Go to this website (www.nascoe.org) and check it out. You can read newsletters called NASCOE NOW that are published regularly and posted online at the NASCOE website. You have a chance to get firsthand legislation information as well as up to date info regarding your membership benefits. Learn about the Reorganization Task Force that is being implemented as a proactive way to protect FSA employees and promote the efficient way we perform our jobs.

Congress is at a crossroads right now with the Farm Bill. Iowa's Senators and Representatives have major roles as this piece of legislation is formed into law. Your dues also pay for a communication method called CAPWIZ that allows you to contact these lawmakers with your own words or through letters already composed by NASCOE leaders – go to www.capwiz.com/nascoe/home/. Just make sure you are accessing CAPWIZ from your own home or your neighbor's computer --- somewhere other than your government computer. There are over 700 FSA employees in the state of Iowa—just over 200 are signed up for CAPWIZ – and the most recent letter was only sent on by 62 employees. I applaud those of you who take the time to read and respond. I encourage the rest of you to do more than reflect on those numbers.

You can decide to remain placid or decide to shape your own future by learning about the proposed Farm Bill components and letting Congress know that you want FSA to be a part of the implementation of this legislation. If you sit back and do nothing, you may have more time than you want to reflect on that decision and how it affects your future.

GREETINGS FROM SOUTHWEST IOWA

It is time to write my article for the spring newsletter but it is anything but spring outside. We still have snow on the ground and more in the forecast for tonight and tomorrow. We have started having baby calves on the farm but instead of seeing them run with their tails in the air on a nice sunny day they are shivering in a snow bank or laying the basement in front of the heater trying to get warm. I am sure spring will eventually come but it can be none too soon for me.

A cure for the winter blahs would be the IASCOE Convention March 28-29, 2008 at Stoney Creek Inn in Des Moines. There will be a variety of activities lined up including committee meetings, speakers, a JM Marketing representative, a raffle, silent auction items, hospitality room, dance and a breakfast buffet. This comes with a guarantee that all who attend will have a good time. The Convention should conclude around noon on Saturday, leaving time for SHOPPING before returning home. The Directors would greatly appreciate your support of IASCOE by attending the Convention.

If any member ever has a question or concern, please feel free to contact the IASCOE director in your district or anyone on the Board of Directors. Your opinions are always very important to us. Remember, that is one way your voice is heard in Washington.

The next several months will probably be extremely busy at FSA, so please remember to take time for your self and enjoy family and friends.

Enjoy the spring weather that I know is right around the corner and see you at the Convention!!!!

Sue Beemer, PT Taylor County

IASCOE Secretary/Treasurer





MIDWEST AREA EXECUTIVE REPORT

March 2008

Remember back in November when we all were looking forward to that first snow? Sorry I brought that up, but I know I'm really looking forward to spring's arrival. Along with warm weather and melting snow, spring will bring one of the most important NASCOE events, the Spring Negotiation Session with Management. This is when the NASCOE Executive Board and Negotiation Consultants go to Washington, DC and take the issues raised by membership to the various departments within FSA.

Members were asked to submit items for negotiation back in December. In January, NASCOE held a pre-negotiation session to review the items and determine how they should be presented to management. There were over 75 items reviewed. Some items that were submitted by more than one person or addressed very similar issues, these were consolidated into one item. Everyone who submitted an item received a response from NASCOE telling them how the item was going to be addressed at this time. Items were either designated for negotiation or consultation with management, referred to a committee if the suggestion required some statutory changes, referred to the Programs committee if it was a program issue, or tabled for the time being.

Two members of the negotiation team were assigned each topic to research and write the item up for submission. These will be the people who will also present the item in Washington although everyone will be able to contribute. Each item will be written up using the standard negotiation form which identifies the issue, NASCOE's position on the issue, and a proposed solution or what NASCOE would like to see management do about the issue.

Once the items have been written up they will be consolidated by the NASCOE Secretary and reviewed before they are sent on to management. The items are sent to management couple of weeks before the actual negotiation session so they can review the issues and hopefully be prepared with a response. The negotiation session will be held in Washington, DC the last week of April. We will spend one day reviewing the items before two days of meetings with the different departments. During this session we hope to get positive results and make management aware of our concerns but as you know, this doesn't always happen.

When the session is over, the responses to each item are reviewed by the negotiation group to verify management's response and then the Secretary will forward the final Negotiation items with responses to management for their review before they are published for the membership. Hopefully, this will avoid misunderstandings on any of the issues. Items that are not addressed by management during this session often form the basis for the question and answer session during the National Convention.

This negotiation process is very important to NASCOE and is an important way to deliver major concerns to management and discuss them one on one with the people who can do something about it. Charlene Neukomm, the MWA Consultant, and I are looking forward to delivering your concerns to management and hopefully getting positive responses.

Take care,

Jon Williams

MWA Executive

Legislative Report

In my last report (December, 2007), I wrote a little bit about the Farm Bill. Three months later, not much has changed. I am writing this in early February so I hope we see some progress by the time you read this. As of the day I am writing this, the members of the Senate-House conference committee were still not appointed.

I recently heard a very knowledgeable person talk about the Farm Bill and I have been trying to read different sources about it. We know that if nothing gets done, we revert back to the first Farm Bill enacted in the 1930's. This first Farm Bill is still in effect if Congress gets nothing done. The first Farm Bill contains "parity" language that basically puts the floor of the price of corn over \$8/bu. The first Farm Bill had no language regarding Food Stamps and it did not address oilseeds, etc. The bottom line – NO ONE wants to go back to that first Farm Bill.

This means that Congress and the Administration have two alternatives, a new Farm bill or continuation of the 2002 Farm Bill. The longer it takes for an agreement between Congress and the Administration, the more apt we are to see a Farm Bill similar to the 2002 Farm Bill.

What does this mean for us? Our NASCOE leaders provide guidance through the use CAPWIZ to contact our Congressmen and Senators regarding provisions of the Farm Bill that may benefit our agency and ultimately our membership. That is why it is important for all members to first sign up for CAPWIZ and, secondly, USES CAPWIZ. I recently saw data that shows Iowa has the most CAPWIZ members (200) in the NASCOE organization. However, we have over 700 IASCOE members. I also saw data recently that shows a very important CAPWIZ alert that was sent to Senators and key Congressmen. Of the 200 IASCOE members, only 62 took the time to actually send the CAPWIZ letter to Senator Grassley and Senator Harkin. Congressman Latham is now the ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committee. He received only 22 emails regarding a recent important CAPWIZ alert that had implications for the Farm Service Agency.

