



The Iowa Association Of FSA
County Office Employees

IASCOE NEWS

September 2004

FROM THE DESK OF DERRYL MCLAREN, SED

The hint of Fall is in the air. Some would argue that we went directly from May into October, with no summer at all. The reality, however, shows we still have some time before the Fiscal year ends and the combines roll through the fields.

Speaking of fiscal years, I'm sure you are looking forward as I am to Fiscal '05. I will be better informed about what to expect in a couple of weeks. I have been asked to represent the Midwest in Washington the week of September 13 to make a preliminary assessment of next year's budget and personnel. At this point, I would expect continuing resolutions until a budget is passed (similar to last year). I expect permanent employment to be stable, with no RIFs, furloughs, or early retirements. If there is a reduction, it will occur in TOs, so keep your fingers crossed on LDPs. If our late-maturing crops extend the harvest season, our workload could prove to be manageable in the absence of temporary employees. Washington is still controlling our backfills and hiring authority, and I would expect this to continue until Congress passes a budget.

Our focus for '05 will remain concentrated on the new Farm Business Plan, E-gov, and GIS. All three of these priorities share a common theme of modernization. We have had several lowans involved in the shift of commodity programs to Web-based. The time frame for the shift has been extended to the end of '06, so don't throw away the System 36 quite yet. Several counties are certifying their CLUs, and we will keep you informed of their progress. We are working as quickly and diligently as possible to finish the GIS digitizing, and we should be finished before the end of next year.

By now you have been introduced to the new acronym, BPMS, or Budget and Performance Management Scorecard. This BPMS will drive the budget for the Agency along with our personal Performance Plans. The adoption of performance budgeting is requiring FSA to approve a Logic Model that is driven by our Vision Statement and Mission Statement. Strategies and Goals have been formulated to measure outputs, and, thereby, performance. This is a difficult task to tailor performance measures in a service oriented environment such as FSA. Management has been interviewing focus groups of employees to gain grassroots input before transitioning our Performance Plans.

Of one thing we can agree, your performance in '04 was superb! How appropriate that your appreciation items and awards are reaching your hands as we approach Fall. As a farmer, I am used to receiving one paycheck a year, and Fall is when I always receive mine. In my experience in FSA, however, your dedication, character, and work ethic have provided an award to me each and every day.



Cover Photo Taken By Brian Beach – IASCOE Webmaster & PT Sac County

Alan's Notes 9-04

By Alan Donaldson
IASCOE President and CED Sioux County

If you haven't heard already, due to circumstances beyond my control, I'm the new IASCOE President. Because Tom Lane has transferred to a new district, according to the by laws he was no longer able to hold office since a director must be elected by his district. I really appreciate Tom's continued assistance and confidence in me to carry on for our organization.

Recently, the NASCOE National Convention was held in Baltimore. Several representatives from Iowa attended the Convention. Please read their report carefully. Just as FSA has a new strategic plan and is developing methods to measure and account for the work we do. NASCOE has decided to employ new methods to enhance our negotiating clout with the Administration and Congress. Although details need to be worked out, the delegates at the convention voted to organize a political action committee (PAC). By law, no NASCOE funds will be used directly to finance the PAC. Although this is a new undertaking for our organization, we are encouraged in the direction our leadership is taking to protect our benefits and promote our member's interests.

Having Fun at the Camilla Grill

The Camilla grill is a place that you probably wouldn't pick out from the outside as an attraction that you just had to experience. The locals in New Orleans, however, will point out the place on the streetcar line where St. Charles meets Carrollton. I imagine there are probably other diners and grills in New Orleans that have food that is equally as good, but nobody has more fun than the cooks, waiters, and customers at Camilla's.

The staff is made up of people who work hard, but like to have a really good time. There are 2 cooks and two grills. There were 3 semi-circular lunch counters with counter stools facing the grill. There are six waiters constantly on the move taking orders from the customers, translating through yelled instructions, some type of verbal shorthand to the cooks, clearing the counters, delivering the food to the customers, and generally giving everyone a good-natured hard time. One of the waiters, Marvin, seemed to be especially happy and went out of his way to meet, greet, and joke with everyone who came in. Whether you were in his section or not, Marvin went down the counter with "knucks" for everyone (the modern version of high fives). Although we had to wait for our food: pecan waffles, bacon, grits, and coffee, the wait went by fairly quickly since the fast-paced work was entertaining and it was going on all around us. The food was good. If you've never had pecan waffles with lots of melted butter, syrup, a side order of grits, and black coffee, you've really missed something.

