

**The Iowa Association Of FSA
County Office Employees**

**IASCOE
NEWS**

*June 2002
Newsletter*



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IASCOE PRESIDENTS REPORT

BY JOHN LANDGRAF - IASCOE PRESIDENT

JUNE 2002

Hello Membership,

With implementation of a new Farm Bill directly before us there is a lot of anxious anticipation throughout the workforce that this new bill will most certainly bring on an unimaginable amount of workload. As we wait for program details and go about our daily routines processing loan repayments, crop reports, CRP applications and that tract reconciliation report; the thought that we might have to take on more than we are already doing can be a bit overwhelming. To get a perspective on the adjustment we are about to experience it might be a good idea to take a look at how we adapted to the changes and workload associated with previous Farm Bills.

How did we do it before? I remember previous Farm Bills as being very complex requiring a lot of hard work. I also remember that, after feeling the usual aches and pains of transition, we were quite successful in the end. So what does this Agency have that makes it so effective? I think the success of any business is directly related to the quality and efficient use of its assets. The Farm Service Agency's greatest asset is the people that work within it. These people have skills, capabilities, capacities and a work ethic that is the envy of other business and service organizations in both

government and the private sector. I see a workforce that has, during my 15 years, implemented 3 Farm Bills. Some more complex than others but all of them had new programs, new handbook procedure and new software. Those Farm Bills gave us new compliance, payment limitation, price support and conservation programs along with a dairy buyout and pik certificates. Those new programs had new forms like the AD-1026, the CCC-502 and the CRP-1. We worked with new and different procedure like setaside acres, CU acres, CU for pay, 0/92, rotating CABs and a corn bonus. I remember working around the clock shifts printing a crop disaster letter and processing multiple years of low yield crop disaster and ECP applications when it either rained too much or not enough. That's how I remember we did it before. We efficiently used our high quality assets. Looking back at your track record it's no wonder you've been labeled the Can Do Agency.

I think when you recognize how you successfully implemented past Farm Bills it makes it a little easier to be less apprehensive about the next one.

Have a good summer and don't forget to take a vacation.

Landgraf

EVEN IF YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, YOU'LL GET RUN OVER IF YOU JUST SIT THERE.

Vice Presidents Report

Thoughts From Down the "Lane"

By Tom Lane - IASCOE Vice President

June 2002

Spring is well under way and the busy days of summer are coming up fast. With the passage of the farm bill, those summer days will get busier. I know that you will take the challenge at hand and master it with grace, style and confidence!

While waiting to present my portion of the program at a workshop for School-To-Work educators, I received a document entitled 10 Points on Attitude. The document was intended to help high school students fashion positive work ethics and attitudes. As I reviewed the document, it struck me that these points can help us through everyday life. I would like to share them with you:

10 POINTS ON ATTITUDE

1. Your attitude at the beginning of a task will affect its outcome more than anything else.
2. Your attitude toward life determines life's attitude toward you.
3. Before you can achieve the kind of life you want, you must think, act walk, talk and conduct yourself in all matters as the person you would wish to become.
4. Hold successful, positive thoughts in your mind.
5. Always make people feel important, needed and accepted, and they will return the same to you.
6. Part of a good attitude is to look for the best in new ideas and to look for good ideas everywhere.
7. Look for the best in everyone. There is good in the worst of us, and bad in the best of us. What you look for is what you see.
8. Don't talk about your health unless it's good.
9. Radiate the attitude of well-being and confidence—like a person who knows where they are going.
10. Treat everyone with whom you come in contact as the most important person on earth.

Have a good summer and get away from the office for some R & R!!!!

Tom

Midwest Area News - May 2002

Trice Smith - Midwest Area Exec

2187 71st St - Van Horne, IA 52346

Email: toldberg@netins.net

319-472-5274 Ext. 105 (work)

Hello Midwest Area Members!

Hope things are well in your area. Areas of the MW are experiencing a lot of flooding and we still have cold weather, making the planting season very tough for all. We are all hoping that the rain subsides soon to prevent disasters, although I am afraid that some counties will be declared disasters already.

I have a few things to report on. I am sorry that this is late, but like everyone else I have "other duties as assigned" so it makes it difficult to adhere to the reporting schedule as I promised.

Please share this report with all your members by web site, e-mail, or mailing. Thanks for all your cooperation.