CAPWIZ is a very important part of NASCOE and it is an extremely quick and effective way to communicate with Congressmen and Senators regarding legislative issues. I would encourage all members to sign up for CAPWIZ. You can do this on either the IASCOE or NASCOE websites. Secondly, use CAPWIZ when you receive an alert. Alerts will come as an email. It takes only about 2-3 minutes to actually send a message to your Congressman or Senators using CAPWIZ. You must use the CAPWIZ from your home computer, NOT your work computer.

IASCOE Legislative Chair

Steve Abbas

Clay County Farm Service Executive Director, Steve Waller recently retired from the Iowa Army National Guard with over 36 years of Active and Reserve service on November 4th, Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa as Command Sergeant Major for the Iowa Army National Guard since 12-1-2004.



Picture with CSM Waller is Major General Jodi Tymeson (Retired) Assist Deputy Adjutant General for the Iowa Army National Guard. MG Tymeson is presenting to CSM Waller “Legion of Merit” and Major General Ron Dardi’s Coin for Excellent during retirement ceremony.

MG Tymeson said CSM Waller is a true soldier. His first priority was ensuring enlisted and officer personnel welfare was foremost throughout his career. She was honored to be able to serve with him and have the opportunity to share his exceptional management guidance and mentorship throughout our careers.

CSM Waller’s Legion of Merit Award read as follows: For exceptionally meritorious service while serving in various positions of increasing responsibility throughout a disguised 36 year career, culminating as the Command Sergeant Major for the State of Iowa. CSM Waller’s dedicated and selfless service, foresight, vision, and commitment to quality resulted in improved readiness in all units in which he served. His overall dedication to serving soldier’s earned him the respect and admiration of all.

Brief remarks were offered by LTC Hapgood, Joint Forces Commander: Working with CSM Waller is like an Army Jeep, very dependable, always can be relied upon, never tires out, runs forever and they’re both very old. You can always count on him to accomplish whatever assigned to him, and a way to figure out how to accomplish the task without direction usually. He will be missed throughout the Iowa Army National Guard. His exceptional vision when assisting news media during official ceremonies (Unit Send Off’s, Military Funerals, etc) was most comforting as a Commander, you never really had to worry and all parties were very professionally accommodated.

CSM Waller offered a special thank you to everyone in attendance and most of all very honored to be able to have served this great country and provide all American’s a safe environment to live and work in. A thank you to his immediate family members his parents Max and Donna Waller of Cherokee who were able to be in attendance, along with other family, FSA Staff from Clay and other USDA County Offices. Reception followed the formal ceremonies.



CSM Waller's Biography:

Command Sergeant Major Steven M. Waller was born and raised in Cherokee County, Iowa and graduated from Washington High School in 1965. He received an Associate of Arts Degree in Sr Accounting from Mankato Commercial College in 1967, subsequently completing his Bachelor of Science Degree in Management System & Personnel from Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, in 1982. His military education includes Basic & Advanced Infantry training, 1967, Advanced (1981) and Senior (1982) NCO Course, Iowa Military Academy. Resident First Sergeant Course (1983), USASMA, Ft. Bliss, Northern Warfare Training Summer Junior Leadership Course (1983), Ft Greeley, Al, Norwegian-U.S. Troop Reciprocal Training (1983), Torpomoen, Norway, Operation Lion heart 84 Briefing (1984), Washington, D.C./London, England, Instructor Training Course (1989) and Battle Focused ITC Course (1993), Iowa Military Academy with Completion of Non-Resident Phase Class 17 Sergeants Major Academy (1991), Ft Bliss, Tx.

He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard on 13 March 1967 and was assigned to Co B (-) 2nd Bn (M) 133rd Inf, Sheldon, Iowa as an automatic rifleman. Following Basic/Advanced Inf. training, 2nd 133rd (M) Infantry Battalion was mobilized for federal service for 24 months on 12 April 1968, attached to 69th Infantry Brigade, Ft Carson, Co., with assignments to include 5th Army Pre-IG inspection team, until released from active duty on 13 December 1969. Upon return to State control held assignments as Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant in Co B until discharged July, 1974. Following break in service enlisted in A Btry 1/194th FA, Spencer, Ia as Supply Sgt from January, 1976-1978 and 1980-1982, selected as First Sergeant C Btry 1/194th FA, Estherville 1982 -1987, First Sergeant B Btry 1/194th FA, Algona 1987-1990, First Sergeant HHQ 1194th FA, Ft Dodge 1990-1993, promoted to Sergeant Major 9-1-1993 DCSOPS Joint Forces Headquarters, Johnston, Ia, Appointed Command Sergeant Major for 185th CSB BN 1996-1999, returning to JFHQ, DCSOPS/Chief of Staff Sergeant Major 1999-2004, appointed as Land Component Command Sergeant Major, Iowa Army National Guard, December 1, 2004 until 9-7-2007.

Command Sergeant Major Waller is employed by USDA Clay County Farm Service Agency, as County Executive Director, residing in Spencer. He has two adult daughters Mishelle of Merville, Ashley student in Cedar Falls and son Todd of Spencer and four grandchildren. His parents Max and Donna Waller reside in Cherokee and two sisters Joan of Spencer and Betty in Berthoud, Colorado.

CSM Waller's military decorations, medals, and ribbons include the following:

Legit of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (6), Army Achievement (6), Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (7), National Defense Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon (4), Army Service Ribbon, Iowa Meritorious Service Medal, Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon (6), Iowa Commendation Ribbon, Iowa Active Duty for Training Ribbon, Iowa Recruiting Ribbon, Iowa Selective Reserve Force Ribbon with Bar, Iowa State Service Ribbon (7)

MIDAS IN IOWA!



Fun, fun, fun. That is the word that comes to my mind to describe the MIDAS Team along with many other FSA employees through out the state. Oh by the way, MIDAS is Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems. As part of the MIDAS effort and FSA's need to modernize our business and information technology systems, it is necessary to gain a better understanding of the current business processes and requirements for the delivery of program services at all levels within the agency. The business processes and services performed at the county office level are vital to this effort; therefore, the Kossuth County FSA Office was selected to participate in this important initiative.

Many of the group came to Algona on Monday, January 28, for the kickoff MIDAS Meeting that was held the following day in Algona, at the Country Club. The meeting was scheduled from 8 until 4:30 so the overnight stay was practical and a life saver. Tuesday, it began snowing about 8:30 and then the forecasted winds kicked in up to 50 miles per hour which classified it as a blizzard. Our first blizzard of the season! We could see or maybe could not see the trees on the golf course with the blowing snow. Bev, the country club manager, was kind enough to keep everyone informed of road conditions, and school closings as they were announced. We all were safe and warm so we did not complain.

The weather did not dampen our spirits, we moved right along. We all learned about MIDAS and Lean Six Sigma overview. The Lean Six Sigma training session introduced LSS concepts and tools that would be used during the visit. A brainstorming session was facilitated to identify operational issues and opportunities for improvement in the selected farm program areas. We also received our yellow belts.