Our waiter, Reggie, was having a good time too, and we enjoyed his quick wit and complaints about Marvin. Marvin and the other waiters made our time enjoyable and entertaining and put us all in a good mood for the rest of the day. We really enjoyed ourselves.

I think that we can do the same thing for our FSA customers. Although I don't know how many of us would feel comfortable giving our customers "knucks". We can make a real difference in what kind of day they have. The same is true for our IASCOE organization. As officers and members we can approach our challenges in a positive and upbeat way, or we can complain about how things aren't working or aren't as good as the old days. I'm one who would rather deal with the positive aspects of what we do and how we can make improvements in our jobs and in servicing our customers. Your organization, IASCOE, needs your feedback and your membership. The directors, committee members, and I, all want your input and support in order to make our work productive and enjoyable.

If you are not now a member, and you would like some more information about our organization, please contact me or another director we would be happy to help you make a decision to join.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY!

By Tom Lane - CED Jackson County

September 2004

Hello Everyone!

I wish to thank every member for the opportunity to represent you for the past year and a half. *It was truly my honor.*

For those that do not know, I have resigned as a Director and as President of IASCOE. I accepted the CED job in Jackson County and that took me out of the district that I was elected to represent. Because I was no longer in the district I was elected to represent, it was no longer appropriate for me to continue on the Board. Alan Donaldson is now the President and will do an exceptional job representing the Iowa membership.

I have some special thank you's I need to share. First, I would like to thank the staff's and County Committee's of Henry and Lee Counties. I would not have been able to do the work I did without their support. Thank you folks!

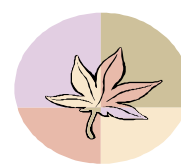
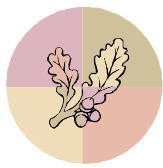
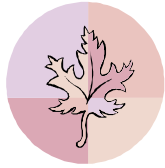
Another 'thank you' goes to the Director's I have had the opportunity to work with over the years. Each one of you has helped me learn something new about myself and your work has enriched our organization.

And finally, the biggest 'thank you' goes to my wife, Robyn, and children Natasha, Ashley & Kaitlyn. They had to shoulder extra responsibilities at home and put up with me missing their activities to chase off across the state and country on association business. Thank you, Robyn & girls!

As a parting request, I am asking anyone that has ever thought that they might like to serve on the Board of Directors or as a Committee member to get involved. It takes active participation by all members to make an organization successful. Dig in and have some fun!

Yours in membership,

Tom



Greetings from your IASCOE Secretary/Treasurer. As I write this today we have just received a much needed rain. The amounts varied around the county but everyone probably received approximately an inch. Our school starts this week which means fall is just around the corner. This is one of my favorite seasons, the only downside is it means January and February will be here before you know it!! The farmers will be getting anxious to start harvest and fill their bins. The coffee shop talk will be centered around which farmer starts harvest first, who has the biggest yield and who gets harvesting done first. Other farmers will be bringing in their cows and calves from pasture, vaccinating and weaning, and hoping to get their best price ever when they sell their calves. Fall is the time for all of us to slow down a little and enjoy our surroundings.

Our membership drive is almost complete. I want to thank all those employees who continually support IASCOE with their dues. If you are not an IASCOE member, I wish you would consider visiting with a director or another member and take time to find out what IASCOE can do for you. There are a lot of people representing IASCOE and NASCOE who spent endless hours looking out for your interests and working for additional benefits for employees.

Have a wonderful fall and take care.

Sue Beemer
IASCEO Secretary/Treasurer & PT Taylor County

Greetings from your new IASCOE Scholarship Contact Person!!

It's August and many of us will be sending our children to either their senior year of high school or back for another year of college. The school year will go fast and it's never too early to start thinking about scholarship applications.

My name is Cindy Pistek and I am your new IASCOE Scholarship contact person. I am a PT from Hancock County and a 1st year director for the organization. I have three children; Doug (23) who works for Pella Corporation in Pella, Kathleen (20) a junior at Loras College and Marie (14) an 8th grader at West Hancock Junior High in Britt.



