

IASCOE March 2010 Spring Newsletter



2009/2010 IASCOE OFFICERS

President Cindy Mensen CED Clayton County



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Vice-President Jeff Davis CED Plymouth County



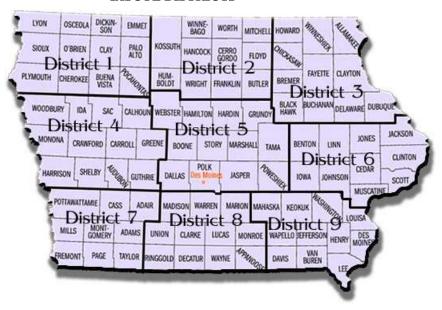
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Secretary/Treasurer Sue Beemer PT Taylor County



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IASCOE DISTRICTS



2009/2010 IASCOE DIRECTORS

District	P.T. Director	C.E.D. Director
1	Glenda VonArb - Sioux Alt - Nancy Heideman - Clay	Jeff Davis - Plymouth Alt - Larry Lago - Dickinson
2	Cindy Pistek - Hancock Alt - Jeanine Diekhuis - Hancock	Tammy Pruin - Wright Alt - Dave Stromer - Kossuth
3	Tammy Eibey - Delaware Alt - Karen McNeil - Winneshiek	Cindy Mensen - Clayton Alt - Kevin Keegan - Buchanan
4	Mary Lageschulte - Ida Alt - Amy Carlson-Hammen - Calhoun	John Landgraf - Sac Alt - Kevin Fitzpatrick - Greene
5	Chris Grieder - Polk Alt - Teresa Heck - Polk	Steve Kennedy - Jasper Alt - <i>Vacant</i>
6	Jessica Yuska - Scott Alt - Joni Birkhofer - Muscatine	Devalyn Wilson - Cedar Alt - Randy Madsen - Muscatine/Scott
7	Sue Beemer - Taylor Alt - Judy Lundgren - Page	Chris Irvin - Page Alt - Warren Schuler - Montgomery
8	Patsy Bence - Madison Alt - Connie Bence - Madison	Kelly Cain - Madison Alt - Joyce Frost - Wayne
9	Judy Dameron - Louisa Alt - Dawn Stewart - Henry	Dee Ann Lehn - Keokuk Alt - John Bartenhagen - Louisa

2009/2010 IASCOE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Legislative Co-Chairs

Dee Lehn **CED Keokuk County** Office 641 622-2800 dee.lehn@ia.usda.gov

Tammy Eibey FLPO Delaware County Office 563 927-4250 tammy.eibey@ia.usda.gov

Benefits

Kelly Cain - CED Madison County Office 515 462-4884 kelly.cain@ia.usda.gov

Awards

Devalyn Wilson - CED Cedar County Office 563 886-6061 devalyn.wilson@ia.usda.gov

Programs

Jessica Yuska - PT Scott County Office 563 391-3335 jessica.yuska@ia.usda.gov

Membership

Co-Chairs

Glenda VonArb PT Sioux County Office 712 737-4801

Mary Lageschulte PT Ida County Office 712 364-2126 glenda.vonarb@ia.usda.gov mary.lageschulte@ia.usda.gov

Publicity

Cindy Pistek - PT Hancock County Office 641 923-3666 cindy.pistek@ia.usda.gov

Scholarship

Tammy Pruin - CED Wright County Office 515 532-2849 tammy.pruin@ia.usda.gov

Emblems

Chris Grieder - PT Polk County Office 515 964-4295 chris grieder@ia.usda.gov

2009/2010 IASCOE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

District 1

Benefits/Legislative: Rex Wittrock, Buena Vista Awards/Scholarship: Larry Lago - Dickinson

Publicity: Nancy Heideman - Clay Membership: Mark VonArb - Cherokee

District 3

Benefits/Legislative: Karen McNeil -

Winneshiek

Awards/Scholarship: Connie Straw -

Chickasaw

Publicity: Rose Woerner - Black Hawk Membership: Sheri Rodman - Clayton

District 5

Bene./Legislative: Teresa Simonton -

Poweshiek

Awards/Scholarship: Connie Safley - Dallas

Publicity: Kitty Benda - Marshall Membership: Rodney Biensen - Story

District 7

Benefits/Legislative: Chris Irvin - Page Awards/Scholarship: Phyllis Reineke - Taylor

Publicity: Carole Dawson - Taylor Membership: Dan Wells - Adair

District 9

Benefits/Legislative: John Bartenhagen -

Louisa

Awards/Scholarship: Carol Long - Mahaska Publicity: Anna Hornbaker - Van Buren Membership: Cynde Briggs - Mahaska

Other Roles

CAPWIZ Co-ordinator

Tammy Eibey - FLPO Delaware County Office 563 927-4250

tammy.eibey@ia.usda.gov

Convention Registration

Judy Dameron - PT Louisa County Office 319 523-6381

judy.dameron@ia.usda.gov

District 2

Benefits/Legislative: David Stromer - Kossuth Awards/Scholarship: Jeanine Diekhuis -

Hancock

Publicity: Lisa Forburger - Kossuth

Membership: Janine Schwarck - Mitchell

District 4

Benefits/Legislative: Pat Warmbier - Harrison

Awards/Scholarship: Denise Dugan -

Woodbury

Publicity: Heather Muenchrath - Shelby

Membership: Cathleen "Skip" Borst - Carroll

District 6

Bene/Legis.: Joni Birkhofer - Muscatine

Awards/Scholarship: Angie Reynolds -

Muscatine

Publicity: Betty Williams - Muscatine

Membership: Renee Schultz - Cedar

District 8

Benefits/Legislative: Kelly Cain - Madison Awards/Scholarship: Dave Wynn - Monroe

Publicity: Rhonda Cooper - Union

Membership: Marla Morlan - Monroe

IASCOE Web Manager

Brian Beach - PT Sac County Office 712-662-7159

brian.beach@ia.usda.gov

SED Report to Iowa Employees

Thank you for your patience! I have served as your SED for six months now and I hope that you have not been disappointed. From my perspective, I have not! I have found that in Iowa, we have the best people we can get serving our farmers. The staff at the STO has been gracious, supportive, and patient as I have tried to settle in. Whenever I have called into one of our county offices, I have been greeted warmly by friendly, knowledgeable staff.

