

The Iowa Association Of FSA
County Office Employees

IASCOE

NEWS



June 2005

FROM THE DESK OF DERRYL MCLAREN, SED



Spring is almost over, and summer is upon us. The crops are in the ground, for the most part, and we will wait to see what Mother Nature has in store for us this year. Graduations are over, the kids are home, and the baseball diamonds will soon be full of little leaguers.

I am very proud of what you have accomplished so far this year, but we have four months left to make it a great year for FSA in Iowa. This is like the 7th inning stretch. We have scored a lot of runs in the first six innings, and our pitcher is throwing a shutout. We have completed 256,000 LDPs, 36,000 CCC loans, administered \$62 million in CDP, regained our position as the No. 1 farm loan making state, and we have GIS progressing at a steady pace. Congratulations, but our work isn't done.

The workload numbers we are amassing will benefit us for the next three years. That workload is in the bank; those runs are on the scoreboard. Now is not the time to let-up. We are not playing by the 10-run mercy rule. GIS is the icing on the cake, and we need to keep our eyes on the ball. Thank you for ignoring the distractions of the last few months that have threatened to interfere with our concentration. It has been like playing a game on the road, with the crowd noise, taunts, and jeers.

I will continue to keep you informed to the best of my knowledge. I won't kid you, though. The weather-person is predicting rain, but we are going to get the game in. I have recently described Iowa FSA as being an "island of tranquility" when compared to some other states. The budget is tight, but we have enough funds in Iowa to make it to the end of the year. We are operating under our combined employee ceilings in Iowa, but we have TO funds available to fill-in. We can't hire because other states can't reduce employment through attrition, alone. These states need additional personnel tools to correct their employment ceilings. FSA has requested OPM approval for targeted buy-outs and early-outs to reduce the employee levels in those states. I struggle to see where either of these tools would be offered in Iowa, since office consolidation appears to be off-the-table. The gathering clouds and predictions of rain, however, are indicative of the budget constraints for '05 and '06.

The game isn't over for this year, yet, so I encourage you to continue your diligent efforts. I am interested in scoring runs. We will continue to send our "big sticks" to the plate, and our starting pitcher is going to throw a complete game. You might want to look to the dugout once in a while, though. If I think you will get a fastball high-and-tight, I'll give you a signal so you can get out of the way.

Your attention to family and friends, however, is not a game. Take your personal time, visit your kids and grandchildren, and re-charge your batteries. When dealing with our producers, we are all ambassadors of FSA, so bring your "best game" to the office.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derryl McLaren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dee-liberations

By Dee Ann Lehn

IASCOE President & CED Keokuk County

Where do I start? That's the question I've been pushing around in my mind as I sit down to write this. This is my first year as a director and I find myself in the position of President. How did I let that happen anyway? Well, when we were having the directors' meeting to elect officers, I kept hearing of the lyrics from that country song, Not Me, by Keni Thomas playing over and over again in my mind. **"The world becomes a better place when someone steps forward when they'd rather say not me"** and so here I am—your president for the next 2 years.

It now looks like we can all breath just a little easier since the concept of office consolidations has been taken off the table, however, I do not think this is the time to become complacent and start feeling overly confident about the future for FSA is still bound to face some changes in the coming years. For now, we have been given the gift of time—time to start "tooting our own horn". Let's take this opportunity to let our administration in WDC and our congressional representatives know what we are doing now and what we are capable of doing in the future. We need to take a proactive approach to stay ahead of the game. We need to stop complaining about not being able to get our work done and start asking to be a part of any new programs that are introduced in the upcoming years.

I've always believed the anything worth having is worth fighting for. I believe our jobs are worth fighting for and I, for one, intend to do just that. I believe we as FSA employees offer valuable services to our clientele and I want to be able to continue to offer our clientele the high quality of service we have always provided. The more voices we have supporting our cause, the stronger our chances are of being heard.

One of the most effective tools we have as FSA employees is CAPWIZ. This newsletter contains instructions on how to register for CAPWIZ and explains what it can do for you and the difference you can make by using it. Please take the time to register for CAPWIZ *from your home computer*. It only takes a few minutes of your time. Remember also that anyone can register for CAPWIZ—not just NASCOE members.

So I'm asking all of you to **step forward** and together we can make our world a better place.