Since I have sent two children off to college myself, I can relate to the stress of sending a child to college. A scholarship can help to alleviate some of the financial requirements of higher education, remember this benefit is a direct result of our IASCOE dues. More detailed information will be in a later newsletter, in the mean time--enjoy the upcoming school year!!

Cindy Pistek - IASCOE Scholarship Contact Person & PT Hancock County



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Submitted by Connie Safley - IASCOE Awards Chairperson
PT Dallas County FSA Office

It is time again to start thinking about recognizing someone that has made an outstanding contribution in areas of: NASCOE; FSA – Agriculture; or Community Service. This program encourages recognition of NASCOE members who make outstanding contributions in one of the three areas. Any member of the Association may make a nomination. Only members of the association who are in good standing, who are serving under a permanent appointment, or who have voluntarily retired during the current year are eligible to receive these awards. Nominations need to be mailed NO LATER than FEBRUARY 1st, 2005.

INFORMATION FOR EACH CATEGORY

SERVICE TO NASCOE: Years of NASCOE membership; committee activity; offices held; contributions to the organization; FSA background and any other pertinent information may be included.

SERVICE TO FSA-AGRICULTURE: How long has nominee worked for FSA? What program or special project have they worked with? Size of county and number of farmers; Any outstanding contribution to FSA and /or Agriculture? Has nominee received any special awards or promotions? NASCOE background and any other pertinent information can also be included.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: What organization(s) has nominee worked with? Do they hold an office or any special committee assignment?; their church affiliation, family status, children, etc.; What has nominee done to improve the community he/she lives in? any special recognition received; FSA and NASCOE background and any other pertinent information can also be included.

LENGTH OF NOMINATION

A nomination should be brief, factual, and specific! It cannot exceed two (2) double-spaced typewritten 8 1/2" X 11" pages, plus the cover sheet. The pages must not be reduced by photocopier or other means to enable more print on the two pages. No attachments, and conclusions not backed by facts should be avoided. Specific examples and details should be given to support the nomination.

SUBMITTING NOMINATION

Mail the original and five (5) copies of the nomination to Attention – Connie Safley, Dallas County FSA, P.O. Box 70, Adel, Iowa 50003 before February 1st, 2005. If you need a cover sheet or more information contact Connie Safley at 515-993-4205 or you can go to NASCOE website (www.nascoe.org).

IASCOE DIRECTORS MINUTES

Starlite Best Western

Marshalltown, Iowa

June 25, 2004

7:50 P.M.

Officers Present: Tom Lane, President; Sue Beemer, Secretary/ Treasurer

Directors Present: Rosie Kahl, Joni Birkhofer, Terry Pauling, Tammy Eibey, John Landgraf and
Cindy Mensen

Alternate Director Present: Mike Houston

President Tom Lane called the meeting to order at 7:50 P.M.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

The directors reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Rosie moved and Joni seconded the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried by all directors. The financial report was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

Web site – The web site has been updated with the June newsletter. Hopefully each office has printed it and made it available to all employees. Tammy and Brian did a wonderful job putting this together. All the articles submitted by members, directors and state office personnel make this one of the best newsletters in the nation.

2004 Convention – Everyone thought the convention went very well and everything seems to be wrapped up.

Midwest Area Rally – Tammy and Rosie attended as delegates from Iowa. They thought it was a good meeting. Steve Waller presented IASCOE's resolution at the Rally. This resolution was presented to the General Assembly at our annual convention in April 2004.

NEW BUSINESS

Thank you – Thank you notes were received and read from Marilyn Adams, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids and Connie Hancock. Due to our donation to FS4JK, IASCOE will receive a one-year complimentary membership in their organization.

FS4JK Request – Tammy moved it should be voted on during the 2004-2005 annual convention whether to continue with the membership in FS4JK. Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried by all directors present. The annual membership dues are \$50.00. Sue will get information on purchasing items from FS4JK, which could be made available throughout the State.