We had a fantastic lunch at the country club and some of us did make it home OK, while others just chose to stay in Algona and some were scheduled to stay the night for participation the next day.



The week was intense but went rather quick. Linda Treese, DAFO, and Derryl McLaren, SED, left on Wednesday. Different days involved different PT's so they came and they went. We had the pleasure of Irene Strickler from STO and Sandy Gerlt from Montgomery County helping out in the county office on Wednesday. We also boarded Mike Kresin the whole week and finally on Friday, I got a picture of him smiling!

We were fortunate to have one or 2 bodies gone from the office the first week, so a computer was available for our guests, if needed.

I don't know about anyone else but I was exhausted by the end of the week and I think I was in bed sleeping by 9:30 Friday night!!!

Week 2

Again, Monday started off with a bad weather forecast. Freezing rain started shortly after 7:00 am to kick off the work week. It changed to snow by 9:30 and in Kossuth County it quit shortly after. What a blessing, but we kept

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our fingers crossed because another major weather disturbance was coming on Tuesday. And it did. Central Iowa was dumped on; it snowed and snowed and snowed. The hardest hit area was Oskaloosa, who had 12 inches of snow on Sunday and then Tuesday another 12 inches. Again, in Kossuth County, we had nothing and we felt blessed. Our MIDAS Team started back to Iowa on Monday but only to lie over all day at O'Hare, in Chicago. They finally stumbled in around 12:30 a.m. Tuesday morning. We lost one member, Kimberly Graham, but continued with Jeff Molner, Fred Murphy, and Gopal Swamy.

Tuesday was very busy for them, trying to catch up Monday and start with CDP on Tuesday. Then they began DCP on Wednesday. We had Heidi, from Boone County on Tuesday who made her husband come with her this time, since she had to turn around in zero visibility last week and ended up spending the night. Carol came from Mahaska County and she too still had white knuckles from the previous week so she came early and planned on dropping in at her mother's in Webster City on the way home. The rest of the group were local and were able to commute with no problems.



Again, this week we had delicious bars and coffee provided by Shelly, Dave and Robin from Kossuth County. I am not sure if I like that, I kind of feel like a muffin, but I know that the Midas Team appreciates it.

We covered lots of programs, pain points and then found recommendations to fix those problems. This week we covered DCP and CDP. The MIDAS Team left by 1:30 pm on Friday feeling pretty good about the weather. Fred and Gopal fly together to DC but Jeff goes to Ohio. Jeff got out OK but the others soon learned their flight to Chicago had been cancelled. The previous day had over 500 flights cancelled. Gopal quickly grabbed his laptop and found a flight so they did make it home late that evening. Whew, week 2 down one more to go.

Week 3

Monday began again with adverse weather. Iowa was again under a winter weather advisory beginning at noon with 4 to 9 inches of snow in the forecast. Most schools were dismissed by 1:00 but the snow did not fall. You know you are from Iowa when you are happy when the forecast is wrong! Well, it was not totally wrong, because by suppertime the snow began to fall. Fred, Jeff, and Gopal were here and drove in light snow from Des Moines. They made it through connecting flights OK. Monday is a very long day for them. They must leave very early so they are glad to see those pillows when they get to their motel.



Tuesday began with snow packed road and a total accumulation of 6 inches in Algona. Highway 18 was snow packed and the county blacktops weren't that good. Everyone did make it on time, including Barry from Cerro Gordo, and Tammy from Wright. Heidi and Teresa came on Monday and spent the night. The topic on Tuesday was Payment Limitation, and Multi County Producers. State of Iowa Teresa was very helpful with that program. I think she referred to pain point in different words.

Wednesday they finished with that and went back to Price Support. Automation was also addressed and Gopal was very interested in watching computer functions take place. He even watched me complete a software installation and found it quite interesting. He always is jotting something down in his laptop.



Fred has kept very busy away from the group this week. He has some deadlines to meet.

We also had an office potluck for everyone including NRCS. Sloppy Joes, along with all the trimmings were served. Today the temperature soared to almost 20 but still no sunshine. Snow and wind in the forecast tonight.

Thursday again was a blustery day. Snow fell throughout the night and continued in the morning. Most schools were cancelled in the county by 11:00 a.m. The wind started to blow but by mid afternoon, the storm was over. We did dip

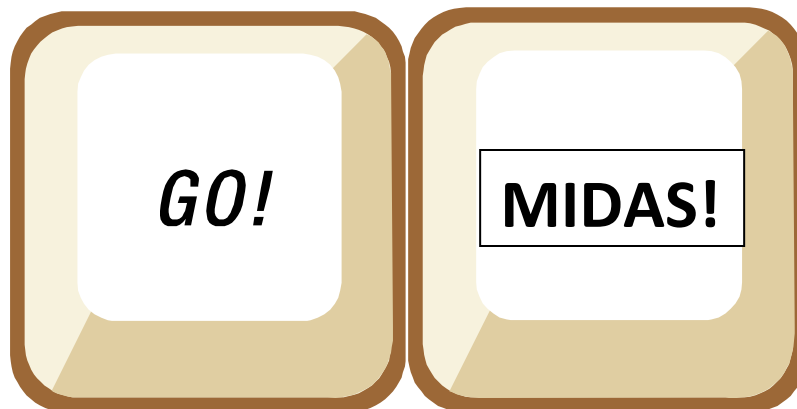
down to -6 for the over night low. The Midas Team worked independently preparing for the recommendation session for Friday morning. They did manage to break at lunch for their favorite restaurant Maggie B's. She makes the absolute best home maid soups and pies! When you come to Kossuth County, you just have to find Maggie B's and you can even take a pie home with you. Just don't get them mixed up like Karen and Irene did. Karen got Irene's banana and Irene got Karen's chocolate!

Friday morning we were delighted to see sunshine; something we have not seen for a long time. We finished our session with a site visit close out briefing. This was conducted via net meeting so we could include everyone who participated in Iowa, and the folks in Washington, D.C., who are working with the MIDAS Project. That went very well. We said our good byes and off they went.

We feel very positive that this project will result in the needed changes for our organization. We feel proud and would like to thank those necessary who let us take a major role in this project. The end result will be necessary changes that will benefit from the commitment everyone has shown for this project. We also need to thank the office staff who were not directly involved but covered or manned the office when we were not able to complete our program responsibilities. MIDAS has been a very rewarding experience that we feel honored to be a part of.

Thank you everyone.

Lisa Forburger, Kossuth County PT



How far would you go?

How far would you go to support a cause you believe in? Our full service travel website can take you further than you ever dreamed possible, while helping to raise new funds for NASCOE.