Dee

-----IASCOE-----

The cover photo was taken by Brian Beach - IASCOE Webmaster and P. T. Sac County

FSA Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow?

*By Steve Kennedy – IASCOE Vice-President
& CED Jasper County*

Perhaps you've been hearing the term "FSA Tomorrow". What does it mean and should you be concerned? Add to the mix the words "office closures", "buyouts", and "RIF's" and it is hard not to be worried. Recently we have been informed that the "FSA Tomorrow" plan has been shelved. We have been told the plan is just a concept. Ever feel like you are riding along on a roller coaster?

First, there will be a FSA "tomorrow". Whether it will resemble the current concept, I don't know. One thing is for sure; tomorrow will be different than today. Change is inevitable (except in vending machines). It is not whether there will be a "tomorrow", but rather what will tomorrow look like.

Now some of you may be saying, "Well, whatever happens, happens. There isn't much I can do about it." I strongly disagree and to prove my point let me take you back to FSA "Yesterday". It was circa 1996, when the proposed plan was to close half the County offices in Iowa. It was at that time that NASCOE / IASCOE put the call out to rally the troops. Before long, congressional representatives, key members of commodity / livestock groups, and anyone else of influence were contacted. Hard questions concerning the plan started being asked. Finally the plan itself was dropped. Within a couple of years, county offices were faced with a new thing called a LDP. Along with an avalanche of LDP's, we had disaster payments, and a tremendously increased workload. Can you imagine what would have happened if half the offices in Iowa had been closed in 1996? I firmly believe that had it not been for the efforts of NASCOE members, that plan would have become a reality. The Administration and Agency should have thanked NASCOE for bringing to light the shortsightedness of such a plan.

So where does that leave us today? Tomorrow will come. The question is will you be a part of shaping the future or will you just sit by as a spectator? If you are not an IASCOE member, why not? If you are an IASCOE member, let me say thanks. Please make sure you stay aware of what the issues are. Become involved. Your Directors / Officers always welcome your comments.

Lastly, remember the words of Winston Churchill, "We must grasp change by the hand, or it will surely grab us by the throats".



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.

Greetings from your Secretary/Treasurer

I know summer has arrived because school is out, most of the crops are planted and it's CERTIFICATION time. Not only are we certifying but we are also signing up the stragglers in DCP, helping producers apply for CDP and LAP and putting the finishing touches on our CLU layer before we send it to Karen. The rest of the summer will be filled with everyone in the office taking annual leave, county fairs, the state fair, vacations and printing and mailing our maps to producers before October 1st. I also know June is here because it is time for IASCOE's annual membership drive. It is so very important for all employees to be members. For most of us the cost of membership is only \$2.50 a pay period or \$.25 a day. This amount is so small considering the huge impact IASCOE/NASCOE has on Washington and thus the future of FSA. IASCOE needs your support, so if you are not already a member, please consider doing so.

Enjoy the summer and take every opportunity to spend time with your family and friends.

Sue Beemer, PT Taylor County
IASCOE Secretary/Treasurer



I have a short and funny TRUE story that my little granddaughter was involved in.

Hanna is my animated little 4-year-old granddaughter, with a large vocabulary and a matter of fact attitude. While taking care of Hanna and her 2 year old little sister, Grace, the following incident happened.

I was helping Grace get dressed, and I commented, "Oh Grace, you look so cute in that outfit"! Hanna (the hilarious) soberly put her hands on her hips and said, "Gee Grandma Judy, What am I? CHIPPED LIVER?"



Brooke 10, Hanna 4, & Grace Vos 1 yr 10 mo
Daughters of Mark and Jenny Vos
Granddaughters of Lowell and Judy Vos

I did not laugh out loud, but had all I could do to keep from exploding on the inside. She is my little character. Gotta love her! This tickled me, and I hope it does you, too.

From "Grandma Judy"
Judy Vos, PT Woodbury County, Iowa

Midwest Area/Northwest Area Rally

Submitted by Dee Ann Lehn - IASCOE President & CED Keokuk County

The 2005 Rally has now come and gone. This year's rally held June 3 and 4, 2005, not only included the Midwest Area states but also the Northwest Area States. The rally was held at Lied Lodge and Conference Center located in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

The facility was indeed beautiful with Mother Nature herself providing the atmosphere surrounding the area. Friday night, a good old fashioned barbeque was held at the barn on the Arbor Day Farm. FSA Administrator, Jim Little and Assistant Administrator, Doug Frago, were able to join the festivities that evening. Mr. Little, in fact, ate barbeque with our own Iowa delegation.