Disaster Fund (E-mail) - On May 21, 2004, a tornado touched down in Pocahontas County. Samantha Zeman, PT from Pocahontas County, lived on an acreage that was in the direct path of the tornado. Samantha and her husband made it to the basement just seconds before the twister hit and were not harmed. Their home sustained damage so severe that it was beyond repair. They lost everything in the house, their 2 vehicles, a horse and all the baby things that they had purchased in anticipation of their first child. Tammy made the motion for IASCOE to donate \$100.00 to the disaster fund, which has been set up for them at the Rolfe State Bank. Cindy seconded the motion. The motion carried by all directors present.

Dues Overpayment – It was brought to IASCOE’s attention that an employee from Jefferson County paid the incorrect amount of dues for the 2003-2004. She has over-paid by \$15.00. Rosie made a motion to refund the \$15.00 and Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried by all directors.

County Office 100 % Membership – There is a County Office situation where the FLO is a county office employee instead of GS. She does not wish to belong to IASCOE. The county was wondering if there could be anything done so the county could be at 100% membership. The Constitution and By-Laws were reviewed and it was determined that according to their regulations nothing could be done for the situation at this time. Joni moved and Mike seconded that this assessment was correct. Motion approved by all directors present.

National Convention – Iowa’s delegates will be Rosie Kahl, Cindy Pistek and John Landgraf, alternate. The expenses will be paid for all three delegates. We discussed our thoughts on developing a PAC (Political Action Committee). After discussing the information we had available during the meeting, it was the director’s consensus that IASCOE was not in favor of establishing a PAC. Unless the delegates learn information at the Convention that would lead them to change their mind, IASCOE will vote no to the formation of a PAC. The final decision will be left up to the delegate’s discretion.

CapWiz – This is supposed to help organize communications between NASCOE, Senators, and Congressmen. We discussed if this service was needed. Some felt that personal communication was more effective. The pricing is as follows:

One Year: \$6000 subscription fee and \$5000 set up (total cost =\$11,000)

Two Years: \$10,800 subscription fee and \$4000 set up (total cost =\$14,800)

Three Years: \$14,400 subscription fee and \$3000 set up (total cost = \$17,400)

Our consensus was that this was not a very efficient way to spend money. This will be discussed at National Convention.

NASCOE Vice-President Vote – After some discussion it was the director’s recommendation to support Dan Root for NASCOE Vice-President. If the situation would change after hearing statements from the candidates it will be left up to the delegates’ discretion on voting.

MWA Award Winners – Iowa has 2 Midwest Area award winners. They are Tammy Eibey and Trice Smith. Trice is also a National winner. Iowa is very honored to have received these awards. Congratulations to Tammy and Trice!!! It is people like this that make IASCOE and NASCOE work.

Resignations – Julie Hall submitted her resignation as she has accepted the CED position in the East Pottawattamie County Office. Tom Lane submitted his resignation as he has accepted the CED position in Jackson County. Julie and Tom will not be employed in the district they are currently representing, therefore Joni moved and John seconded their resignations be accepted. The motion carried by all directors present. Julie’s alternate is John Bahnsen and Tom’s is John Bartenhagen. They will assume the duties as director of their respective district. An amendment to the by-laws was presented to the directors. It states as follows:

In the event that a duly elected officer (i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer) accepts another position within the state in a position entitling them to full membership within the association, and the new position is not located in another officer’s district, be it resolved that the officer may retain his or her position as an officer until the end of his or her specified term.

This will be discussed further at our next directors’ meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits and Legislative – Terry gave report. Dental insurance will be brought up at National Convention. Anyone wanting discount tickets to some of the theme parks in the U.S. should contact either Steve or Terry.

Awards – Connie was not present.

Scholarships – Cindy was not present.

Membership – Sue gave a brief report in Dan’s absence. Membership transmittals have been turned in from most of the districts. We are missing some counties in those districts. As of this date we have not received anything from district 4.

Publicity – Tammy gave a report. We are required to have four issues of the newsletter published to be eligible to be submitted for an award. After December the Board of Directors can submit our newsletter for consideration for judging.

OTHER ITEMS

Tom will continue to coordinate the 2004-2005 annual convention, which will be held April 1st and 2nd 2005 in Marshalltown.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Beemer
IASCOE Secretary/Treasurer
PT Taylor County FSA

NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL NASCOE CONVENTION

JULY 29-31, 2004

Submitted by Rosie Kahl - PT Lyon County

Wednesday was the day of arrival, or if you arrived on Tuesday, then you could go on one of the planned tours. If you were a history buff, there was plenty to see.