Just book your personal and business travel through our website. www.nascoetravel.com. Not only will you find the same airlines, hotels and rental cars, and the same low rates offered by other websites, but our travel site can do so much more. Every time you book travel, a generous portion of the commissions you generate will be given directly to NASCOE. This is a great way to help NASCOE and take advantage of great deals on airfare, hotels, rental cars, vacations, and other travel services at no additional cost to you.

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FACT SHEET ON DISCOUNTS FOR NASCOE MEMBERS

INFORMATION ON CELL PHONE DISCOUNTS

Becky Zirpel

NASCOE Benefit Chairperson

ALLTEL – NASCOE Members please contact your State Benefit Chairperson for contact information. Only available through your membership to NASCOE

Discount available:

- 15% monthly rate plan discount
- Waived Activation fee
- Discounts for new phones (change one a monthly basis) discounts on certain accessories.

Available on all plans of \$39.99 and higher. Available to new, current and renewing customers (not available on “My Choice” Plans)

CINGULAR – NASCOE members please contact your State Benefit Chairperson for FAN # and additional information to sign up for a 12% discount.

DISCOUNT FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Verizon – contact your customer service 800 number – plan must be in Government Employee’s name. If not I believe they will help you with that. This discount should be 15% - 17%. You should also be able to go online to sign up at www.verizonwireless.com/ryl.

Sprint/Nextel – Offer of a discount to government employees, which currently include 27% off on phones and 10% off on accessories with 15% off on plans. The number I was given is 1-866-805-9889 ask for a sales representative. If this does not work in your area my only suggestion is to contact your customer service 800 numbers on your statement, or go on line to check it out. It is also my understanding that they will convert your plan to a “Government Plan”.

T-Mobile – Offers a 14.3% discount off of their service plans for government employees. The number used was 1-866-646-4688. If this does not work I only can suggest contacting T-Mobile through your 800 customer service number on your statement or trying online.

US Cellular & Centennial Wireless – No discounts available –Comparison was completed with 2 of the major wireless companies and plans provided are very comparable with their plans and discounts



I am a grandma!!!

Ava Lucille was born 11-7-07 in Asheville North Carolina

She weighed 7 lbs 12 oz and 21 1/2 inches long

Proud Grandma is Candy Hoyle, Greene Co PT

Contribute To the Next IASCOE Newsletter

If you have any stories, photos, jokes, quotes, or information that you would like to include in the next IASCOE Newsletter, send them to Tammy Eibey at tammy.eibey@ia.usda.gov.

IACS Report from the Zone B Meeting

By: David Hoaglund, IACS President and FLM Monona/Woodbury counties

The NACS Zone B meeting was held in Sioux Falls, SD February 1-2, 2008. The National Office speakers in attendance were Steve Connelly, Deputy Administrator for Field Operations, Terry Tanner, Chief, Farm Credit Applications Office, Chris Beyerhelm, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Farm Loan Programs, and Glen Richter, Chief, Farm Loan Operations Office.

The following are some of the comments from Mr. Steve Connelly's presentation.

The new Ag Secretary, former ND Governor, was sworn in as of this past Tuesday. The big issue the past two years has been how service centers are structured. An extensive look at what could be closed has been quite controversial. FY 08 appropriations bill puts this on hold until Farm Bill is passed. Based on State submitted plans, there are 231 closings in the nation, 75 closed thus far. Only offices with zero permanent employees can continue to be closed under the current law. There are currently 22 zero person offices that will probably eventually be closed, 18 of 22 of these are in the closing process. National Office had originally interpreted appropriations language to forbid movement of an office from one location to another within same town. Have now determined this is not the case and those moves will now be allowed.

FSA lost CO leasing authority in the 2006 appropriations. Five people who had warrants for leasing authority have to work with some 3000 offices across country. Plan to have 15 leasing positions out to the states with a regional setup.

FSA is down 3000 FTE's in the past four years, this includes full time equivalents used by Temporary Employees in the past. This is one reason FSA looking to get offices properly staffed and structured.

FSA is also looking at State Office and National Office structure. Knowledge Bank, an independent outside contractor, is doing an outside assessment. Their report on the National and State Office structure is due in April 2008.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has become a hot topic. A new law a month ago tightens reporting requirements on requests. 2-INFO needs updating and hasn't been updated for 10 years. Plan to go to an automated system for tracking requests. Plans are to train State Office Staff then provide training to the field offices. It is confusing and often misunderstood in context of other privacy issues.

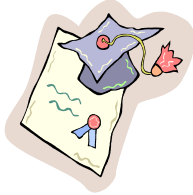
PII (Personally Identifiable Information) - A new notice is out and all of us need to be careful and be aware. Any problems need to be reported immediately.

Farm Bill - 2002 Farm Bill has been extended to 3/15/2008. Bill is in conference committee between House and Senate. National Office staff is providing assistance/info on farm bill. Major differences are on payment limitations, adjusted gross income, and debt levels of farmers.

Nelda Wolthuis



After serving the producers in Clay County for more than 28 years, Nelda Wolthuis has retired from the Farm Service Agency, effective February 1, 2008. An open house was held in her honor January 31, 2008, with over 200 producers, co-workers, and friends in attendance. The Clay County staff and County Committee would like to wish her well and thank her for her dedication and leadership. She will definitely be missed.



IASCOE will be awarding four (4) \$300 scholarships at the State Convention in Des Moines on March 28-29, 2008. This year we received 18 great applications that will be judged at the state level and were also forwarded on for the Midwest Area Scholarship judging. All 18 of these individuals are very busy students with ambitious goals for their futures. The scholarship recipients will be announced on Saturday morning (March 29th) at the State Convention, come celebrate this excellent contribution of your IASCOE dues.

Cindy Pistek

IMPORTANT IASCOE and MWA INFORMATION

May be found by going to the www.iascoe.org website

click on the Midwest Area Site icon to reach the MWA site

or directly at: <http://www.nascoemidwestarea.org> for the Midwest Area website.

IMPORTANT NASCOE INFORMATION

May be found by going to the www.iascoe.org website

And then click on the NASCOE home page icon

Or directly at: www.nascoe.org

Spring IASCOE Newsletter

SNOW ICE CREAM



- 1 large bowl of fresh snow
- 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream, chilled
- 2 T vanilla extract, chilled
- 1 1/4 cups sifted powdered sugar

Mix cream and vanilla and pour over snow in an a large ice-cold bowl
Add powdered sugar until well blended.
(Be careful not to let it melt)
Add more snow if ice cream is too thin
Add more sugar if not sweet enough
Eat immediately

Make flavor variations by substituting chocolate or other extracts for the vanilla

(its hard to tell the difference between this and home made ice cream)

Submitted by: John Landgraf, CED Sac County Iowa

Strawberry French Toast



- 6 oz. cream cheese
 - 3/4 c. sliced fresh or frozen strawberries
 - 1/3 c. powdered sugar
- Beat together and use 2 T. to make a sandwich with 2 slices of French Bread

Use 1 loaf French bread cut into 1" slice. Place sandwiches in 13 by 9 inch baking dish.