STAFFING:

I know that your office is as busy as ours getting ready to implement the new Farm Bill. You are reconciling tracts, the phone is ringing off the hook with questions, and you are just trying to keep your head above the water. Take a deep breath and then do not forget to breathe out!! Hopefully there will be help on the way. Congress did give us \$55 Million in mandatory CCC funds of which 8% of that will be used for IT and other things. This is a long way from the figures that NASCOE feels the county offices need to administer the new Farm Bill. Dr. Penn has asked OMB for another \$100 M above the 55 for some permanent and more temporary staffing. As details start to hit the county offices we would like to be ready with staffing available to complete all aspects of the new programs. Your NASCOE President has been in contact with FSA Administrator Jim Little expressing our concerns in this area. Mr. Little says it is his top priority right now in his meetings with OMB. So stay tuned and I will give you updates as I receive them.

NEGOTIATIONS:

Your MWA Consultant Mark Van Hoose from Ohio and I traveled to DC on May 4th to attend NASCOE meetings and the Negotiation / Consultation Session. The Officers, Execs and consultants spent all day on Sunday going over the items we were to present to management on Monday and Tuesday. We went over each item

individually and formulated what our response to Management was to be. Monday we traveled to the USDA South building for the Negotiating Session. Those from the agency that were sitting in on the Negotiating session are as follows:

Doug Frago, John Chott, & Phil Brockman-EDSO
John Williams-DAM
Frank Riley, Bill Tito, Don Samuels-HRD

Teresa Lasseter and Verle Lanier (Associate Administrators) came over from the Whitten Bldg to give our group their welcomes. After introductions from the group the negotiations began. I cannot give you the results of the session until I get the official write-up of the results that Charollette and Bill Tito typed up after the meeting. But I can tell you that Management was very responsive to our concerns and it was refreshing to work with people that are open minded and will do within their parameters what they can to make our jobs easier. We spent the whole day on Monday and then Tuesday until noon.

Mark did a great job in representing **all** members of the MWA. He was well prepared for the meeting and presented his items very effectively. Thank you Mark from all the members in the MWA.

PT CLASSIFICATION:

Of course this was one of our Negotiating items again this year. We expressed our concerns for having a task force that had been negotiated and agreed upon in prior years. Doug Frago stated that the meeting had been agreed upon and that a task force would be formulated comprising of 4 CO and 4 GS people for sometime in June. Randy is now making decisions on who would be serving on this task force. He is trying to get a variety of PT's from all sizes and types of offices. I have given Randy and Steve the names of everyone who has contacted me wanting to serve on this task force but if you do not get chosen please be assured that we still need your help.

NASCOE did receive the classifications back from the classifier that we hired. MOST jobs did come back at a higher grade. The one thing we have to remember is we have many, many,

combinations of programs put together and I sent only 4 of them for Katz to review. NASCOE does believe that there are positions out there that are not properly classified. More details on the Task Force as they become available. We did meet with Mr. Katz in Elizabeth Newman's (NASCOE Lawyer) office on Wednesday afternoon to discuss some issues we had with classification.

E-FILING:

Wednesday NADD, NACS, NASE, and NASCOE representatives in DC went over to the Whitten Building and viewed a presentation on E-Filing and E-Gov by Marty Trambarger and Dan Stuart. It was a very good presentation and we were able to ask questions about the process. The agency has worked very hard to get this completed in time for the June deadline. OMNI forms are now being converted to ADOBE and FSA developed a way to save the form where the producer can go back in and complete and then submit it. One thing they did say was the "Web Person" in the county office that will handle E-file and the SCIMS person cannot be the same. This must be a different person because of conflict of interest. They also stated that the E-Gov coordinators in the STO's will be trained soon. NASCOE made it very clear to all that we were not against E-File or E-Gov and that we were supportive of this initiative. Being understaffed and causing the county offices more work than the process presently does is not something that we can support.

MEETING WITH MR. JIM LITTLE:

Thursday morning the Officers and Execs met with the Administrator in his office. President Cook thanked Mr. Little for the job he has been doing and the good people that he has chosen to surround him. Randy stated that morale in the county offices has seemed to come up since the last administration and hopefully that will continue. We expressed the concern for more permanent staffing. Mr. Little said that the agency was pushing for more permanent staffing than temporary. OMB is willing to provide some permanents (not as much as our position papers state) but they are still concerned that we can do business better. Administrative convergence and office closures were still in the picture.

We expressed concerns for computer availability for temps and also the repairs of computers in certain states. There seems to be a "computer depot" that no one knows about, so we asked for him to get that info to the states so we could utilize it if needed.

The Business Needs Task force meeting results were given to Mr. Little and he had sent them out to the different departments to be working on.

Mr. Little asked one thing of NASCOE and that was to please give E-LDP filing a chance. That these were pilots and that the agency needs our input on the workings. We agreed and Randy expressed the concern of more work involved in this process.

OFFICE CLOSURES:

I know that you have all heard about office closures. We have been told by many that this is not just FSA offices but also could include stand alone NRCS offices and some Forestry etc. so it is all USDA. OMB is asking for the implementation of the office closures as a part of receiving funding.