General Session – Thursday

The session began with the normal opening ceremony and welcome speeches from the Delaware-Maryland (DMASCOE) President, Delaware SED and the new (4 days) Maryland SED.

Morris O'Quin, national membership chairperson, presented plaques to counties with 40 years of 100% membership and certificates to counties with 45 years of 100% membership. Iowa had three counties with 45 consecutive years of 100% membership – Dickinson, Story and Polk.

FSA Administrator, Jim Little addressed the membership.

- He commented that CCC will have its 70th anniversary. It was started under the New Deal.
- He stated that the Agency and NASCOE have a good relationship.
- 2003 brought record farm income
- There will be changes – BPMS, Financial Management, E-Gov, MIDAS.
- He stated that our jobs are secure (see comments from Friday).



IASCOE's delegation to the 2004 National NASCOE Convention in Baltimore
Rosie Kahl-PT Lyon County, Denise Dugan-PT Woodbury County,
Trice Smith-CPT Benton County & John Landgraf-CED Sac County

General Session – Friday

Remarks – John Johnson, Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

- In the Farm Bill CRP was delegated to FSA and EQIP was delegated to NRCS by the President. FSA was paid to do what administrative work they did on EQIP, and now NRCS feels they can do it themselves.
- MIDAS will provide better service and simplify work.
- GIS is necessary to make MIDAS work.

Remarks by John Williams, Deputy Administrator-Management.

- Budget -there will be reductions. They have already reduced temps and travel enough to get through the year.
- Will have to continue to work to reduce spending in the next year to absorb pay increases for 2005,
- Didn't feel there would be any incentives to leave employment.
- Will be going to Performance Management System.
- Financial Management will give producers on-line access to records.
- MLIC and LDP will go to web-base.
- County office will still certify that payments are correct.
- Ag-Learn will be used for on-line training.

Remarks – Scott Charbo, OCIO

- Talked about WEBCAF, Security, and phone systems. Discussed that there possibly be only *two* passwords needed eventually.

In the Q&A session, there was a lot of discussion on workload. Eventually workload will be captured with the Performance Management System. Also budget remains a problem.

General Session – Saturday

Steve Morrison – Past President stated that BPMS will justify why the employees in the county office are here. This year there will be an additional element to the performance plan, and then will go to a 3-tier system.

He has been told by DAM & HRD that PT classification will not happen unless management (DD's and SED's) express a need for re-classification.

He encouraged us as individuals to make contacts with commodity groups, make congressional contacts and when we are given the opportunity to make a change we need to take hold.

The following recommendations were made by
the committees to the NASCOE Board

THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

The committee made the following recommendations:

1. The establishment of a Political Action Committee for NASCOE should be pursued by the Executive Committee for the purpose of furthering the goals of our organization. Further, establishment and administrative cost associated with the NASCOE PAC be

reimbursed back to the NASCOE treasury. This reimbursement should take place when the NASCOE officers and executives determine the NASCOE PAC financially able to do so without endangering the mission.

2. That NASCOE enter into a contract with Capitol Advantage to purchase the CapWiz Internet Advocacy Action Tool for a period of 3 years. Leadership is encouraged to educate the members with a power point presentation at state and area meetings.

3. That legislative training continues to be a priority anytime NASCOE members gather at a National Convention, Area Meeting, State Convention or Outlook Conference. Training is to be developed by the Legislative Committee and approved by the Executive Committee.

4. That a full Legislative Conference be held in Washington, D.C. in 2005. The recommendation is that conference shall alternate between a Legislative Committee meeting sponsored in full by NASCOE and a Legislative Conference, co-sponsored by NASCOE and the State affiliates. In addition the Committee recommends that a training session be held, meetings with coalition partners and congressional visits will continue. State affiliates are encouraged to include first time attendees at the conference.

5. The continuation of the Legislative Activist Program should continue. Since a few "key" Congressional Committees deal with a majority of the legislation that directly impacts FSA jobs and benefits, we recommend that NASCOE continue to develop a NASCOE legislative network, that will impact these "key" congressman in their decision making process concerning employee benefits, agriculture issues and programs, and the infrastructure and delivery system for federal USDA programs.