Saturday featured a day of guest speakers and area meetings. Speakers included; Jim Little; Doug Frago; Nebraska SED Brain Wolford; Iowa SED Derryl McLaren; Nebraska State Committee member Dennis Richer; NASCOE President David Vidrine; NASCOE Vice President Dan Root and RASCOE Representative Gaylan Suhr, among others.

The general message from the conference seemed to be that FSA would be seeing changes in the near future. "FSA Tomorrow" is a concept in the development stages and Mr. Little indicated "FSA Tomorrow" would be bringing changes to our agency. NASCOE officials also stated change was inevitable and we must be able to embrace changes with open minds while maintaining the desire to continue to deliver quality service to our producers. However, our NASCOE leaders also expressed the need for FSA employees to be represented "at the table" when these plans are being developed so we can have some input in this change process.

The convention concluded with an awards ceremony and dance on Saturday evening. Many of us came away with new friends and fond memories but also with a feeling of uncertainty. The winds of change are blowing and we need to bend with the breeze, but let's not get blown away!



Back Row: Kathleen Berg, Joni Birkhofer, Judy Dameron
Front Row: Steve Kennedy, Rosie Kahl, Dee Ann Lehn, Cindy Mensen, Barb Gerzevske

IASCOE Membership Report - May 2005

By Dan Wells, State Membership Chairperson

The 2004 IASCOE Membership increased from last year and ended up at 86.2% overall. I am also pleased to report that 76 of our 100 counties have a 100% membership in IASCOE. And to top all of that off, District #7 achieved 100% membership this year.

Our continued goal is to have 100% membership in Iowa. There are several counties and districts very close to achieving that very goal and I would like to challenge each and every one of you to make the commitment to improve on our membership. With a strong membership the goals set forth by our organization can be accomplished and the stronger our association will become. Now that 2004 has been recorded in the history books it's time we focus on 2005.

Each of the county offices will be receiving notice of our annual dues very soon. Please take the time to review and update your current information. This helps with our record keeping and we certainly do not want to leave anyone behind. Each and every FSA employee is important to our organization.

I would like to introduce you to the 2005 IASCOE Membership Committee:

District 1 - Ron Reuvers from O'Brien County	District 6 - Carma Reiss from Benton County
District 2 - Vicki Pederson from Floyd County	District 7 - Jolene Fechter from Page County
District 3 - Sheri Rodman from Clayton County	District 8 - Sally Crall from Monroe County
District 4 - Judy Vos from Woodbury County	District 9 - Jim Magel from Davis County
District 5 - Rod Biensen from Story County	

Each member of this committee would be more than willing to answer any questions you may have concerning membership and the benefits associated with being a member. I am also available to all of you. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Membership Committee with the IASCOE Director's concurrence is able to offer the "Early Bird" specials again this year. For those IASCOE members who get their dues in to their respective committee members before June 15th are eligible to receive a \$50 refund. Five members will be drawn.

Be sure to get your dues in early. Our winners last year were:

Michelle Stevenson – Mitchell County

Teresa Heck – Polk County

Dave Lundquist – Lucas County

Jill Shannon – Fayette County

Charlotte Shelp – Carroll County

I want to personally "Thank" all of you for your continued support and would like for all of you to seriously consider becoming a member of IASCOE. There are several benefits associated with being a member. Do you know that because we are not Federal employees something as simple as our cost of living increases have to be requested for us?

NASCOE/IASCOE as our representative makes sure that we receive the same benefits as all Federal employees. The accomplishments that NASCOE/IASCOE has made go on and on.

Be Alive in 2005 and join me in becoming a member.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE WRAPS UP ANOTHER BUSY YEAR!

The past 12 months have been a busy time in the legislative arena. I want to share some updates with you as we wrap up the loose ends at the national convention!