Our new payment system continues to slowly evolve and with each new change we correct a few problems. I believe that once we get through all of the issues, we will have a flawless system which will fairly and accurately pay producers what is due them and not cause our staff overpayment problems. I know that at this point it is hard for many to believe this but I am always an optimist. In the county offices you have put in countless hours struggling to get your producers paid and I know that our folks here have struggled as well. Change is hard and sometimes we just have to hang in there.

We will be starting a new COT class in February and we all look forward to the new opportunities this creates for the COT's and the agency. The process of working through the applicants can be grueling because we get so many qualified folks who are willing to step forward for this duty. The most difficult part is trying to narrow down the choices. We were blessed in this round to have so many applications from our county offices. As the interview team completed all of the interviews, they commented on how well qualified each of the applicants were. We are looking at starting another class soon.

Of course the reason for the large number of COT's is that we are experiencing a loss of our senior leadership. Those who are leaving our agency after many years of dedicated service call it retirement. I appreciate their perspective but at the same time, I see that experienced leadership in our county offices as a positive for our agency. In any agency or business, that "institutional" knowledge is invaluable.

As our winter winds down (I hope), remember that our producers are ready to start another season of feeding, clothing, and now fueling our nation and FSA will be here to help.

John

John Whitaker, Iowa SED

Everyone Plays a Role

I think every winter seems to be getting colder and snowier than the one before. I don't know if it's true or if it just feels that way because I'm getting older. I enjoy the change of seasons to a certain point but after about two weeks of winter I've pretty much had enough. I just read that the only state NOT to get snow this winter has been Hawaii I guess the good news is that we know what to expect unlike some of our friends to the south who don't have the equipment or experience to deal with the impact of snow and cold. We have learned to adapt and prepare to meet the challenge of winter.

NASCOE helps us get through the difficult times as well. The association is here to ensure the needs of members and CO employees are met so we are able to do our jobs in the most effective and efficient way possible. It takes many people working together to accomplish this. Every member has an important part to play in making NASCOE an effective and productive employee association.

Each member pays dues. Dues vary from state to state with the amount paid split between the state and with NASCOE getting \$55. For some, that is all they want to do and that is fine. It takes a lot of money to cover the expenses of the association. The general membership must also contribute ideas and time to the association. The more active members are the more effective the leadership will be. Members need to communicate their concerns and issues to their state presidents so the issues can be brought to the area and national levels and action can be taken. Issues can be addressed through the formal negotiation process, the NASCOE Programs committee, or if urgent the NASCOE President can take the issue directly to the FSA Administrator or another department head. Members must stay informed. Updates and information are available through newsletters, the NASCOE NOW, and state, area, and the NASCOE website. Every member has the ability to stay informed on what NASCOE is doing.

Those members working at the State and Area levels play a vital role because they are the link that provides the information to the National level on issues needing attention and addressing what the members want. The Area people provide the instructions and information to the States so they can inform their members. A breakdown in this link creates confusion and frustration and will weaken an association. The Area people coordinate the states needs and desires and take them to the National level so action can be taken.

The NASCOE officers are the leaders. These special people spend many hours reviewing the issues and desires brought them to determine what the best course of action is for the association. The only way leadership knows what is important is by the members speaking up and being involved. Remember that the NASCOE leadership is made up of CEDs and PTs who have their own County Offices. Their personal knowledge is limited to their experience. Much like a snow storm in Mississippi, there is limited experience dealing with some issues which means the involvement with those more knowledgeable and experienced is critical to success.

NASCOE has the experience and ability to weather storms as long as everyone plays their role. If a certain part of the process fails, we will get off the road and end up in a snow bank. Don't let that happen and perform your role.

Larry the Cable Guy – The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap

Jon Williams

MWA Executive Committee Person

YOU can make a Difference

Charlene Neukomm, MWA Negotiation Consultant

Like all of you, I wear many hats. One of my favorite hats to wear is my Midwest Area Negotiation Consultant hat. It is one of my favorites because when I have it on, I know I am making a positive difference for my fellow employees and for FSA.

One of the truly unique processes that NASCOE has access to is the negotiation process. We have the opportunity to sit down with WDC each year and share ideas and concerns with them. We can make suggestions on how to make our processes more efficient and effective. We can share input with WDC Management on how things in the county offices are going and how to help make things run more smoothly. The Executive Committee and Area Consultants actually make the trip to WDC; however, there would be nothing to negotiate without YOU. It is YOU that send in the suggestions and YOU that have the good ideas on how to be more effective and efficient, because it is YOU that does the actual work out in the field, serving the American farmer and rancher.

Each fall, a request for negotiation items is made for each area. In January, the Executive Committee and the Negotiation Consultants get together and go through each and every item. We discuss each request and try to come up with a do-able solution. The items are assigned to a team of 2 people per item to write up the requested issue and the proposed solution. Sometimes a survey will need to be completed by each state, depending on the item or issue. After all of the items are written up, they are then submitted to WDC Management for review. Later in the spring, we will venture out to WDC and sit face to face with the Deputy Administrators of each department. We go over each item with them and explain why we are asking for a change and how we think it could best be changed.

Now, of course, we don't always get everything we ask for, but over the years, we have been able to make many positive changes in how we deliver our programs to our producers and have been able to seek benefits for our employees. Although WDC writes policy and procedure, they need feedback from the field on what is working and what is not working so that positive change can happen. They do not necessarily know something is not working correctly if we do not share that information with them. The only way that can happen is if YOU take action and get involved. Let us know YOUR thoughts and ideas.



A President's Perspective

The IASCOE Board of Directors, in conjunction with the other employee associations of IASE and IACS, encourage you to attend our 2010 Joint Annual Convention. This year the convention has changed location. It will be held in West Des Moines, Iowa, at the West Des Moines Marriott (just off Interstate 80 on the Jordan Creek Parkway) on March 26-27, 2010. Committee meetings will begin on Friday morning and the convention will continue through Saturday at noon. Expect to be informed and entertained!

Retirement will be the topic for our 1:00 session on Friday afternoon presented by a group called FEDMEN. This assembly is for all stages of your FSA life – just starting, going strong, or calculating the "should I go or should I stay". Be informed of all aspects leading up to this important decision.