Beat together and pour over sandwiches:

10 eggs

2/3 c. half and half

1 tsp vanilla

Cover and refrigerate over night. Transfer to greased 15 by 10 inch baking pan. Bake 15 minutes at 375 degrees. Turn and bake 10 minutes or until golden brown.

For the sauce:

Cook 4 cups sliced strawberries, 1/2 c. sugar and 2 T. water over medium heat for 5 minutes. Serve French Toast with Strawberry Sauce and maple syrup.

Connie Straw CED Chickasaw County

Spring IASCOE Newsletter



Dear Diary: Iowa Winters:

Aug. 12 - Moved into our new home in Iowa. It is so beautiful here. The hills and river valleys are so picturesque. I have a Beautiful old oak tree in my front yard. Can hardly wait to see the change in the seasons. This is truly God's Country.

Oct. 14 - Iowa is such a gorgeous place to live, one of the real special places on Earth. The leaves are turning a multitude of different colors. I love all of the shades of reds, oranges and yellows, they are so bright. I want to walk through all of the beautiful hills and spot some white tail deer. They are so graceful, certainly they must be the most peaceful creatures on Earth. This must be paradise.

Nov. 11 - Deer season opens this week. I can't imagine why anyone would want to shoot these elegant animals. They are the very symbol of peace and tranquility here in Iowa. I hope it snows soon. I love it here!

Dec. 2 - It snowed last night. I woke to the usual wonderful sight: everything covered in a beautiful blanket of white. The oak tree is magnificent. It looks like a postcard. We went out and swept the snow from the steps and driveway. The air is so crisp, clean and refreshing. We had a snowball fight. I won, and the snowplow came down the street. He must have gotten too close to the driveway because we had to go out and shovel the end of the driveway again. What a beautiful place. Nature in harmony. I love it here!

Spring IASCOE Newsletter

Dec. 12 - More snow last night. I love it! The plow did his cute little trick again. What a rascal. A winter wonderland. I love it here!

Dec. 19 - More snow - couldn't get out of the driveway to get to work in time. I'm exhausted from all of the shoveling. And that snowplow!

Dec. 21 - More of that white crap coming down. I've got blisters on my hands and a kink in my back. I think that the snowplow driver waits around the corner until I'm done shoveling the driveway. Idiot.

Dec. 25 - White Christmas? More freakin' snow. If I ever get my hands on the SOB who drives that snowplow, I swear I'll deck him. And why don't they use more salt on these roads to melt this crap??

Dec. 28 - It hasn't stopped snowing since Christmas. I have been inside since then, except of course when that SOB 'Snowplow Harry' comes by. Can't go anywhere, cars are buried up to the windows. Weather man says to expect another 10 inches. Do you have any idea how many shovelfuls 10 inches is??

Jan. 1 - Happy New Year? The way it's coming down it won't melt until the 4th of July! The snowplow got stuck down the road and the butt head actually had the strength to come and ask to borrow a shovel! I told him I'd broken 6 already this season.

Jan. 4 - Finally got out of the house. We went to the store to get some food and a blessed deer ran out in front of my car and I hit the blessed thing. It did \$3,000 in damage to the car. Those beasts ought to be killed. The hunters should have a longer season if you ask me.

Spring IASCOE Newsletter

Jan. 27 - Warmed up a little and rained today. The rain turned the snow into ice and the weight of it broke the main limb of the oak tree in the front yard and it went through the roof. I should have cut that old piece of crap into fireplace wood when I had the chance.

May 23 - Took my car to the local garage. Would you believe the whole underside of the car is rusted away from all of that dang salt they dump on the road? Car looks like a bashed up, heap of rusted cow poo.

May 10 - Sold the car, the house, and moved to Georgia. I can't imagine why anyone in their freakin' mind would ever want to live in the God forsaken State of Iowa

Lisa Forburger, Kossuth County



IMPORTANT NASCOE INFORMATION

May be found by going to the www.iascoe.org website

And then click on the NASCOE home page icon

Or directly at: www.nascoe.org



Delaware County Iowa Road Conditions After last snowstorm February 17-19, 2008!

(We didn't catch a break yesterday either...Rain, Freezing Rain, Snow and Winds!)

**IOWA'S MARILYN ADAMS NAMED WINNER OF NATIONAL
HOMETOWN HERO AWARD**

Adams Will Receive \$100,000 for the Charity of Her Choice

Since 2002, Volvo has contributed nearly \$5 million in funding and awards to help real-life heroes continue extraordinary work in their communities

IRVINE, Calif. (Feb. 19, 2008) — More than 20 years ago, Marilyn Adams tragically lost her son in a farm equipment accident. The death inspired her to become a safety hero to thousands of children and found Farm Safety 4 Just Kids to educate kids nationwide about farm safety and health. Volvo today announced that Adams, of Earlham, Iowa, has been named one of the top three winning heroes in the 6th Annual Volvo for life Awards. Adams is being recognized in the program's Safety category and will receive a \$100,000 contribution to the charity of her choice.

Adams will receive her award at the Volvo for life Awards Ceremony at New York City's world famous Cipriani's 42nd Street on March 19. During the ceremony one overall Grand Award winner will also be named "America's Greatest Hometown Hero" and will be presented with a new Volvo every three years for the rest of his or her life.



"Volvo has helped us spread our farm safety message to countless rural families and to save an untold number of children from farm tragedies," said Adams. "We are unbelievably excited and couldn't be more grateful. The \$100,000 donation will help us establish an endowment fund that will secure the financial stability of the organization as we pave the road for the future."

More About Marilyn Adams

Adams, 57, faced every mother's greatest fear. Her 11-year-old son, Keith, suffocated in a gravity flow wagon while helping with the first full day of harvest on the family's farm in Iowa. Determined to find a constructive outlet for her grief, she was inspired to create a nonprofit organization working to educate children about farm safety and health. Today, thousands of volunteers across the United States and Canada work to keep rural kids safe and healthy.

In 1987, Adams founded Farm Safety 4 Just Kids and set out on a mission to promote safe farm environments and eliminate farm-related child health hazards, injuries and fatalities. A report by the National Safety Council found that children between the ages of five and 14 were 66 percent more likely to be injured in a farm accident than adults aged 45 to 64.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids' contribution to the farm safety movement has helped to reduce the number of agriculture-related fatalities among children in the United States. Farm families now have additional programs and educational materials highlighting the dangers that children can encounter on farms, and information about how to avoid them. Farm Safety 4 Just Kids now has 137 chapters throughout North America. Through her visits to rural schools, media appearances, testimony before government agencies and in Congress, Adams has spread her farm safety message across the country.