CAPWIZ: Capwiz got off to a slow start but has finished strong in the early part of 2005. We currently have 1465 registered as active subscribers on our Capwiz mailing list. Iowa can take pride in leading NASCOE nation with 117 Capwiz subscribers! I want to thank Cindy Mensen for her efforts in this area! In the last six months we have had alerts posted concerning permanent staffing legislation, animal ID comment period, repeal of Social Security Offset Provisions, health insurance, tobacco buyout administration and temp help for the disaster program. A total of 3777 messages were sent so far in 2005 compared to 1174 in 2004. I encourage you to continue to push registration for Capwiz as we strive to get our 7500 NASCOE members signed up.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC): The PAC is very close to being established for NASCOE members to contribute. If all goes well we can kick off this new legislative tool at the national convention. We are in the process of determining how best to promote participation. Approval of payroll deduction for the PAC is anticipated to happen shortly. If each member would consider payroll deduction of \$2 per pay period, this will have a significant impact on our efforts to promote our legislative agenda. Watch for more on this soon!

H.R. 2209: Representative Mike McIntyre of North Carolina has introduced legislation to assist in making sure that there is an adequate level of non-Federal staffing in local FSA offices. This was a big step in highlighting the problem with understaffing in county offices and we appreciate Representative McIntyre's efforts on this issue. More information is available on the Capwiz home page. Now is a critical time as we work to get co-sponsors for this legislation. Take time to contact your Representative to ask that they become a co-sponsor for this legislation.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: I am looking forward to some of the discussion items the legislative committee has planned during the convention. Should we have a national committee that promotes NAFEC and RASCOE? Should we move our membership data to a national data base so it is easier to contact members about our issues? Should NASCOE hire a full-time employee stationed in Washington, DC to act as our advocate and fulfill some administrative duties? While these are ideas for the future, we need to start discussing them now and the legislative committee meeting is a good place to start this review. The legislative committee will be sending out background information on a number of issues to give you study time before arriving in Rapid City! NASCOE is also issuing invitations to attend the national convention to a small group of legislative aides that are key to our issues. This will help us gain better insight into their perspective on USDA and help us build a better working relationship. This is one of the many new legislative tools suggested by our legislative consultant.

I want to thank Tammy Eibey for the great job she is doing as Midwest Area Legislative Chair and thank you, Iowa, for your work in furthering the legislative goals of NASCOE!

Sincerely,

Mark VanHoose
National Legislative Chair

CAPWIZ

ATTENTION—IASCOE MEMBERSHIP!!

Within the last few weeks, several **Action E-Alerts** have been posted to CAPWIZ participant's home email addresses. Letters were composed by our NASCOE leadership requesting support of bills in Congress that could benefit us all. These latest "alerts" have information regarding the following issues:

- Support needed to help secure more Full Time Employees (FTE) in county offices nationwide
- Asking the government to pay a bigger share of our health insurance costs
- Asking for support to repeal the Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination provisions of Social Security

I am sure you all are aware of the tight budget we are facing in this fiscal year. Projections for 2006 and preparations for the next round of Farm Bill talks are just around the corner. Voice your opinion and stay informed with the latest information by signing up for CAPWIZ *from your home computer*.

Information available on the CAPWIZ web site includes:

- Action Alert system Get on an e-mail list (MUST BE to your HOME email address) and you will receive updates on hot issues.
- NASCOE composes letters on issues and you can use them or write your own to let your congressional reps know how you feel—email them from this Capwiz web site!
- Information about all your congressional contacts that also shows how they voted on bills (called MegaVote)
- Follows current legislation deemed important to NASCOE.
- You can also send messages to local and national media through Capwiz connections.

Easy steps to follow to get signed up for CAPWIZ Action Alerts:

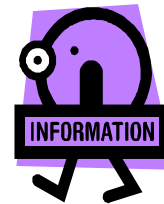
1. Go home and get on your own computer
2. Access website: www.capwiz.com/nascoe
3. Click on Action e-list (toward the bottom of the page)
4. Load in your name, your **home** email address, etc
5. Hit the "Submit" button

(NOTE: *your government email address will not update to Capwiz and cannot be used for this process.*)

Another way to access the CAPWIZ information --

Go to the IASCOE home page at www.iascoe.org

Then click on the CAP WIZ link



Contact **Cindy Mensen** if you have any questions about the CAPWIZ process. Contact Cindy by phone at work –Clayton County FSA-- (563) 245-1713 or at home (563) 927-5455 or cell (563) 920-8979--or use my e-mail address at home: mensenscat@n-connect.net.