Speakers include FSA leadership from Washington DC (somewhat depending on their travel budget) and the Iowa State Office as well as NASCOE leadership positions. This will be an opportunity to meet our new State Director, John Whitaker, along with members of the new Iowa State Committee.

Are you concerned that you may not be aware of all your benefits? Do you know or understand all the JM Marketing policies that are available to you at a discount because you are a member of IASCOE? Learn more by attending this convention.

We will have display tables, door prizes and some local lowa grown talent is sure to emerge at our evening festivities! We are working on a wine tasting session to open an evening of IASCOE hospitality.

The team is excited to collaborate with FSA regarding the new initiative, "People's Garden". As counties plan what to donate for door prizes, we are hoping you choose something with a garden theme – and also consider donations that could go directly to a Food Bank. Let this be an opportunity to show your generosity! Remember, silent auction items help to fund IASCOE scholarships, too.

This is a great chance for anyone new to the agency to meet and make friends across the entire state. Regular attendees will attest to the value of this kind of networking that leads to lifetime friendships!

Would you be a FIRST TIME attendee? The Board of Directors approved a drawing for a **FREE ROOM** from all the names of those who **register for their FIRST IASCOE Convention**. Have fun, learn important information and potentially get a free room – who can resist?

All of this plus have some fun, too! (Did I mention food, beverages, music & dancing?) Our goal is to have representation from all 100 lowa FSA offices at the convention. Only you can make that happen.

Here is the Mensen clan in Florida after Christmas. Another one of my favorites – mother's nest is together and just like the song--sand in my toes.

Cindy T. Mensen



Hello all,

Just a follow up to the last time that I had the honor of speaking to you as your IASCOE Vice President.

We have now had the election process that I talked about to elect directors for IASCOE District 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7. You have elected new and incumbent directors to represent your district for the next two years. I asked you to get involved and if you don't want to run for the office at least make sure that you get your vote to count. The election process for this year is now complete and you have made some good choices on who will represent you on the board of IASCOE. You have elected a Director and Alternate Director for both CED's and PT's in each District with elections this year.

The PT Alternate Director and CED Alternate Directors are as important as the actual seated PT or CED Director. There have been many times in the last few years that the alternate has been asked to serve on a onetime situation and sometimes when something happens they become a permanently appointed director.

The biggest thing that I would like to say is thank you to those of you that have served as directors in the past. Being a director is sometimes a thankless job. There are people that think that IASCOE should be able to solve every problem there is with the entire agency that we all work for. IASCOE is an organization that has brought us a long way in the last fifty years. It is an organization that has made sure that we as employees are treated fairly and equitably. Many of the retired employees of FSA and ASCS have served at one time or another as an IASCOE director and I thank them for their hard work and invite them to join us at this year's convention at the Marriot in West Des Moines. The newly elected 2010 Directors and Alternates are as follows:

PT Director – Karen LaCour – Dickinson CED Director – Jeff Davis – Plymouth

PT Director – Cindy Pistek – Hancock CED Director – Tammy Pruin – Wright

PT Director – Tammy Eibey – Delaware CED Director – Cindy Mensen – Clayton

PT Director - Chris Grieder - Polk CED Director - Steve Kennedy - Jasper

PT Director – Sue Beemer – Taylor CED Director – Cindy Bebout – Fremont IASCOE District 1

PT Alternate – Nancy Heideman – Clay CED Alternate – Larry Lago – Dickinson

IASCOE District 2

PT Alternate – Jeanine Diekhuis – Hancock CED Alternate – Barry TerHark – Cerro Gordo

IASCOE District 3

PT Alternate – Karen McNeil – Winneshiek CED Alternate – Kevin Keegan – Buchanan

IASCOE District 5

PT Alternate – Teresa Heck – Polk

CED Alternate – Lee Ann Davis – Boone

IASCOE District 7

PT Alternate – Judy Lundgren – Page

CED Alternate – Lynette Gruchow – East Pott.

In closing I would like to thank those of you that chose to get involved for the first time as a director or alternate for the 2010 IASCOE board. I would also like to thank those of you that believe that IASCOE is important enough to remain as a director or alternate as you have in the past. I look forward to working with each of you to serve the employees of FSA and the members of the IASCOE organization. For those of you that have chose to step aside and have someone else serve, I have a great debt of gratitude to you for a job well done and thank you for your time spent as a director.

I hope to see all of you at our convention in March.

Jeff Davis
IASCOE Vice President

GREETINGS FROM SOUTHWEST IOWA

Wow – what a winter this has been. I do not think anyone in the entire state has escaped the cold, ice and snow this year. In times to come we can sit around and talk about the winter of 2009-2010. It will be like the stories we have heard from our Grandparents about walking uphill to school both ways!!

It has also been a learning event in the county office with SURE, LIP and ELAP. It seems to be always busy in the office. There are times I think in a couple of months things will slow down and I can catch up on some things I have been putting off but seems like something new always comes along. These times can be frustrating to the PT administrating the new programs. Whether we are the PT in charge of the program or just helping, we all need to show understanding, respect and patience toward each other.

March 26th and 27th will be our annual convention at the West Des Moines Marriott. It would be great if everyone would take time out and join us. We are having some very informative speakers, committee meetings, award presentations, entertainment and you will have the opportunity to talk with other PT's from across the state. On Saturday afternoon, you can even take a couple of hours for shopping before you head for home. Your attendance at the IASCOE convention is a great way to show support of your organization. NASCOE/IASCOE is constantly working for new benefits for all its members. As an example, the FERS sick leave bill was just recently signed into law. If you retire from Jan 1, 2010 through Dec 31, 2013, you will get credit for 50% of your unused sick leave. After Jan 1, 2014, you will get 100% credit for any unused sick leave. It only takes about three years of retirement to recoup the dues you have paid.

Hope to see everyone at the Marriott in March and take time to enjoy the spring.

Sue Beemer

PT Taylor County

IASCOE Secretary/Treasurer



Emblems!

THENASCOESTORE.COM is your one-stop shop for emblem sales.

Not sure about buying on-line? Do you want to save on the shipping? Come to the IASCOE State Convention being held March 26^{th} & 27^{th} at the West Des Moines Mariott to see a variety of products for sale.