MEETING WITH DAVID SENTER:

While in DC NASCOE officers and Execs did have a short meeting with David Senter our Legislative consultant. He seems to be doing well after his by-pass but this was his very first meeting after his surgery.

David discussed what he thought congress will do now with supplemental and disaster bills.

He also said that he was working on getting an appointment with Chuck Conners the White House Ag liaison. As of this writing David did have the meeting with Mr. Conners and said it went well. He expressed the dangers of the under staffing and the danger of putting on staff too late that checks may be late in hitting the mailboxes of our producers. He presented our position papers on staffing levels needed to Mr. Conners.

We wish David good luck for a complete recovery.

CONSENT DECREE:

Chuck Land and I made a visit over to see some friends that are working in the Cotton Bldg. on the consent decree. This is finally winding down and they are training paralegal to do much of the work that is left. There will still be a small team of county office people that will still be involved.

NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS:

Do not forget to make your reservations to the National Convention July 17-20 in St. Paul.

Reservations must be made by June 15th. Anyone who registers by June 15th will be eligible for a \$100.00 drawing. Minnesota members are making all sorts of plans to make this trip enjoyable for all. Sign up for the tour of your choice before they fill up.

CONVENTION Subsistence by NASCOE:

Please let your State Secretary know that June 1st is the deadline to figure the subsistence that

NASCOE will give to the states for their delegates to attend the National Convention. The subsistence is figured off of total membership as of June 1st, so if you are behind in sending in your dues you may want to get that done this week.

NASCOE FOLDERS:

As you all remember, at last years National Convention Cindy Peterson presented a template of a folder to use in NASCOE visits with congressmen, coalition groups or anywhere we needed to make a contact. These folders have now been printed and will be ready for you at the National Convention. Each state will be provided free of charge 20 folders or folders representing 10% of your state membership whichever is greater. Any other folders needed by the state can be purchased by the state at \$.75 per folder. These turned out very nice and will be very helpful and make our presentations look much more professional. Please be prepared to pick these up at the convention.

MWA RALLY:

The MWA Rally was April 19-20 in Missouri. I want to thank the Missouri membership for the well-planned Rally and all delegates and out of state guests for attending. The hospitality, decorations, and activities were superb. I know this takes many people to put on a Rally and thanks to all of you that contributed. NASCOE Vice-President Steve Morrison, Secretary Charolette Saunders, and MWA Legislative Chair Dan Root were our NASCOE Speakers. Guest speaker from Washington was the Acting Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs (DAFP) Diane Sharp. Diane gave a very good speech about the Farm Bill and what had been completed at the time. Her department was already working on the Tract reconciliation process to get out to the

county offices. She stated that they realize in DC our staffing problems and that implementation of the Farm Bill will be almost impossible without some more permanent and temporary staffing. Saturday evening ended with the banquet decorated in the Patriotic theme and the presentation of the MWA awards. They were presented as follows:

Service to FSA/Agriculture

Tom Oasen - Wisconsin

Service to NASCOE

Darlene Schouten - Minnesota

Community Service

Robert Wegand - Iowa

MWA Scholarship Winner

Abby M Borgmeyer - Missouri

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners!!

There were many well deserving people in the MWA it is very hard to pick the winners but the judges did a very good job. GOOD LUCK at winning the National Awards.

Secretary Mailing:

Charolette will be sending out a mailing to all the county offices in the next couple of weeks. There will be a lot of info in that for you review. Candidacy announcements and list of delegates will be included in this mailing. If you have any questions give me a call.

This is it for now. As always you may contact me with any questions or concerns that you have. Please make your reservations for the National Convention, as you will not want to miss this one. Enjoy the summer and see you in ST Paul!!

Trice Smith

Midwest Area Exec

**The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time,
but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.**

THE TRUTH IN 13 WORDS...
*Inside every older person is a younger
person wondering what the hell happened?*

WINNESHIEK COUNTY FACTS

Most Talked About Tourist Attraction In The County

Vesterheim Museum in Decorah---largest Norwegian Museum in the US
Porter House Museum in Decorah
Bily Clocks in Spillville
Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Burr Oak

Least Known Tourist Attraction/Event In The County

Cold Water Cave—North of Decorah
Hotel Winneshiek in Decorah—completely refurbished hotel brought back to its original grandeur of the 1930's. Absolutely breathtaking!

Best Tavern Burger/Best Food

Mabe's Pizza---famous the world over---located in Decorah
T-Bock's Sports Bar and Grill—Decorah
The Mint in Protivin---All you can eat chicken on Wednesday night—people come from counties around for this!