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Visit our website at www.iascoe.org

FIRST TIMERS AWARD

The NASCOE convention is in Rapid City, South Dakota this year. Because it is so close to us, I expect to see many of you there. If this is the first time you are attending a national convention, take note of the following award. It sounds like fun and a good way to meet people from other states.

This award is intended to promote attendance to the NASCOE Convention and to create enthusiasm and excitement during the convention. We feel that this should be a “cash award” for person’s attending a national convention for the very first time.

Begin promoting the Award in January through the Area Awards & Scholarships Chairs through each State Awards Chairs.

During the Convention, have the program announced at the officers meeting on Wednesday evening. Announce the program to the general assemble on Thursday morning and allow participants to pick up sign-up packets at that time. Continue to announce and promote the award at other NASCOE functions of the convention.

Rules are simple: Participants would begin meeting people and getting them to sign their sheets on Thursday morning. The signature sheets must be turned in, at a designated place, by 1:00 PM on Saturday of the convention. The person with the most signatures would the winner. We would announce the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners at the banquet and present them with their winnings.

We recommend that the award be as follows:

1 st Place	\$200
2 nd Place	\$100
3 rd Place	\$ 50



John Beltz, Greene County Farm Bureau President, presents a check for \$300 from Iowa Farm Bureau to Candy Hoyle, Greene County Farmers' Market Manager and PT in Greene County.

The Greene County Farmers' Market recently applied for and received a grant for new signs.

The farmers' market is held every Tuesday on the east side of the courthouse from 4:00 - 7:00 PM and will run from June 14 - September 20. The Greene County FSA sponsors the market, which is in its 6th year!

Meet The IASCOE District 2 Directors



Cindy Pistek – PT Hancock County

Hi, my name is Cindy Pistek and I am an IASCOE Director for District II. I have worked in the Hancock County FSA Office for the past 18 years in the program areas of Payment Limitation and Production Adjustment. I live in Britt with my husband Leonard who farms and operates his real estate business out of our home. Our son Doug (24) works for Pella Corporation in Pella and will be getting married in August. Our daughter Kathleen (21) will be a Senior at Loras College this fall majoring in Criminal Justice and Business Management. Marie is 15 years old and will be a Freshman at West Hancock High School with interests in Volleyball, Track, Science and Math.

After a "hard day at the FSA Office" I enjoy gardening, fishing, reading and Church Choir. My father is in the process of teaching me how to golf---I really enjoy this and I'm REAL glad my father has lots of patience!!!



Hello! My name is John Bahnsen, I have worked for the agency for 27 plus years and have been in Floyd County FSA Office for 23 years. I have been an active member of IASCOE for all 27 years and have assisted the IASCOE association of District #2 as district membership chairperson, state membership chairperson, and district director over the past 22 years. I believe the backbone to FSA, it's tremendous work ethic, and its great people is from having a strong IASCOE association that supports and works endlessly for it's employees.

I live in Charles City with wife "Kylie Brant" (the teacher & author) and dog, Lexie. I have five children (who periodically live with us) as they strive to pursue their dreams - "we only hope". Son Jared and his dog Sadie live in Waterloo where he works for a mortgage company. Son Jason with new wife Michelle (and baby boy to be) and dog Addecus live in Kansas City and he works as Public Defender (attorney) for the state of Missouri in St. Joe. Son Jordan just graduated from the University of Iowa and will be interning in Cedar Rapids (unpaid). Son Justin and Daughter Alison (the twins) attend the University of Iowa. Needless to say, we have elevated our support from the orange and black Charles City Comets to the black and gold U of I Hawkeyes where we spend many hours and DOLLARS in Iowa City during football and basketball. GO HAWKS! Oh and I farm a little with brothers and dad.



John Bahnsen – CED Floyd County

Meet The IASCOE District 5 Directors



Connie Safley – PT Dallas County

Hello. My name is Connie Safley and I am an IASCOE Director for District 5 and also the chairperson for the IASCOE Awards Committee.

I have worked for the Dallas County FSA for the past 20 years. My programs are Price Support, NAP, Claims and Counter. I live on a farm with my husband Bob. We have farmed for the past 38 years.

We have three sons and a daughter, all of which are grown and married. They have given us nine grandchildren with another one on the way.

I enjoy camping and playing with my grandchildren. We are building a new home this summer, so we are now living in our camper full time until the house is built. Hopefully it will be finished sometime in August.