The American public selected Adams and eight other finalists, three in each category of Safety, Quality of Life and Environment. A distinguished panel of judges—including Hank Aaron, Sen. Bill Bradley, Maya Lin, Dr. Sally Ride, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Dr. Mae Jemison and Edsel B. Ford II—then selected Adams and two other category winners, who are:

Environment

Lorraine Kerwood, Eugene, Ore.

Lorraine Kerwood, 47, established NextStep Recycling. The organization has recycled more than 800 tons of electronic waste and placed 11,000 computers in disadvantaged communities in the United States and abroad. More than 500 computers have been shipped to rural Guatemalan schools, orphanages and non-governmental organizations.

Quality of Life

Matthew Sanford, Orono, Minn.

Matthew Sanford, 42, was involved in a car crash that took the lives of his father and sister, and left him paralyzed from the chest down. Now, he is a nationally recognized yoga teacher, author and renowned expert in mind-body integration who has inspired and enhanced the lives of thousands. In 2001, Sanford founded Mind Body Solutions, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the simple and practical notion that minds and bodies work better together, offering programs in the workplace, in corporations, at the yoga studio and in the community at large.

[The Volvo for life Awards](#), launched in 2002, is the largest-ever national search for and celebration of everyday heroes in the categories of Safety, Quality of Life and Environment. Volvo Cars of North America provides \$1 million in awards and contributions in honor of heroes. Since the inception of the program, Volvo has contributed more than \$5 million to help hometown heroes continue their extraordinary work in their communities.

Alexandra Scott Butterfly Award Winner Unveiled

In addition to the three category winners, Volvo also named 10-year-old **Zach Bonner**, of Valrico, Fla., the winner of the Alexandra Scott Butterfly Award. The award was created by Volvo Cars of North America to honor young heroes who do the extraordinary in the areas of Safety, Quality of Life and Environment in the name of Alexandra Scott, a Volvo for life Awards winner from Wynnewood, Pa., who passed away at age eight from cancer. She raised more than \$1 million for pediatric cancer research through lemonade sales and other fundraising activities. Parents Jay and Elizabeth Scott continue promoting Alex's cause and raising money for pediatric cancer research through their foundation, Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

Bonner, who will receive a \$25,000 charitable donation, founded the Little Red Wagon Foundation, Inc., an organization that collects and donates backpacks filled with food and school items to disadvantaged children nationwide. In late 2007, Bonner completed a marathon walk from Tampa to Tallahassee, Fla. covering - 280 miles over 23 days, raising money and awareness for homeless children along the way.###

Contact: Anna Kruchowski, Haberman & Associates, 612-372-6459

anna@habermaninc.com

For More information on Marilyn Adams Farm Safety for Just Kids:



<http://www.fs4jk.org/>

PERILS OF POLLY P.T.

PART 25

Written by Roseanne Woerner

Created by Dee Ann Lehn

It seems like Tess just did my final Performance Review, but here I am mid-year, ready for another rating. In hand, I have a list of my accomplishments, since we met in September and I'm feeling pretty confident that I'll get the best possible score. When these reviews are finished, Tessa is usually exhausted and cranky, so the fact that she asks me in first, is in my favor as well.

I squirm a little in my chair, just to make her think I'm on edge. It wouldn't do well for me to appear too self-assured. She might mistake my poise for cockiness and if it's one thing Tessa hates, it an overly cocky person. Too much competition, I guess. (kidding)

So, here I am, sitting in the chair. She pulls out my evaluation and reviews each element. Her rating is, Fully Successful, for every, single Element. I am flabbergasted to say the least. My achievement list doesn't even change her mind because, according to her, I've only listed duties that are an expected part of my job.

"But I want an Outstanding rating," I tell her. "Communication, for instance. How many times have you said that no one talks more in this office than me?"

"First," she says. "Talking, while a big part of communicating is only one part."

"What's the other part?" I ask.

"Listening," she tells me. "And not your best talent. I'd have to say, even though you were gifted with ears, you don't use them much."

"I use them," I tell her.

She gives me her 'Yeah, right' look and I say, "Well, sometimes I use them."

"Secondly," she says. "Outstanding ratings are rare. I would rather see you hitch your star to a Superior Rating. You could certainly accomplish that in several of these elements, if you set some goals for yourself."

"I'd rather be Outstanding," I tell her. "It just sounds better and I know I could do it."

She hesitates. She says, "Outstanding ratings are for people who literally bleed FSA. I just don't think that's you, Polly."

I'm kind of perplexed when I leave the office. I need to show Tessa that I'm a dedicated employee. But how to do that right now, when we don't have a Farm Bill, and my regular work isn't even being judged. I think about it for the rest of the day.

It's just after 4:30 P.M. and everyone else has gone home, except Kadie Vaughn and me. Kadie is straightening the table in our entryway that holds our CRP pamphlets and extra copies of our newsletter. I am telling her about my review when I notice these little square things, that look like a glossy, oversized stamps, on the table.

"What are those?" I ask.

She picks one up. "I think they're tattoos. You know, for little kids. Tessa got them for the 4-H Fair last year and these were leftover." She hands me one.

It is some sort of picture, maybe a flag, and the printing is tiny, but I can make out the word, FSA. "Brainstorm," I tell Kadie. "What better way to show my dedication than to put a tattoo on each cheek?"

"I don't think, by showing dedication, Tessa meant to brand your self. And I'm pretty sure she wouldn't want you going to the counter, with FSA plastered all over your face. It would look clownish, if you ask me."

Not to be dissuaded by Kadie's objection, I pick up two tattoos, go to the Rest Room and I put one on each cheek. I am, oh so careful, when I wash my face, before I go to bed, later that night. I would hate to wash one off before I see Tessa's reaction.

In the morning, I notice a lot of cars in the parking lot, but I figure NRCS is having a meeting. I'm as quiet, as I can be, when I slip in through the back door because I want to surprise everyone at once. Even if Tessa isn't impressed, I'm thinking I'll at least get a laugh from the rest of the staff. Imagine my chagrin to find only Kadie sitting at her desk.

"Hey, where is everyone?" I ask, as soon as I step through the door.

"Polly," Kadie says as she rushes toward me. "Where have you been? I've been waiting for you. The SED is in Tessa's office. He's coming out for a tour any minute. You have to get those stupid tattoos off your face."