- Polo & dress shirts for office attire
- Long & short sleeve denims for both men and women
- Ladies sleeveless denim shirts
- Embroidered USDA-FSA t-shirts
- Embroidered sweatshirts
- Screen printed T-shirts
- Embroidered logo jackets
- Head Wear
- USDA and FSA Emblems Items

Check out the THENASCOESTORE.COM website for Special and Featured Items as well as both New and Clearance items.

The Nascoe Store has a huge variety of items with either the USDA-FSA or the NASCOE logo on them. GIFT COUPONS IN \$10, \$25, \$50, AND \$100 INCREMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. Anything that you need for any purpose; if they don't have it, call and they will see about offering as an item.

REGISTERING FOR THE FIRST TIME, BE SURE TO USE YOUR HOME EMAIL ADDRESS, NOT YOUR .GOV ADDRESS.

The store is provided as a benefit to NASCOE members (as well as all USDA-FSA employees). They provide a variety of officially sanctioned emblem and logo items. They make every effort to process all orders in two weeks. NASCOE's website is www.nascoe.org. Remember, NASCOE gets a percentage of sales from all items ordered online.

SPECIAL NOTE: Please note that all credit card transactions will show on your statement as thenascoestore.com/BEJs Advertising, 706-867-7571. Charges to your credit card will be made when order is received.

See you at the Convention!

Chris Grieder, Emblems Chair

Legislative Committee Report

February 2010

The national legislative committee has been preparing for the upcoming legislative sessions. The primary accomplishments of their organizational meeting were to find items to work on and improve plus set committee priorities. At our National Pre Negotiation Meeting that I attended in January, we were all explained on the direction of each national committee by the national chairperson. The Legislative Committee focus for the upcoming year will be:

- Establishing proper communication protocols. It was continually stressed to the group the importance of communication with State Presidents and State legislative chairs. All area members of the legislative committee were encouraged to set up email groups and phone trees for communication purposes. Also, all area chairs were informed to continually share information with the area execs. It then is to get to each state and their members. Please let us know if this is not happening.
- Establishment of Legislative priorities.
 - Continuing to pursue conservation administration
 - o Pursue any administrative duties associated with Climate legislation
 - o Crop insurance compliance and administrative duties
 - USDA modernization
 - Work against the taxing of our current health benefits
 - Work to prevent the weakening of FEHBP
 - o Dependent child care up to age 25
 - o Self plus One policy
 - Allowing CO and GS to share donated leave
 - Prevent the erosion of COC authorities
 - o Work on the issue of DD oversight of CED's
- Established legislative committee's goals for 2010.
 - o Increase Capwiz enrollment by 500 people
 - o Increase the use of the Capwiz Tell a friend option
 - o Increase PAC payroll allotment by 200
 - Create a webpage that contains FSA and NASCOE educational videos
 - o Create a webpage for staffers to quickly obtain NASCOE info and other ag information
- Assigned legislative committee duties and areas of concentration to thearea Chairs.
 - o Benefits Tony Augustine, MWA
 - o Cap Wiz and Congressional communications Greg Chewakin, NWA
 - o Coalition Partners Darin Slack, SWA
 - Web page updates Charla Daly, SEA
 - Newsletter and Now Coordinator Rob, NEA
 - o NAFEC/RASCOE Liaison Rob, NEA
 - Legislative Watchdog Rob, NEA
 - o PAC Loren and Mike, Committee Co-Chairs (all other duties as assigned)

The status of current legislative issues of interest to NASCOE members:

- Modernization currently hung up with no particular direction due to the full legislative agenda. Congressman Peterson has not given any indication to move this item.
- Animal ID Secretary Vilsack working on this issue behind closed doors and will bring forward plan this spring
- Crop Insurance reinsurance agreement currently being worked on and getting close to completion. Proposal was submitted through our administrator on how FSA could be involved and save money.
- Disaster legislation for 2009 poorly written, November 17th deadline for county to be declared disaster area, some commodities left out, currently in committee
- Climate Bill questionable whether it will move in this session. Stabenow did not specify FSA in legislation, very little ag group support, AFBF strongly opposes

• Health Care – **Alert was issued opposing taxation of our health plans**, bill has passed both chambers, currently in conference process. Some discussion of dropping the tax on "Cadillac plans", bill could hinge on Massachusetts Senate race which could eliminate 60 vote super majority

Loren and Mike will be focusing on the PAC as their major goal for 2010. In NASCOE's leadership opinion, this is one of the most important jobs we can accomplish for NASCOE. It was amazing to learn how comparatively large our PAC is compared to others in the agriculture production arena. If we can be successful in our enrollment goal our PAC will move into the top 10 PAC's in the production agriculture area. The passage of the legislative committee's request for 200 \$20 gift cards as incentives for enrollment should be a beneficial tool. See our Promotion detailed below.

There is not a legislative conference scheduled for 2010. Currently, we do not recognize an issue that will require a legislative fly in. Of course, that could change as the legislative session progresses.

Could you use \$20????PAC Gift Card Enrollment Promotion

The Executive board has recognized the importance of PAC in perpetuating the existence and benefits of the NASCOE membership. The board approved the issuance of 200 \$20 gift cards for the legislative committee to use as incentives for members to establish payroll allotments for PAC or increase their current allotments. Listed below are the requirements for the promotion:

- 1. Enrollee must be a current NASCOE member
- 2. The establishment of a payroll allotment is required.
- 3. New enrollees or existing PAC members may receive a card with a minimum \$3 allotment or an increase of \$3
- 4. Members may only receive one card
- 5. Cards will not be dispersed until enrollment form is received by Mike Mayfield
- 6. Cards will be dispersed after allotment begins
- 7. Cards will be distributed on a first come basis. Only 200 available

CAPWIZ.. This is one of the most important tools that we have and the easiest to use! If you have not signed up for CAPWIZ, go to the NASCOE website and click on the CAPWIZ button and it is an easy walk through process! Just remember to do this from your HOME computer and use your HOME e-mail! Government email addresses will be disabled and you will receive a message from Tammy as Coordinator. If you signed up for CAPWIZ in the past and have not been getting the alerts, then your home e-mail address may have changed since you signed up. Contact your area Legislative chairperson to have them send your updated information to Tammy Eibey. This will ensure that you receive future CAPWIZ alerts. Also, if your mailing address has changed as well, let Tammy know and she will update your information.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Eibey and Dee Lehn