Hello, I'm Steve Kennedy. I'm the CED Director for District 5 and just recently elected Vice President for IASCOE. After graduating from ISU in 1978, I went to work for FmHA. I worked in the Spencer office as an Assistant County Supervisor (now called FLO) and later became the County Supervisor (now called FLM) for the Jefferson office. I left FmHA and briefly worked for Production Credit Association, but then decided to return to the USDA as CED of Jasper County where I have been for the past 23 years. My wife, Mary, works in Research for the Maytag Corporation. We have three children: Our oldest son, Chris, is a PGA teaching pro in Springfield, Missouri, and will be getting married this fall. Our daughter, Alicia, graduated from ISU this past semester. She will be moving to the Iowa City area this summer with her husband where she will be participating in an internship at the University of Iowa while her husband will be opening a coffee roastery and café. Our youngest daughter, Nicole, is attending Mercy School of Nursing in Des Moines. And we have a big yellow lab by the name of Tilly who loves to fetch a ball, Frisbee, etc.



Steve Kennedy – CED Jasper County

I love to play golf, but am really lousy at it. Just ask anyone who has played golf with me. Now that my kids are out of the house, I hope to get back into bicycling and snow skiing.

Meet Tammy Eibey

*IASCOE Publicity Committee Chairperson,
MWA Legislative Committee Chairperson,
& IASCOE District 3 Director*

Hello. I am Tammy Eibey. I have been employed in The Delaware County FSA office for 19 years. I started as a PT where I had compliance, PL, Recons, Disaster and DCP. I am currently a FLO. I have been involved with IASCOE in some way since I started in 1986. I was a committee person for awards, benefits and legislative and now, as director, I am the Publicity chairperson. I am also now currently serving as the MWA Legislative Committee person. That has been an eye opener to say the least. IASCOE/NASCOE is very important to all employees. There are a lot of great people around the nation working to secure funding for more full time employees plus better benefits to mention a few items on the burner now. I encourage all who are not members to think about the things they have gotten based on that hard work from the NASCOE/IASCOE directors and committee people. Put aside office politics and personality differences and work together for the benefit of all FSA Employees.



I am married to Chris, whom I met when we were at Iowa State. After graduation we moved to our farm SW of Manchester that we had purchased from his grandparents. It was a big change for me since I was born and raised in Sioux City. We have four children. Dan just finished his first year at ISU and is working in Winthrop Iowa for UAP as a field scout. Keith is 17 and will be a senior. He is involved with showing cattle, baseball, football and restoring cars. He did a wrecked 97 firebird last fall. Audrey is 13 and will be a freshman next year. She plays on a couple softball teams and also shows cattle and other 4-H/FFA projects. Allison is 9. She plays softball and likes to swim. For enjoyment I play volleyball and golf. I like sports and attending my kid's events. We have 2 farm stocked farm ponds with a cabin, so I like to fish and sneak away there to be away from noise and phones. I usually don't have a cell on me. I attempt to have a garden as well. I like to can our home raised beef and make homemade salsa. I like to visit my brother and his wife in Sioux City since my parents and other brother are deceased. I have 2 nephews. I also have some 3 aunts, 1 uncle and 10 cousins and their families. They live in Florida, Texas, Arizona and Spirit Lake. This summer we are all trying to get together at the Okoboji for a reunion.....



Subscribe To The IASCOE Newsletter

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2005 IASCOE Scholarship Winners

This year IASCOE received 19 excellent scholarship applications and we were able to award each of 3 winners a \$300 scholarship. The process of scoring and selecting the winner was very difficult and I wish to thank Jeanine Diekhuis (Hancock), Vicki Hereen (Franklin) and Robin Rode (Kossuth) for their assistance. Following are the 2005 scholarship winners.



Jon Larson -- Jon is the son of Gary Larson (Jones County) and Lisa Gutzeit from Monticello, Iowa. Jon has a GPA of 3.8 and is planning to attend ISU to major in Mechanical Engineering. Jon's hobbies include football, basketball, golf, chess, reading and soccer.

Sarah Christensen -- Sarah is the daughter of Rick and Pat (Cedar County) Christensen from Tipton, Iowa. Sarah has a 3.8 GPA and is planning to attend ISU and major in Animal Science/Pre-Vet. Sarah enjoys showing cattle, basketball and swimming.