I rush to the Rest Room. Armed with a scratchy paper towel and a bottle of hand soap, I scrub. .and scrub. .and scrub. When I stop and rinse the lather, the only thing redder than my face is the flag of my tattoo. The word FSA is clear as clear can be. They must be made with indelible ink because they won't come off. At least Kadie is right about one thing, I look like a clown.

To Be Continued...

Spring IASCOE Newsletter

Lisa Forburger

Program Technician

Kossuth County FSA

If your local Dairy Queen is closed from September through

May, you live in Iowa

If someone in a Home Depot store offers you assistance and

they don't work there, you live in Iowa

If you've worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you live in Iowa

If you've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you live in Iowa

If 'Vacation' means going anywhere south of DES MOINES for the weekend, you live in Iowa

If you measure distance in squares of farm land, you live in Iowa

If you know several people who have hit a cow more than once, you live in Iowa

If you have gone from 'heat' to 'A/C' in the same day and back again, you live in Iowa

If you can drive 70 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, you live in Iowa

If you install security lights on your house and garage, but leave both unlocked, you live in Iowa

If you carry jumper cables in your car and your wife knows how to use them, you live in Iowa

If you design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit, you live in Iowa

If the I-80 speed limit is 70 mph -- you're going 90 and everybody is passing you, you live in Iowa

If driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow, you live in Iowa

If you know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction, you live in Iowa

If you have more hours on your lawn mower, and snow blower than miles on your car, you live in Iowa

If you find 10 degrees 'a little chilly', you live in Iowa.



SPRING BREAK IASCOE / IACS / IASE Style!

Join us for the Iowa Convention!

Have you worn out your ice scraper? Have you fallen on the ice and hurt various body parts along with your pride? Have you been having evil thoughts toward the weatherman? No doubt about it ... it has been a long, long, long winter. It's time to take a break!!! ---Join IASCOE / IACS / IASE for a Spring Break!!!!

The joint 2008 IASCOE/IACS/IASE Convention will be held on March 28 & 29, 2008 at the Stoney Creek Inn located in Johnston, Iowa. The Stoney Creek Inn is conveniently located just off I-80/35 and only a few miles from Des Moines. Numerous restaurants, shopping malls, and other activities are just moments away.

The Stoney Creek Inn offers a cozy lodge atmosphere where you can experience the great Outdoors.....Indoors!! Relax by the fireplace or take a dip in Iowa's only year round indoor-outdoor swim through pool.

Friday's activities will include committee meetings and a general session followed by the hospitality room, & a dance. Saturday morning will include breakfast buffet, awards ceremony, raffle and Auction winners, followed by a general session.

Featured Speakers:

Jim Book, STO,

Merlin Plagge, STC Chairperson

Charlene Neukomm, Mid West Area Executive Alt.

Jim Mace, J& M Marketing

Deb Esselman, CED WI, Military Tribute

Craig Floss, Executive Director for Iowa Corn Growers

Door Prizes will be awarded throughout the 2 day event.

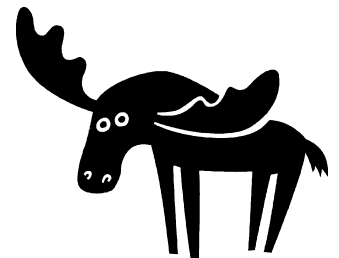


For Reservations call: 1-800-659-2220

Special Room Rate: \$77.00(plus tax) per night

(Tell 'em your attending the IASCOE Convention)

March 13, 2008—cut off date for special Room Rates



IASCOE/IACS/IASE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

MARCH 28 – 29, 2008

NAME: _____

COUNTY: _____ POSITION: _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____

Pre-registration & Breakfast Banquet: \$25.00 EA _____

Registration at Door and Breakfast Banquet: \$30.00 EA _____

Registration Only: \$20.00 EA _____

Breakfast Banquet Only: \$12.50 EA _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

***Registration includes: Meeting Room rental, Hospitality room and DJ for dance.

Please check one of the Following:

IASCOE Member _____

IASE Member _____

IACS Member _____

IASCOE Associate Member _____

Out of State Guest _____

Other _____

Mail completed form and payment to:

Judy Dameron

718 Mill St.

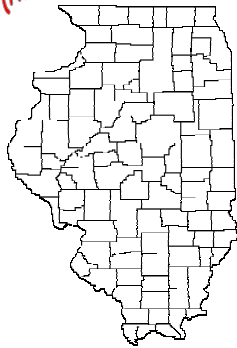
Wapello, IA 52653

All pre-registration forms should be received by March 21, 2008

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO IASCOE

2008 Illinois Annual Convention

\$70 per Night Single/Double
(Rates good thru March 14th)



Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center

3280 Northfield Drive

Springfield, IL 62702
(217)-523-7900

<http://www.northfieldinn.com>

For Reservations call 1-866-577-7900

Convention Schedule

Tentative

Friday, March 14, 2008 <i>More activities on Friday!</i>	10:00 am	Director's Meeting <i>(members invited)</i>
	12:00 Noon	Registration
	1:00 pm	Guest Speaker
	4:30 pm	Hospitality Room Opens
	8:00 pm	Dance
Saturday, March 15, 2008	8:30 am	Saturday Session Convenes
	12:30 pm	Awards Luncheon
	2:00 pm	Anticipated Adjournment

PRE-REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Guest: _____

State: _____ County: _____

	<u># of People</u>		<u>Total</u>
Convention Registration	_____	x \$5. ⁰⁰	\$_____.
Saturday Luncheon Meal	_____	x \$20. ⁰⁰	\$_____.
Grand Total	_____		\$_____.

I am a member of:

- IASCOE
 IACS
 IAPEC
 RASCOE
 _____ State Assoc.
 Guest
 FIRST TIME ATTENDEE – DRAWING FOR \$25

Please detach and return to Charlene Neukomm, 1513 E. 750 North Rd, Cissna Park, IL 60924. Checks may be made payable to IASCOE. **All registrations received or postmarked by March 7th, 2008 will be eligible for a \$25 drawing.**

NEWS FROM thenascoestore.com

If you have not visited our new website - www.nascoeblemsonline.com - do it today! We think you will be pleased with this new website. Also, browse the new items that we have ordered. Also, we have the ongoing special on polos - Polo Potluck! We've reduced the price again. If you're from Iowa, enter IOWA on your order of \$60 or more for March and April, and 10% will automatically be deducted from your total.

Visit the site often to keep up with our Featured products and Sale products.





Making the MWA Rally Great in 2008!

WHEN: April 18, 2008:

Indiana FSA Offices will be donating items that are unique to their county for the silent auction. If you would like to participate by bringing an item from your state or county we would appreciate it! All funds raised from the silent auction go toward making the 2008 MWA Rally a success!