Iowa Legislative Co-Chairs





IASCOE/IACS/IASE

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

MARCH 26 - 27, 2010

NAME:	The state of the s
COUNTY:	POSITION:
NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING	3 11
Pre-registration:	\$30.00 EACH
Extra Guest (Hospitality & Breakfast)	\$20.00 EACH
Registration at Door:	\$35.00 EACH
	TOTAL \$
**Registration includes: Meeting Room rental, I	Hospitality and DJ for dance and Breakfast.
**Hospitality will include a Pizza Buffet and oth	ner snack items along with beverages.
Please check one of the Following:	
FIRST CONFERENCE ATTENDED (circle	one) Yes No
IASCOE Member	
IASE Member	16, Taylor 403
IACS Member	makes the training
IASCOE Associate Member	
Out of State Member	W O O
Other	12
Mail completed form and payment to:	D. Bar
Judy Dameron	
718 Mill St.	
Wapello, IA 52653	

All pre-registration forms should be received by March 22, 2010

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO IASCOE

Making change happen!

I have been Program Chair in my state for 2 years. During that time I hadn't forwarded many Program recommendations from my state's members. I mean last year I was still trying to differentiate between Program & Negotiation items! (Thanks to clarification found on the NASCOE website.) I finally found something I felt needed to be addressed and was brave enough to submit my suggestion to the NASCOE Program Committee through our MWA representative, Jake Bourget. And it was so easy I listed the following: Issue – Fact/Explanation – Solution. I emailed it to Jake, and he reviewed it. Jake gave me a positive email back encouraging me that it was a great idea and forwarded my suggestion to the NASCOE Program Committee. And guess what? I got an email from John M. Marquess, Jr., NASCOE Programs Chairperson, telling me that FSA Management considered my recommendation and are going to make the necessary modifications!! How exciting – I jumped for joy. And when finally I see my recommendation in print, I will be smiling because I made it happen!

And you can make change happen to. I know there are things out there in all of our programs that we see all the time and think – why don't they fix that. Well, do you have a solution? I challenge you to write it down, and use the NASCOE Program Efficiency Submission Form posted on the NASCOE, Programs website. You will list your 1) Issue 2) Fact/Explanation and 3) Solution, and send your State Program Chair or Area Program Chair or through the NASCOE website to the National Program Committee Chair. Now that I have had success I am ready to make another recommendation – think BIG – your suggestion could prompt the next change!

Jessica Yuska

Iowa State Program Chair



RETIREMENTS

After many years of service to FSA, the following individuals have decided to retire and begin a new chapter in their life. We wish all of them well.

Rosie Kahl Lyon County Larry Behnke **Bremer County** Steve Waller Clay County **Marjorie Crabbs Guthrie County Diane Reis Adair County Diann Iverson Harrison County Keokuk County** Kathleen Berg **Cindy Bowman Plymouth County** Michael Larson **Hancock County** Ron Reuvers O'BrienCounty **Charles Heiderscheit Mitchell County Donald Fry Des Moines County**

Mike Larson receives retirement congratulations from John Whitaker



We have tried to include the names of all individuals who have retired. Our apologies if we have missed someone.



Savings Made Simple

Receive year-round savings - starting with a \$10 Gift Card!

Nasoco and Rasuce is excited to announce an exclusive Membership offer. Employees will receive a \$10 Gift Card when they sign up for a new Sam's Club Membership or renew an existing Membership by April 11, 2010.

Sam's Club^a Advantage Members enjoy terrific savings on merchandise, services and moreli

- Advantage Membership For \$40, you'll receive exceptional values every day on essentials, services and more for your home and family. Membership includes one card for you and one for a household member over 18 years of age, as well as full shopping privileges at more than 800 Club locations nationwide.
- Sam's Club Plus* Membership -- For \$100, you'll receive all the benefits of Advantage
 Membership, plus additional savings on services and automatic enrollment in eValues*.
 (Learn more at samsolub.com/evalues.)

Hours of Operation M - F 10 am - 8:30 pm Sat 9 am - 8:30 pm - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

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For a better version, please go to www.nascoe.org and go to the benefits page, Then scroll down to the bottom and look for the Sam's Club box.

It was the night of a blizzard and all through the house, stir crazy the game, we need out of this house!!

I heard a noise in the lawn, such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter!

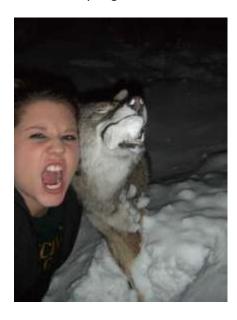
Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutter, threw up the sash.

And what to my wondering eyes should appear?



Cedes in the lawn with 6 coyote?????

Huh????? I think we need to get you back to school honey; you have had enough snow days. And besides, they might be mean and bite you.





Kids, you just never know what will be next.

By Lisa Forburger, CED Howard County

GOOD BYE WINTER!

HELLO SPRING!

Winter Oasis

By: Pat Helmrichs, PT Delaware County

I can see it now – lush and beautiful soaking up the sun on my patio. There's another one brightening a shady spot by my front door. What's the source of my mid-winter daydream? My container gardens! Container gardens are becoming increasingly popular with gardeners – experienced and novice alike. They can provide a focal point in your landscape, add interest to an otherwise boring area or even camouflage an eyesore in your yard.

There are a few simple guidelines to follow when creating your container oasis. First pick a container that is the right scale for your location. An open area will need a larger container to make an impact while in an enclosed location a smaller one will be adequate. To allow plenty of room for root growth, select a container larger than you think you will need. Be sure and fill it entirely with a well drained potting mix. Your plantings will have ample room to flourish for the entire growing season. These containers don't dry out as fast as those with less soil. You'll spend less time watering and more time enjoying. Found items like crocks, old wash tubs or even an old wheelbarrow can make interesting planters as long as they have drainage. Waterlogged roots don't thrive.

The "Garden Gurus" have given us a simple recipe to follow when selecting plants for a mixed planting. Pick a "thriller", a "filler" and a "spiller". The "thriller" is typically a larger or taller plant that creates a focal point for your pot. It's a plant that catches your eye. The "filler" is a medium height plant or plants that fill in around the "thriller". It gives your grouping fullness and more dimension. The "spiller" flows out of the planter and connects the planter with it's surroundings. It can soften the look of the container. These are often smaller foliaged plants.