Prettiest Drive

Canoeing the Upper Iowa River from Kendallville to Decorah
Scenic Drive from Decorah, to Bluffton, to Burr Oak, to Kendallville

Best Kept Secret

Trout Hatchery at Decorah
Light Up the Bluff Event in Bluffton—Big name country and western bands in a natural setting---last weekend of July.
Café Deluxe---Underground in Decorah

Unusual Events To Attend

Rendezvous Days in Fort Atkinson—if you want to see some buckskin, this is the place to be the last weekend of September. This is the only fort built in the US that was to protect Indians from Indians.

Nordic Fest in Decorah held July 25, 26 and 27, 2002. If you are Norwegian or a “wannabee” come and enjoy the ethnic foods, costumes, parade, antique show, sporting events and more.

Interesting History Fact

One of a kind cemetery markers at St. Wenceslaus in Spillville

Healthiest Thing To Do In The County

Biking, of course, down the Dug Road Trail or the Prairie Farmer's Trail. This trail leads you from Calmar to Cresco along the old rail bed. Gorgeous scenery on your way.

Trout fishing in the Upper Iowa River and its tributaries.

Best Picnic Spot

Phelp's Park in Decorah, overlooking the Upper Iowa and portions of Decorah.

NEWS FROM TAYLOR COUNTY

Taylor County, like all Iowa counties, has been very busy getting ready to implement the new farm bill by working on the tract listings. In our spare time we are also certifying, doing last minute LDP's and loans, paying EQIP contract, and approving CRP filter strip contracts.

Denise Sleep, our Price Support PT, had her first graduation party in May. They had a very nice outdoor reception at their home for Russele. His plans are to attend Northeast Nebraska Community College in Norfolk, majoring in livestock management.

Sue Beemer, Compliance PT, has recently moved into a new home at Mozingo Lake in Maryville, MO. She has used almost all of her annual leave hanging sheetrock, painting, staining woodwork and helping her husband, Paul, do the finish work on the house. She is currently accepting any leave donations so she can have a few days off during the rest of the year. HA!!

Tina Reineke, daughter of Phyllis Reineke, our Production Adjustment PT, has received numerous college scholarships this year. Tina is in her senior year at NWMSU in Maryville, majoring in Elementary Education.

Bob and Carole Dawson, our CPT were recently featured in our local newspaper as the proud parents of a 70 lb baby buffalo. They currently have a herd of 17 and are involved in the Iowa Buffalo Association.

Dedra Buch, our CRP PT, is a busy mother of three. She has been attending gymnastics, dance recitals, soccer games, T-ball and vacation Bible School.

Our CED, Jacque Lenhart, is busy traveling with her husband and 2 children rodeoing.

We wish you all a great summer and Merry Christmas because with the new farm bill we won't have time to write again.

AGE DOESN'T ALWAYS BRING WISDOM. SOMETIMES AGE COMES ALONE.

Union County

Welcome to Union County Iowa's High Lakes Country

Union County is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts with five lakes within ten minutes of the city of Creston. If you enjoy water activities, we have the lakes available.

McKinley Lake is located near McKinley Park on Creston's west side. Green Valley State Park offers boating, fishing, water skiing, hiking, swimming and camping. This 360-acre lake and 990-acre state park are located two miles northwest of Creston. Summit Lake, west of Creston, offers great fishing, as does Twelve Mile Lake. Twelve Mile Lake is a 650-acre lake located east of Creston that brings in fishermen from all over the state. Three Mile Lake, a 866-acre recreation lake located eight miles east of Creston also offers camping, fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, and hiking. Cabins are also available year-round.

Union County also has one of the oldest man-made lakes in Iowa near the town of Thayer. The lake was originally built by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad in 1870 as a water supply for steam locomotives. Primitive camping is allowed anywhere around this 10-acre spring-fed lake and 47-acre nature area. Pitch your tent or bring your camper, electrical hook-ups are available. Fishing boats are allowed, but regulars do just as well angling from the shoreline.

*NEVER BE AFRAID TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.
REMEMBER AMATEURS BUILT THE ARK.
PROFESSIONALS BUILT THE TITANIC.*

RINGGOLD COUNTY

Ringgold County is located in the bottom tier of counties in Iowa and is the fourth Iowa county east of the Missouri River. Ringgold County has 10 communities that include the towns of Beaconsfield, Benton, Delphos, Diagonal, Ellston, Kellerton, Maloy, Mount Ayr, Redding, and Tingley.