Guests begin to arrive:	9:00 a.m.
Golf Outing / Shopping:	11:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Indiana Director’s Meeting:	3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Free Happy Hour:	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Silent Auction Begins:	6:00 p.m.
Indians Baseball Game:	6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
“Big 10” Sports Themed Dance:	7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

April 19, 2008:

Breakfast served (free for hotel guests):	6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Indiana State Convention:	8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
MWA Convention:	10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Luncheon at Hotel:	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
MWA Convention (continued):	1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Silent Auction Final Bids:	4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Silent Auction Winners Announced:	4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Dinner at Area Restaurants:	5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Hospitality Room:	7:30p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

WHERE: **Embassy Suites North, Indianapolis, IN**

Room rates are \$124 per night plus tax. This includes free Happy Hour and Complementary Breakfast. For Reservations



Call: 1-888-EMBASSY (rates good thru March 18th). Use code IAC when booking your room.

Make sure to use the NASCOE travel website,

www.nascoetravel.com, for great deals on flights!

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:	Guest:	State:	County:	
		<u># of people</u>		<u>Total</u>
Friday & Saturday Activities:	_____		x \$40.00 =	_____
(Includes Saturday Luncheon)				
Golf Outing:	_____		x \$30.00 =	_____
Baseball Outing:	_____		x \$15.00 =	_____
Saturday Meetings Only:	_____		x \$30.00 =	_____
(Includes Saturday Luncheon)				
Saturday Luncheon Only:	_____		x \$25.00 =	_____
Shuttle to/from Airport:	_____		x \$10.00 =	_____
<hr/>				
Grand Total:	_____			_____

Shuttle service available from Indianapolis International Airport (IND)

Flight Arrival (Date/Time):

Flight #:

Flight Departure (Date/Time):

Please detach and return to: Amy Allen,
 2036 E Lebanon Road, Crawfordsville, IN, 47933.
 Checks may be made payable to IASCOE.



Let's Say Thanks Fact Sheet

To show the country's appreciation to the hundreds of thousands of troops stationed overseas, Xerox Corporation has developed a nationwide program aimed at saying "thank you" to our troops. Through the Let's Say Thanks program, postcards designed by children from across the country are available at www.LetsSayThanks.com for people to select their favorite and write a personalized message to troops. Xerox prints the cards on its paper and equipment, and mails them in care packages to deployed troops through military support organization Give2TheTroops®.

Meaning of Mail to the Troops

- Receiving letters from all across the country was one of the greatest things that happened to me during deployment. It truly amazed me that a total stranger took the time to write me. The smiles that came from soldiers who seldom received mail were priceless. Packages that came from an organization that I had never heard of brought a smile from knew somebody appreciated me. **CPL Larry Kessler, B Co 3 BSTB, deployed to Afghanistan**



- I am also the mail clerk for my section and I can tell you that every one of my soldiers are touched in some way when they receive a package from someone they don't know. It's the thought of a total stranger that would make time to write a letter or send a movie or even food to a soldier overseas that really makes our job worth every day we spend over here. Knowing that people back home have not forgotten us and do everything they can to contribute to a soldier in some way makes me proud. I can say for everyone here that it makes us proud to serve our country when we have people back home to support what we do. **SPC Eric Shackelford, 149th BCT, U.S. Army, deployed to Iraq**

- Give2TheTroops (care packages) provided essential comforts that paved the way as a morale booster and a motivational tool in showing my soldiers that their work and their mission's accomplishments did not go unnoticed. **1LT William David Spruill, TF 1-37 AR, Medical Platoon Leader, deployed to Iraq**



- During "mail call" we received dozens of letters, cards and boxes from people back in the States – people who we did not know personally. Reading the well wishes, thank you notes, and blessings, along with opening boxes filled with goodies, snacks, games, and toiletry items made us feel like children opening presents on Christmas morning. **Ronald G. Townsend, U.S. Army, just home from Iraq**



Xerox and Let's Say Thanks

"Let's Say Thanks" started with two on-site card drives. One held in Atlanta in December 2005 and the second in Phoenix at the FBR Open in February 2006. More than 10,000 postcards were mailed through these

local events. Because of the overwhelming response, Xerox rolled out a national campaign, in conjunction with the Fourth of July holiday, which included the launch of www.LetsSayThanks.com.

• The Web address for the national program is www.LetsSayThanks.com. In three easy steps visitors can send a message of support to the troops:

1. Select a favorite postcard design, drawn by U.S. children, ages 6-14.
2. Enter your personal message.
3. Click "submit."



• www.LetsSayThanks.com features postcard designs from children across the country to choose from. The postcards, depicting patriotic scenes and hometown images, were selected from hundreds of entries to appear on our site.

• Visitors can easily choose from 10 pre-written messages or elect to write their own personalized message.

• Xerox works with partner Give2TheTroops, a non-profit organization formed to support the physical, moral and spiritual health of America's armed forces in combat zones around the world through the letters and packages prepared and shipped by volunteers, to deliver the cards to the troops.

Behind the Scenes: Xerox Technology

Social responsibility has been ingrained in the Xerox culture since its earliest days as a company. The Let's Say Thanks program provides one more outlet for the company to deliver value to the community and support the men and women stationed overseas.



• The postcards are produced using variable data printing capabilities of the Xerox iGen3 Digital Production Press. Xerox has worked with Premier Printing Partners, Mercury Print Productions, ColorCentric Corporation, SouthData, Inc., Quantum Direct and Xerographics to print the cards.

• XMPie is the variable data printing software utilized to print the postcards. XMPie enables cross-media, personalized marketing programs. These programs combine communication outlets such as digitally printed direct mail, the Web, e-mail and other methods to reach customers with customized marketing materials that are relevant to the individual recipient and generate higher response rates.

• The postcards are printed on Xerox 80# Cover Elite Gloss card stock.

For more information on how your company can get involved, please contact Carl Langsenkamp at 585-423-5782 or carl.langsenkamp@xerox.com.



"IOWA GAMES"

The Challenge Continues

(If you missed out on last year's Challenge, here's your chance to get in on the fun.)

Can you solve simple puzzles?
Is your brain full of useless knowledge?
Match wits with other teams across Iowa in a friendly competition.

It's a one-time entry fee of \$20.00 per team.

(Proceeds go to IASCOE)

This sounds like great fun!

Count us in! Enclosed is \$20.00.

(Make checks payable to IASCOE)

Entry Form

Team Name _____

Contact Person _____

e-mail _____

2nd Contact _____

e-mail _____

3rd Contact _____

e-mail _____

I cannot accept late answers. You may include enough contact people so someone is able to meet the deadline

Mail to: Glenda Von Arb

% Sioux County FSA

714 8th St SE

Orange City, IA 51041

[Entry forms must be post marked by April 28, 2008](#)

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