Kelsey McQueen -- Kelsey is the daughter of Jeff and Carrie (Fremont County) McQueen from Riverton, Iowa. Kelsey has a GPA of 3.8 and is planning to attend ISU to pursue her interests in Communications and Journalism. Kelsey enjoys snow skiing, photography and playing sports.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners, we wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

Cindy Pistek - IASCOE Scholarship Chairperson



Look Who's 40!!!

Karen Lacour – PT Dickinson County

One of the "Senior" Staff at the Dickinson County FSA Office was recently recognized by her co-workers for attaining a milestone in her life! (March 15, 2005)



Students Provide Community Service

Submitted By Mary Oldenburger – PT Grundy County FSA



On May 4th, Grundy Center had a community service day in which grades 6-12th helped area senior citizens clean up around their places and also area businesses. The Grundy County FSA/NRCS Office had the privilege of working with a group of students from the Grundy Community School and Beaman-Conrad-Liscomb-Union Schools. They picked up trash, planted trees, put mulch around the existing trees and also picked up fence posts from the previous years trees. Phelps Implement donated the use of one of their tractors to help haul the mulch around and the students were armed with rakes, shovels and garbage bags. It was a very rewarding day working with the future leaders of the county.



Farm Safety Camp

Submitted By Mary Oldenburger – PT Grundy County FSA

Grundy County Progressive Farm Safety Day Camp was held on May 3rd for 3rd & 4th grades students in Grundy County. Grundy County FSA employees Bob Wegand, Holly DeLange and Mary Oldenburger presented Hazards using the magnetic board. There were 12 different stations and 12 - 20 minute sessions held during the day with approximately 194 students in attendance. It was a fun and very educational day for all that attended.



Illness Doesn't Stop Youths From Being Friends

Reprinted from the Times-Republican
in Marshalltown Iowa

By Bryan Schultz

STATE CENTER - While West Marshall third-graders Sawyer Phillips and Devin Chesler have a lot of school to look forward to, the two nine-year-olds have already learned one of life's most important lessons - the lesson of selfless friendship.

Sawyer has bi-directional ventricular tachycardia and Long QT Syndrome. To doctors, that means that when Sawyer exercises, his heart can go into arrhythmia and eventually into cardiac arrest. To Sawyer, it means he has to be careful in how he plays and put up with a surgically implanted defibrillator. But to Sawyer's best friend Devin, Sawyer is just another kid and a darn good friend.

"Sawyer and Devin are very close friends. They love to hang out together whenever they can and most of all play sports together," said Sawyer's mom, Jeanne Phillips. "I think the thing that strikes me the most about Devin is that he treats Sawyer like he is normal but yet is always conscious of the fact that he has a heart condition."

It is that care that Jeanne said makes her son's friend such a special kid - so special she wanted to thank him publicly through the newspaper.

"Sports are a really difficult thing for Sawyer to balance - not only within himself, but how his friends treat him as well," Jeanne explained. "Devin is really good about making sure he is included and helping him to feel good about himself."

That alone would certainly qualify Devin to be a great kid, but Jeanne said he has done even more for her family. Because of Sawyer's condition, the American Heart Association is an important



Devin Chesler (on the right) is the grandson of Diane Ostrander, PT from Greene County

player in their lives, through the research that helps keep Sawyer's heart pumping. Because of this, the Phillips family participates in the annual Heart Walk, a fundraiser for the non-profit group.

This year, Devin wanted to participate. But the third-grader did more than simply walk the mile-long trail in cold and rainy weather - he sent pictures of himself and his friend to family and friends and solicited donations. In fact, Devin did so well that he earned \$220 of the team's \$930. Not only did he take the time to raise the money, the sports-loving kid gave up a chance to attend an ISU football clinic just so he could support Sawyer and his family.

"That is BIG for Devin because he loves sports," Jeanne said.

In the end, everyone involved hopes the work of the American Heart Association and the involvement of some doctors means Sawyer will have a long, satisfying life. But regardless of medical conditions, he has one thing going for him that medicine cannot provide - a good friend with a heart big enough for two.

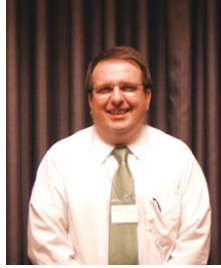
"Devin is like part of our family," Jeanne said.