MOUNT AYR is the county seat and sits along the intersection of Highways #169 and #2. Mount Ayr has top educational facilities, a hospital, numerous churches and recreational opportunities.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS in Ringgold County include: the Ringgold County Courthouse in Mount Ayr; the Mount Ayr Public Library; the Diagonal Printing Museum; the Ringgold County Display of Military and Civil History (2nd floor of the courthouse); the Ringgold County Pioneer Center and Old Telephone Factory Museum in Ellston; the Lee Shay Farmhouse in rural Maloy; and the Dragoon Trace - Motor Tour (The trace was used by the Sac and Mesquakie Indians when they were forced to leave Iowa)

RINGGOLD COUNTY features some of the top hunting and fishing areas in Southern Iowa. Hunting, fishing, and other recreation areas located in Ringgold County include: the Ringgold Wildlife Area (1,040 acres); the Sand Creek Wildlife Area (1,835 acres); the Mount Ayr Wildlife Area (1,158 acres); Sun Valley Lake (500 private lake); Poe Hollow Park; Fife's Grove Park; Kokesh Park; the Ringgold Trailway; the Maple Leaf Trail; and the Marlin E. Fogle Recreation Area (44 acre public lake).

A Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my shape to keep
Please no wrinkles, please no bags
And, please lift my butt before it sags
Please no age spots, please no gray
And, as for my belly, please take it away
Please keep me healthy, please keep me young
And, thank you Dear Lord for all that you've done!

BUCHANAN COUNTY FACTS

Most Talked About Tourist Attraction In The County

Wapsipinicon Mill, a historic 6-story gristmill & museum located at 100 1st St E, Independence. Original mill machinery including millstones, grain bins, elevators, chutes, belts and pulleys are on display along with many agriculture displays, photos and hands on exhibits. 319-334-4182

Least Known Tourist Attraction/Event In The County

Fort Pentecost, small replica of an old Texas Town located at 1591 Grant Ave, Independence. The “fort” includes a miniature hotel, general store, a church, a cabin where many visitors have spent the night, a school, and a jail with real cells. The fort is surrounded by a wooden fence and two towers. There is a playground, volleyball area, trampoline, picnic tables and a campfire pit. 319-334-3273

Best Tavern Burger/Best Food

Auf dem Lande Restaurant “In the Country” 1751 150th St, Hazleton. 3 miles south on Hwy 150 then ½ mile west on 150th St. 319-636-2815

Prettiest Drive

A drive through the Amish country is like a step back in time. The Amish are very devout and private people. They do not pose for pictures. Amish area maps are available at our local Chamber of Commerce office. 319-334-7178

Best Kept Secret

It’s kept so well we don’t know what it is.

Unusual Events To Attend

The Cedar Rock State Park, 211 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd., in Quasqueton, features the vacation home of the Lowell Walter family. The home was designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. 319-934-3572

Interesting History Fact

Independence in the 1880’s was known as the “Lexington of the North.” Sulky horseracing was a very important attraction and sport in Independence during that era. Horse racing enthusiasts came from all over the country to watch and “bet” or to race their horses on Independence’s unique kite shaped track. Record-breaking times were recorded from this track.

Healthiest Thing To Do In The County

Hike through Buchanan County’s prairies and wildlife habitat areas or preserves. Maps are available at the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center, 319-636-2617.

Best Picnic Spot

Fontana Park, 1883 125th St, Hazleton. After your picnic you can visit the parks Interpretive Nature Center featuring hands on displays, dioramas and outdoor wildlife exhibits. 319-636-2617

2002 Distinguished Service Awards

Service To Agriculture Award

The following is the letter that nominated Julie Hall, CED of Kossuth County for the Service To Agriculture Award. She received this award at the 2002 IASCOE/IACS/IASE Convention in Fort Dodge on April 6th.

I would like to nominate Julie Hall, CED of Kossuth County for the Service to Agriculture Award.

In her 7 years as CED in Kossuth County, Julie has proven to be a loyal team player with proven interpersonal, communication, and presentation skills. She maintains a weekly radio show, which is precise in explaining the rules and regulations of the farm programs to the area farmers and the community. She speaks to the producers about all areas of the farm programs in terms that they will understand. She repeats the same weekly information in the local newspapers to help broaden her audience. Julie is responsible for the liaison work between our elevators and producers. She assists in planning and conducting seminars for local elevators and producers. She acts as a spokesperson for Agriculture through crop insurance agents and community minded people by keeping them abreast of the changes in USDA/Farm Service Agency.

Julie is the past president of the Kiwanis in Algona which oversees numerous fund raising activities which includes but not limited to; labor and foundation of new playground equipment, detassling, Donut



Mobile, sales of Christmas wreaths and many more activities. She is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and participates in events such as the annual Town & County Breakfast and annual agricultural awards nights.

She is skilled in political processes and has been guest speaker for several events for Crop Insurance, Bankers and Warehouseman meetings.