Now for my favorite part –picking out the plants. This is a perfect time of year to check out garden catalogs, websites and books to get ideas for great plant combinations. Focus on the foliage of the plants you select. Flowers come and go but interesting foliage will keep your planter looking great all season long. To start pick a plant that catches your eye and build around it. I's okay to mix annual and perennial plants as long as long as they have the same light and moisture requirements. As you fill in your planter consider contrasting colors such as purple paired with orange or green. Silver colored leaves mixed with purple can brighten a shady area. Multiple shades of green always look refreshing. The combinations are only limited by your imagination. When mixing and matching plants, choose multiple leaf textures. Blending glossy, matte or fuzzy leaves adds another level of interest .Combine fine, broad, rounded or jagged foliage to give your planting an added dimension.

Last and most important is maintaining your planter. The basics include water, fertilize and trim. Most soil mixes contain a starter fertilizer but this will run out later in the season. Apply a second round of "quick response" fertilizer in July as a top dressing. "Quick response"

means half the nutrients are available to the plants right away and the rest release slowly. Well drained soil and regular watering are crucial to your container's success. In most cases water when the top inch or two is dry when you dig in with your fingers. How often you need to water will vary with the location of your pot. Sunny or windy spots will need more frequent attention. Trim your plants as needed to maintain a nice shape to the planting. If one gets too tall or long clip it back. This will encourage it to become more bushy and fill in your container.

I hope this gives you a few ideas about creating your own oasis. Most importantly have fun with it and then sit down a bit and enjoy the view.

Landscaping....

Time to dust off those spades and begin to thaw out that landscaping spirit. Old Man Winter is on his way out, and spring is coming. Start this growing season off right by getting on top of yard maintenance early.

"Out with the old and in with the new" has long been a theme for spring cleaning, and can be applied to spring landscape maintenance as well. A good first step for planting bed maintenance is to remove all of the dead remains of last year's plant material. This should be done before any of your herbaceous plants start to come up in March. Once all the old plant material is out of the way it is extremely easy to re-apply mulch. Mulch biodegrades over time and you want to keep it approximately three inches deep for effective weed control. If you need an extra boost of weed prevention you can apply a pre-emergent herbicide at this time as well.

The early spring is also a great time to do some pruning on woody plant material (trees and shrubs). Pruning trees and shrubs before they begin to leaf out greatly reduces the amount of stress put on the plants. Trees and shrubs that flower early in the spring such as forsythia and lilac are the exceptions to this rule. These plants flower on "old wood" or last year's growth. You want to prune early flowering shrubs after they are done blooming later in the spring. If you are unsure about pruning a specific plant do a quick search on Google to avoid any careless mistakes. Spring is also the ideal time to cut down your ornamental grasses. To make this process as easy as possible, tie some string around the existing foliage to bundle the grasses up. Then cut the grass off four to five inches above the ground. This will allow the grasses to grow back nice and full in the coming season.

Spring is a terrific time to divide and transplant your existing perennials. You may have to wait until they begin to come up if you don't know exactly where they are planted, but this is just fine. It is much less stressful on the plants to be moved early in the year before the summer heat arrives. Whenever you transplant anything make sure you water immediately after getting the plant back in the ground. Many woody plants can also be planted in the early spring. Just make sure that you don't plant any herbaceous plants before the middle of May. This ensures that a late frost won't hurt any of your new investments.

Your planting beds aren't the only aspect of landscape maintenance you should get on top of early. It is also beneficial to give your lawn some attention early in the year. Memorial Day weekend is the ideal time to give your lawn its first shot of fertilizer. If needed, you can also do some over-seeding and aeration at this time as well.

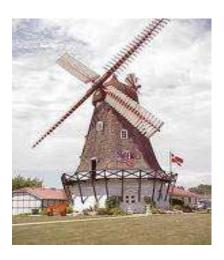
Maintaining a landscape can become quite a chore if you don't get on top of it early. This year do yourself a favor, follow these tips and get your yard looking good from the get go. Happy landscaping everyone!

Drew Lehn, Landscape Designer Son of Dee Lehn, CED



TRAVEL IOWA

TIVOLI FEST - ELK HORN, IOWA



Tivoli Fest is a Danish-American celebration held every year on Memorial Day Weekend (May 29 - 30, 2010) in Elk Horn, Iowa. Elk Horn is located just 6 miles north of Interstate 80 off Exit 54. Enjoy Danish food and specialties, such as Smorrebrod (Danish open-faced sandwiches), Ebleskiver (round Danish pancakes) and Medisterpolse (seasoned sausage). Visitors may also enjoy touring the renovated 1848 windmill, the Danish Immigrant Museum and Bedstemor's Hus. There are many unique gift shops and other special attractions throughout the village of Elk Horn. There will also be a free open-air concert and fireworks. Other events during the celebration include a parade, folk dancing, arts and crafts, a carnival, activities for children and much more- there is something for everyone! The Tivoli Fest 2010 Brochure will be available soon! For more information, call 800-451-7960 or visit dansihmuseum.org/Tivoli-fest.cfm. You can also email info@danishmuseum.org.

HARRISON COUNTY, IOWA



Harrison County in western Iowa offers many attractions for visitors! There is a Welcome Center that contains a gift shop featuring crafts, food items, beverages, clothing and Iowa souvenirs. There is also a cherry drink you must sample! The drink has been made and bottled at the facility since the 1930's. There is also a Museum of Religious Arts, a Lewis and Clark Trail, Desoto National Wildlife Refuge Area and the Loess Hills. The Desoto National Wildlife Refuge Area is visited by over 400,000 geese and ducks annually. The visitor center there is open to the public throughout the year and is home to the Bertrand Museum. For more information, visit

http://www.fws.gov/midwest/desoto . Come on over to Western Iowa and see what Harrison County has to offer!



ODE TO MY PHANTOM LINC PASS By Rose Woerner

They took my picture long ago, I think my hair was red, They wouldn't let me smile at all, And so I looked half-dead. The glasses that I wore back then, Have changed a time or two, And sad to say some wrinkles popped, Where creamy skin once grew. My skin is lined, My eyelids droop, My age spots take a prize, The furrows just between my brows, Are twice their former size. My looks have changed as birthdays mount, To wit, considerably, So, when I finally get my pass, I doubt it looks like me.