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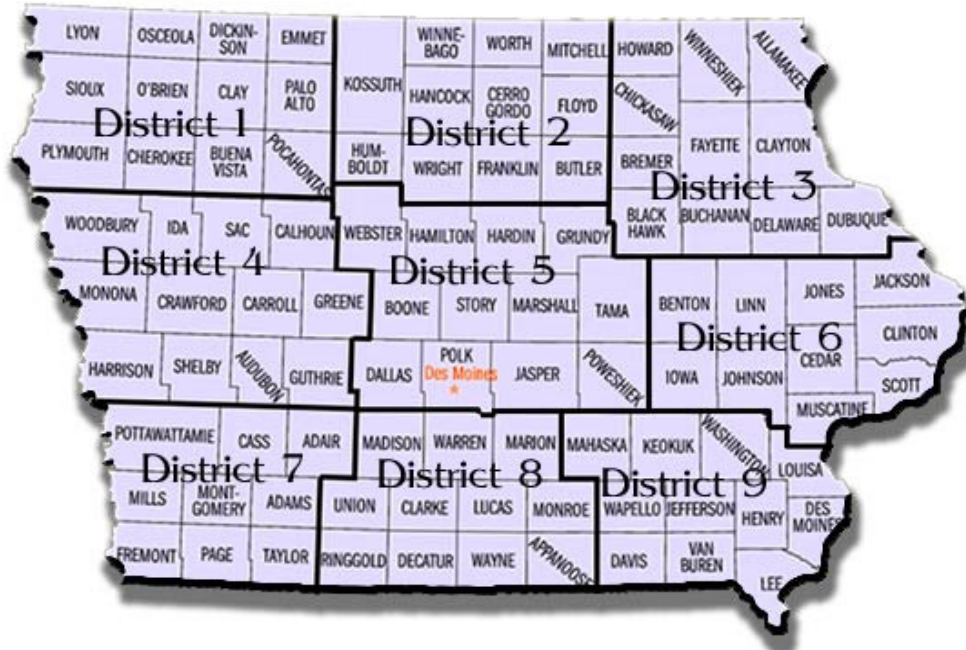
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IASCOE DISTRICTS



2005/2006 IASCOE DIRECTORS

<u>District</u>	<u>P.T. Director</u>	<u>C.E.D. Director</u>
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9	Judy Dameron - Louisa Alt - Dawn Stewart - Henry	Dee Ann Lehn - Keokuk Alt - John Bartenhagen - Louisa

Gary Brewer Memorial FSA GOLF TOURNAMENT



WHERE: LaPorte City Golf Club, LaPorte City, Iowa, 1 mile east of LaPorte City on Bishop Ave

WHEN: August 12, 2005 - 9:30 A.M.

COST: \$ 25.00 (Includes Golf, Cart and Lunch)

LUNCH

Lunch Buffet will be served immediately following the golf tournament at the clubhouse.

NON-GOLFERS - \$5.00

OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATIONS

Heartland inn – 1809 LaPorte Rd., Wloo, \$80 government rate, 319-236-9112

Holiday Inn Express – 2141 LaPorte Rd, Wloo, \$60 government rate, 319-233-9191

Super 8 – 1825 LaPorte Rd, Wloo, \$49 government rate, 319-233-1800

All within walking distance to the Southtown Lounge (see below)

HOSPITALITY

Thursday Night: 6:00 - ? , Southtown Lounge in Waterloo – next to the motel

REGISTRATION

Golfers and Non-Golfers are asked to please pre-register no later than August 5th for golf or just lunch by completing the attached form and sending it to Craig Olthoff, 905 10th Ave, Ackley, IA 50601.

Gary Brewer Golf Tournament

Registration Form

August 12, 2005

Established Teams—Complete this Section

Team Name: _____

Team Members:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Team 'captain' is responsible for collecting and paying the fee of \$150 which includes golf, cart and lunch.

Want to Golf? No team? Complete this Section

Name: _____ \$25 for golf, cart, and lunch

WE WILL FIND YOU A TEAM!!!!

Bikers and Non-golfers—Complete this Section

The LaPorte City area has a beautiful bike trail!!!!

Name: _____ \$5 for lunch only

Make checks payable to: Craig Olthoff/FSA Golf
Complete this form by August 5th and return it to
Craig Olthoff
905 10th Ave
Ackley, LA 50601