Julie works with and supports the FFA Chapters and area 4-H clubs in the community. She is energetic and self motivated, able to handle multiple projects simultaneously and manage time efficiently.

Besides her duties at the FSA office, she provided labor and management in her family farming operation. She makes time to be a wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, craftsman, agricultural leader along with being a community volunteer and friend.

Our farming community is well informed and well represented by Julie Hall.

Submitted By Shelly Kohlhaas
PT Kossuth County

2002 Distinguished Service Awards

Service To IASCOE/NASCOE Award

The following is the letter that nominated Terry Pauling, CED of Warren County for the Service To IASCOE/NASCOE Award. He received this award at the 2002 IASCOE/IACS/IASE Convention in Fort Dodge on April 6th.



A quiet man, his appearance is distinguished and his voice is soft. That was my first impression of Terry Pauling. He was a PA in Osceola County, and he came to our county office to teach us how to enhance our skills on textdoc.

He began his career with FSA in 1985. He entered the COT program and became CED in Warren County in 1991. He and his four permanent member staff administer programs for 1600 enrolled farms; there are a total of 2400 farms in the county. Warren County also maintains 1100 CRP contracts.

Community involvement includes being an active member of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, being President of Rotary Club, and being a member of the Garden Club. His wife, Carolyn is a professor at Grandview College.

I would like to nominate this respected and dedicated IASCOE member and fellow FSA employee for Service to IASCOE. Along with all his other interests he has been an active member in our IASCOE organization. He has been a member ever since he became a permanent FSA/ASCS employee. Before becoming an IASCOE director, he served on the awards committee for several years. He was elected as director for District 8 in 1999, and was re-elected in 2001. His service on Benefits and Legislation has benefited all members of IASCOE. He is co-chairperson on this committee. Terry has worked hard to keep us informed on farm bill policy and other legislation. He has kept us informed of NASCOE benefits. He has forwarded information regularly by e-mail. He spends many hours of his personal time to forward information. Many times the messages have been sent late at night. Terry's effort in keeping IASCOE members informed of Legislation issues is unprecedented in IASCOE.

He attended the NASCOE Legislative Conference held in Washington DC in April 2001. Terry's effort in developing booklets and handouts for Iowa's members of Congress added to the professionalism of our mission. He and his co-chair did an excellent job of compiling information for the rest of the Iowa delegation to the Conference. They contacted congressmen and set up appointments with congressional offices so that NASCOE concerns for our membership, and current and future farm policy could be heard from the grass root level. In September 1999, the IASCOE Board of Directors voted to research the possibility of having our own web site. Terry volunteered his knowledge, expertise and untold hours of personal time to make the IASCOE web site a reality. By April 2000 our state organization had it's own web site which could be accessed through the NASCOE site or by logging on directly to Iowa's own address.

This has been an excellent tool for notifying our membership of important issues that affect NASCOE and FSA. Due in a large part to the effort of Terry Pauling, IASCOE members are able to keep up to date in the always changing environment of USDA, and NASCOE's efforts at making its members a vital part in administering agriculture programs for the farmers and ranchers of America.

I respectfully submit this nomination to recognize Terry Pauling's dedication, effort and enthusiasm for the betterment of IASCOE and its members.

Respectfully submitted,
Roselyn Kahl

2002 Distinguished Service Awards

Distinguished Service Award For Community Service

The following is the letter that nominated Robert Wegand, CED of Grundy County for the Distinguished Service Award for Community Service. He received this award at the 2002 IASCOE/IACS/IASE Convention in Fort Dodge on April 6th. Robert also won the Community Service Award for the Midwest Area. This was presented at the MWA Rally in St. Louis on April 19 & 20.



When I first sat down to do this award nomination, I had a hard time deciding what category to nominate this person. I have known this person for 15 years and have worked with him on several committees of IASCOE. We attended the 2001 Legislative conference in Washington DC with 7 other members from Iowa.

Whenever I have attended a meeting, Bob has always brought up excellent points and is always looking for ways for solutions that would benefit the producers in his county. He never questions others abilities and is very serious when it comes to the operation of the FSA County offices and the services they provide to all producers, large and small scale. After speaking to his wife Nancy, I learned a lot more about Bob and his connections to family and his community. He has held several positions with IASCOE as a committee person, director, alternate director and Senator Grassley's Legislative Contact person. With his desire to make Grundy Center a better place to live and raise a family, he has participated in many volunteer capacities. Listed below are a few areas that Bob regularly contributes his time and talents to:

Town and Country Golf Course

Member 20 years
Board Member 91-93
Vice President 92
President 93
Tree Committee Member – since conception
Junior Golf Clinic Assistant – since conception
Landscaping Project Chairperson – 3 years
Various Tournament Committee Chairperson through the years

Kiwanis

Member since May 1987
Vice President 1993 and 1994
President October 1996 through September 1997
Being a member includes delivery of Holiday food boxes, preschool yard upkeep and various other fundraisers plus a lot of other things.