TEN WAYS TO KNOW YOU ARE IN IRELAND

- 10. Americans are referred to as "Thee Yanks" by wee children
- 9. Sheep have the "right of way" on the road
- 8. If you are in the pub after hours, you have to leave through the back door to avoid the police
- 7. Even the residents get lost when driving home
- 6. Singing and dancing can break out at any time in the pub; everyone joins in with the singing!
- 5. A major source of income is inviting strangers to stay at your house so you can serve them tea and an Irish Breakfast (The Bed & Breakfast)
- 4. Kissing a rock is a major attraction (The Blarney Stone)
- 3. A six-foot tall woman is a giant!
- 2. A "bank holiday" is another word for "party"!
- 1. Hubcaps don't get stolen; they fly off when you scrape the stone wall if driving too close to the edge!



Submitted by: Cindy Pistek

Subscribe To the IASCOE Newsletter

To receive an email notification of new IASCOE Newsletters and web page updates go to our web site at www.iascoe.org and click on the subscription link.

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. or Cindy Pistek at Cindy.Pistek@ia.usda.gov.

THE MAMA TEST

I was out walking with my 4-year-old daughter.

She picked up something off of the ground and Started to put it in her mouth.

I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that. 'Why?' my daughter asked.

'Because it's been on the ground;

You don't know where it's been, it's dirty, and probably has germs,' I replied.

At this point, my daughter looked at me With total admiration and asked, 'Mama, how do you know all this stuff?

I was thinking quickly and replied,

'All moms know this stuff.... It's on the Mama Test.

You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mama.'

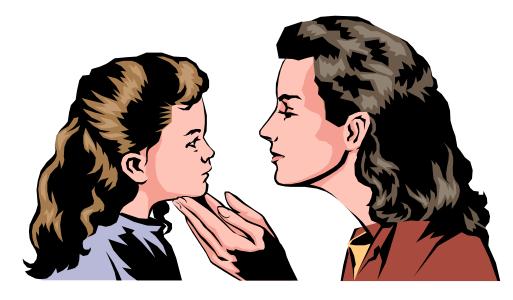
We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, But she was evidently pondering this new information.

'Oh....I get it!' she beamed,

You are so smart.'

'So if you don't pass the test you have to be the dad.'

'Exactly,' I replied with a big smile on my face.



BLAST FROM THE PAST!?!?!?!?!







WHO ARE THEY?

DID YOU KNOW NAMES?

THEY ARE.....

PHOTO #1: PAGE COUNTY NEW OFFICE 1990 WITH LOCAL CHAMBER MEMBERS

LEFT TO RIGHT - EVELYN STANTON, NEXT IS NOT AN FSA EMPLOYEE, JANET WAGONER, JOLENE FECHTER, JUDY LUNDGREN, CAROL BROWN, JANET WAGONER, (NO IDEA ABOUT MAN IN BACK), DYANNE YORK, DONNA MARRIOTT, ELAINE FARWELL, JOHN KENAGY, VIOLET HENNEMAN, DARLENE ENGLEKAE, GENTLEMAN ON THE END IS NOT AN FSA EMPLOYEE

PHOTO #2: STEVE PETERSON'S DISTRICT PHOTO 1993

LEFT TO RIGHT WARREN SHULER, ELAINE MARTENS FROM CASS, DAN WELLS, JACQUE LENHART, STEVE PETERSON, JOLENE FECHTER, TERRY MCCLAIN, NORMA TRADLE, GREG JOBE, BILL BARTENHAGEN, BOBBI SCHAAF AND MYRNA LEU

PHOTO #3: BOSS'S DAY 1989

JOLENE FECHTER

BLAST FROM THE PAST...SEND OLD PHOTOS TO ME...



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency

Iowa State FSA Office 10500 Buena Vista Court Des Moines, IA 50322-3732

(515) 254-1540

FAX: (515) 254-1573

Iowa Administrative Memo 10-15 (Intranet)

TO: All FSA Employees

FROM: John Whitaker, SED

John R. Whitaker Digitally signed by John R. Whitak DN: em-John R. Whitaker, m-USDA cu-IA-FSA, amati-juhn-whitakangsa and a gov c-US

February 8, 2010

SUBJECT: The Peoples Garden

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced the People's Garden Initiative and challenged USDA employees, as well as non-USDA organizations across the Nation to create their own People's Garden.

People's Gardens are a terrific way for us to connect with local communities. This is a voluntary program aimed at showcasing and promoting USDA and the activities that we support as well as providing edible products for donation to local charities.

Many individuals in our Iowa USDA family are already actively volunteering with programs such as food banks, meals on wheels as well as many other community based programs. If you are a person looking to get involved or looking for ways to get more involved I want to offer this opportunity to participate in the People's Garden Initiative.

Offices are not required to have a garden and additional funding will be not be provided however partnering opportunities exist with other USDA Agencies and outside organizations such as 4H, FFA, Master Gardeners and local service organizations. Within existing workload priorities, employees will be permitted to use regular time for the People's Garden initiative.

Not all locations will be suited to have a garden, so other options include:

- Volunteering at a community garden or in crop "gleaning" efforts
- Helping start a garden at a local school or community center
- Other creative ideas that meet the purposes of the initiative.

If you know of an existing garden that would be considered a People's Garden or have a desire to start a People's Garden either in your community or at the FSA office please email the STO POC – Dennis Olson by February 19th. A teleconference will be scheduled to discuss both current and planned projects with interested Counties.

A link to the People Garden website can be found on SharePoint under Outreach.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Lender



http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=PEOPLES_GARDEN

(Rates good thru Feb. 18th)



For Reservations call 1-800-659-2220

Or 1-309-743-0101

Ask for "IASCOE CONVENTION"

Tentative

50 YEARS OF CELEBRATING IASCOE!

Friday, March 19, 2010 More activities on Friday!	9:00 am 10:00 am 12:10 pm 2:30 pm 3:40 pm 5:00 pm 8:00 pm - Midnight	Registration IASCOE Board Meeting John Deere Tour Departs John Deere Speaker at Hotel "Ag Tech of the Future" IL SED and STO Q&A Panel Hospitality Room Opens Dance - DJ
Saturday, March 20, 2010	8:30 am 9:25 am 10:00 am – Noon 12:00 pm 1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm	Saturday Session Convenes NASCOE Pres. Myron Stroup Congressman from District, WDC Speaker, JM Marketing 50 th Anniversary Luncheon Sheltered Reality Awards Presented Adjourn

www.visitquadcities.com

REMINDERS: EACH COUNTY OFFICE IS TO BRING A DOOR PRIZE. EACH DISTRICT IS TO HAVE ONE ITEM FOR THE SILENT AUCTION!