Continued...

Football Officiating

Certified Football Official - 6+ years
(I don't know if it is called Certified or not but he had to pass all the officiating tests)
Does UNI Spring Football Game – volunteers

Area Elementary Basketball

Volunteer as a Ref

Grundy Center Spartan Junior Wrestling Invitational

Volunteer

Grundy Center Minnehaha Creek Project

Committee Member (includes laborer and time) working with NRCS since project conception

Grundy Center United Methodist Church

Member since 1989
Includes various and numerous activities

Grundy Center Felix Grundy Days

Various committee duties through the 12 years

Grundy Center - CENTER Theatre

Board Member 1999, 2000, 2001 and now again for 2002, 2003 and 2004
Board Vice President 2000
Board President 2001
Has helped with phone-a-thon for many years
Has helped with remodeling

As you can see from the above listing, this person well deserves the Distinguished Community Service Award. I respectfully submit the name of Robert Wegand. He has been very busy as a CED for 20 years with FSA, IASCOE/NASCOE, his family and his involvement within his community.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Eibey
Delaware County FSA Office

**You don't stop laughing because you grow old;
you grow old because you stopped laughing.**

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

2002 Sick Leave Awards

The following employees were recognized for their accrued sick leave hours at the 2002 IASCOE/IACS/IASE Convention in Fort Dodge on April 6th 2002.

1000 HOURS

<i>JANICE EMERY</i>	<i>AUDBON</i>
<i>ROGER BERG</i>	<i>CARROLL</i>
<i>DIANNE K MANN</i>	<i>HARRISON</i>
<i>LISA CLAUSEN</i>	<i>CRAWFORD</i>
<i>LUANNE YOUNGKIN</i>	<i>CRAWFORD</i>
<i>SHERYL PODEY</i>	<i>CRAWFORD</i>
<i>CHERYL NICKOLISEN</i>	<i>MONONA</i>
<i>DAVID HOAGLUND</i>	<i>MONONA</i>
<i>DALE A BEHREND</i>	<i>GUTHRIE</i>
<i>LEE ANN DAVIS</i>	<i>GUTHRIE</i>
<i>PATRICIA MILDENSTEIN</i>	<i>IDA</i>
<i>KENT KLUVER</i>	<i>DELAWARE</i>
<i>WINIFRED REIS</i>	<i>HOWARD</i>
<i>CONNIE STRAW</i>	<i>HOWARD</i>
<i>JEANINE CHRISTENSEN</i>	<i>CASS</i>
<i>DEBORAH LANGE</i>	<i>JONES</i>
<i>DEBRA TOENGES</i>	<i>BREMER</i>

1500 HOURS

<i>KIM PATTERSON</i>	<i>GUTHRIE</i>
<i>SHERI WETZEL</i>	<i>GUTHRIE</i>
<i>LINDA HANSON</i>	<i>IDA</i>
<i>GARY LARSON</i>	<i>JONES</i>
<i>LARRY BEHNKE</i>	<i>BREMER</i>
<i>JUDY HANKEN</i>	<i>JACKSON</i>

2000 HOURS

<i>STEVE CARSON</i>	<i>JOHNSON</i>
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3000 HOURS

<i>MARVIN WAECHTER</i>	<i>POWESHIEK</i>
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2002 Convention Raffle Winners



\$250.00 - Carole Dawson, Taylor Co,
\$100.00 - Jeanine Christensen, Cass Co.
\$25.00 - Cindy Bebout, Fremont Co.
\$25.00 - Renee Schultz, Cedar Co..
\$25.00 - Twyla Brede, Dallas Co.
\$25.00 - Sheila Smith, Delaware Co.

An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world.
A pessimist fears that this is true.

Marshall County Baby News



Marshall County has seen the biggest and brightest smiles ever on 2 very special faces in 2001! Why? Because Irene Strickler and Alan Hilleman both became elated grandparents for the first time! We would like to share the pictures of their beautiful grandsons with you.



Kaleb Bennet Clarke

**Grandson of
Alan and Karen Hilleman**

Proud Parents - Scott and Kristine Clarke
Birth Date: November 23, 2001
Weight: 8 lbs. & 7 ozs.
Length: 20 ½"
Pictured at 2 months



Joseph Michael Strickler

**Grandson of Irene and
Alan Strickler**

Proud Parents - Jamie and Suzanne Strickler
Birth Date: September 13, 2001
Weight: 8 lbs. & 14 ozs.
Length: 19 ½"
Pictured at almost 3 months

So, you can see by looking at these beautiful baby boys why 2001 was such a great year for smiles at the Marshall County FSA Office. Their visits are always a joy for us all and the smiles are definitely contagious!

Submitted by: Kitty J Benda
Publicity Committee

Meditate This Direction



Submitted by
Dee Lehn
COT From Jefferson County

The newest city in Iowa is located in Jefferson County just two miles north of Fairfield. Maharishi Vedic City is the first new city established in the state in 19 years and is the 950th city in Iowa.

Every building in the city is designed according to Vedic Architecture with the unmistakable imprint of ancient India influence. The Maharishi Sthapatya Veda design promotes health, happiness and good fortune. Each building has an eastern entrance and has a center silent spot called a Brahmasthan along with a golden roof ornament called a kalash. The city even has its own currency called Raam Mudra and a its own language called Sanskrit, the language of nature.

Some special attractions of Maharisha Vedic City include the Raj Resort, which offers treatments for health, beauty and enlightenment. There are organic vegetarian restaurants and the Maharishi Vedic Observatory. In the future plans, are a golf course, botanical garden and a theme park featuring a magical world filled with illusions created by the late Doug Henning.

There is no other city like this in Iowa and quite possibly none other in the world. So if you're open to new experiences, meditate this direction and check out Maharisha Vedic City.

In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday

THE PERILS OF POLLY P.T.

PART FOUR

By Roseanne Woerner
PT From Wapello County

Visit our
website at
www.iascoe.org
for the first
three parts of
"The Perils of
Polly PT"

It is 7:15 a.m., a Monday morning, no less, when my boss, Stevie Corona, calls me into his office. This is not a normal thing. On Monday mornings, Stevie likes to be left alone, however, I am still in stupor-mode and the 32 oz coke that I pack in my hand like some kind of extended appendage, has done nothing to diminish my trancelike state.

I might interject here that Stevie went to Colorado last summer for a brief vacation and returned to us as a cowboy. I haven't seen him don a pair of khakis for almost eight months, nor have his feet known leather that is not genuine ostrich, in that same amount of time. He says that if he couldn't wear his ostrich boots, he would wear nothing. Just in case he means that literally, we are taking up a collection for his next pair. The 'nothing' connotation has us all pretty worried.

Stevie gestures me into a chair and says, "Have you heard about Hank?"

I shake my head as I muddle through a list of plausible reasons why I haven't seen Hank Gretcham, our field man, for a couple of weeks. He owns a farm, plus he helps a couple of his neighbors put in crops. It seems, that in all likelihood, he has just been too busy to stop by. "No," I say. "What's going on?"

"Hank's wife won some kind of extended Alaskan cruise," Stevie tells me. "It doesn't appear that he'll be available to help us out much this fall."

I'm thinking, so? Even though I only have a partially functioning brain at this point, I fail to see how this affects me. I would like to say as much, but I'm afraid of the answer, not to mention the fact that Stevie is a master manipulator and the more I say here, the easier it will be for him to trip me up. I stare at him. Admittedly, my mouth is gaping a bit, but at least I'm not drooling.

"We're going to need some help with field work," Stevie says.

"Field work?"

"Yeah, you know, what Hank does, like drive-by spot checks. Most of the stuff you've done before and certainly nothing you can't handle."

I am nodding my head when I have my first epiphany of the day. "Huh, who's going to measure bins?" I ask.

A slow smile spreads across Stevie's face. "That would be you," he says. "And thanks for volunteering."

"But I don't know how to measure bins."

He gives me a manly shrug. "No problem. Hank can show you how before he leaves."

"Why can't we hire someone else to do it?"

"Lack of funds, lack of available help. The list is endless."

"Then why can't you do it?"

Stevie eases back in his chair and props his feet on the desk. "The boots," he says. He leans over, and in an effort to wipe off a speck of dirt that isn't really there; he slides his thumb across the binding, where leather meets sole.

"You can't measure bins because of your boots?"

"The ostrich doesn't like heights and neither do I," he says.

"An ostrich is a bird."

"But have you ever seen one fly?"

In lieu of giving Stevie the response he truly deserves, I get up and walk out of his office. He is close on my heels, armed with all kinds of handy bin-measuring tools, a clipboard, a plat book, and a glow-in-the-dark tape measure that is large enough to do some damage, if I go with my gut feeling and through it at his head.

TO BE CONTINUED...

***IT'S FRUSTRATING WHEN YOU KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS,
BUT NOBODY BOTHERS TO ASK YOU THE QUESTIONS.***