Fri., March 19, 2010: Leave hotel at 12:10pm in your own vehicle. Directions will be provided.

John Deere Harvester Works~1100 13th Avenue~East Moline. IL 61244

http://www.johndeereattractions.com

John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline, IL, is the home of Deere & Co.'s largest combine factory. The tour will take about 1 1/2 hours, guests must wear closed toed shoes, and the age minimum requirement is 13 years old. All factories restrict the use of video cameras. Cameras are allowed only at Harvester Works and Seeding. IASCOE has to confirm the tour count by MARCH 1, 2010!

SHELTERED REALITY

Saturday, March 20, 2010: 1:00pm at the hotel

www.sheltered-reality.org

Began in late 1996 as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, Sheltered Reality (SR) has dedicated itself to being a youth-oriented project, where youth members in SR use music and education as a way to reach out to audiences, motivating them to advocate for those in need, especially children and families. The educational message presented focuses on facts, statistics, and real-life stories, and culminates with character education and ideas for action. SR's unique percussive approach to performing music inspires the audience members to 'take on the world' and ensures that the message 'doing good is fun' is remembered by all in attendance.

Sheltered Reality (SR) employs the power of music to engage and motivate audiences to make positive changes both in themselves and the world they live in. Through stories of hardship and triumph, and a sequence of Steps of Success, SR teaches personal empowerment and character building, and then encourages the application of these abilities to its primary focus of advocacy for youth in crisis.







IASCOE CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 20, 2010: Noon at the hotel

Did you realize that IASCOE was formed at a meeting in Sullivan, Illinois on May 21, 1960? The President was Daniel P. Seastrand from Mercer County and the Secretary-Treasurer was Hazel V. Hankla from Union County. Dues were set at \$14.00 for the Office Manager, \$7.00 for other employees, and \$1.00 for County Committeeman as an Associate Member. The first financial report from May 27, 1960 – January 31, 1961 had a balance of \$504.71. The Illinois Association of ASCS County Office Employees held the first annual meeting at the St. Nicholas Hotel, Springfield, Illinois on January 20, 1962, with President Mr. Robert Miller addressing the group. Hazel Hankla, Secretary-Treasurer, gave a report that there were 223 members for the 1961 fiscal year and 225 members for the 1962 fiscal year.

PRE REGISTRATION

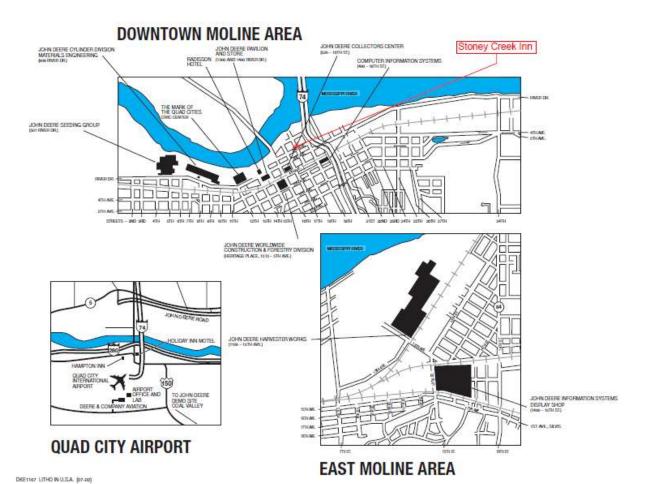
Name:		<u># of</u> People		<u>Total</u>
	Convention Registration		x \$5. ⁰⁰	\$.
Guest:	(Friday & Sat. Activities)		۸ ۷۵.	Ÿ·
State: County:				
	Saturday Luncheon Meal		00	
	**Friday John Deere		x \$25 ⁰⁰	\$
	Tour: # attending**			
	Grand Total			\$

I am a member of:

□ IASCOE □ IACS □ IAFEC □ RASCOE □ State Assoc. □ Guest

Please detach and return to Charlene Neukomm~202 S. 4th St.~ Cissna Park, IL 60924. Checks may be made payable to IASCOE. *All registrations received or postmarked by March 1, 2010, will be eligible for a \$25 drawing.*

JOHN DEERE TOUR WILL LEAVE THE HOTEL AT 12:10PM ON FRIDAY and RETURN BACK TO THE HOTEL BY 2:15PM. John Deere needs the tour count by March 1, 2010.



Pre-Registration Form

OASCOE CONVENTION/MWA RALLY\2010

Check if this is your first time attending!

WHEN – April 9th & 10th 2010

TOTAL ENCLOSED

WHERE - Cherry Valley Lodge

2299 Cherry Valley Road Newark, Ohio 43055 800-788-8008

CELEBRATE OHIO'S 50TH

https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g reservation.cfm?groupID=373115&hotelID=10327 (you can use this link to register for your hotel room on line-use attendee code 11432)

ROOMS – 90.00 per night plus tax, contact the hotel for reservations by March 9, 2010

FRIDAY: Registration/Hospitality Room/DJ-dancing!!!! Hawaiian Theme / OASCOE's 50TH ANNIVERSARY

OASCOE'S MEETING FOLLOWED BY THE MWA MEETING **SATURDAY:** (SPEAKERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON! The FSA Administrator has been invited!!!!)

*********	*****************
For Pre-Registration, please Dennis Stryker	e complete the following and return to:
5738 N. State Route 721	
Bradford, OH 45308	
BY MARCH 25, 2010	
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
COUNTY OFFICE/STATE: Arrival date/time/airline:	FLIGHT INFORMATION:
	Departure date/time:
We will shuttle!!!!!!	
DELEGATE? Circle YES or NO	
# Of people attending:	
Friday Night:	\$5.00 includes hospitality room and pizza
Saturday:	\$20.00 includes continental breakfast & lunch

Make checks payable to OASCOE

\$5.00 late fee on registrations post marked after March 25t