6. That in the event USDA reorganization or agency restructuring is initiated by members of Congress, or as directed by the Presidents' initiative as announced by OMB, or per the Secretary's discretionary authority permitted by the 1994 Reorganization Act, the Legislative Committee shall follow and develop its strategies consistent with prior resolutions passed by members in Rochester, New York in 1997 and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1999 as adopted by NASCOE, as well as those outlined in the approved NASCOE position papers.

7. That NASCOE shall support the legislative efforts of RASCOE and NAFEC by exchanging position papers and legislative news, and executing joint legislative efforts. NASCOE members should be encouraged to support NAFEC and RASCOE and to maintain informational ties and build relationships with NACS, NASE and NADD.

8. That NASCOE shall continue its efforts to communicate with national and state farm organizations and commodity groups. Recognizing the abilities of our coalition partners to immediately lobby on behalf of our common interest, it is recommended that NASCOE immediately find a means to produce an electronic newsletter for the purpose of emailing communication, attachments and legislative updates to our coalition partners.

9. That organizational meeting of the Legislative Committee continue to be held on an annual basis early in the NASCOE year after the NASCOE organizational meeting for the purpose of educating newly appointed committee members, and to plan and strategize the coming year's legislative activities. Quarterly teleconferencing should continue to be authorized.

10. That a NASCOE member attends the Coalition Partners National Conventions and that Coalition Partners be invited to National Conventions and National Legislative Conferences.

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE:

The committee made the following recommendations:

1. In addition to airfare, NASCOE pays for convention registration, banquet ticket, and four nights' lodging at the national convention for winners of National Distinguished Service Awards.

2. NASCOE pays for airfare, convention registration, banquet ticket and one night's lodging for the National Scholarship Winner. This is to be paid from the scholarship fund.

3. Leave the scholarship amounts at their current levels: \$1500 for area winners and \$2500 for the national winner.

National DSA Award winners were:

- Service to NASCOE- Patrice Smith, Iowa
- Service to FSA-Agriculture – Richard Rische, South Dakota
- Service to Community – Carolyn Nelson, North Dakota

National Scholarship winner – Matthew David Christiansen, Amenia, New York

THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

The committee made the following recommendations:

1. Critical Illness Insurance should be offered to NASCOE membership with standard 3% of new sales to NASCOE.

2. Dental Insurance, as a cost of marketing the product, will have an additional 50 cents added to each policy each pay period thereby requiring an amendment to the current agreement between NASCOE and JM Marketing.

IASCOE Editor's NOTE: All county offices should have received information about the new Dental Plan from J&M Marketing. Any questions about the new plan can be submitted to J&M Marketing at their home office or through their Internet Site.

3. To discontinue offering Pre-Paid Legal as a NASCOE group benefit due to a lack of participation and the costs associated with maintaining licensing fees in each state.

4. Because of a lack participation and NationSafe's requirements, the Benefits Committee recommends discontinuation of the Roadside Assistance package through NationSafe Drivers on October 1, 2004 unless the minimum number of participants reaches 100 by that date. Any member currently enrolled or enrolled by October 1 will be covered for the contract period (one year after enrollment).

THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:

The committee did not have any recommendations.

The National Publicity Award Winners are:

- Best Newsletter - Arkansas, Nancy Chlapecka, Editor
- Best Newsletter - Honorable Mention, West Virginia, Melodie Baily, Editor
- Best Single Issue - West Virginia, May 2003, Melodie Bailey, Editor
- Best Feature Story - Humor: "We Had to Laugh Our Way Out", Jim Bob Solsbery, Texas
- Best Feature Story-Human Interest: "The Health Hunters in Action", Charlene Neukomm, Illinois
- Best Web Site: Kansas, LuAnn Callan, Web Master

THE ENBLEMS COMMITTEE:

The committee did not have any recommendations.

The NASCOE Store reported total sales of \$15,647.27, and NASCOE's percentage is \$974.73. A new fall line will be offered in the fall.

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

It is the recommendation of the Membership Committee that the 2005 Membership Committee develop a NASCOE Membership Packet for states to order from NASCOE for distribution to new members and potential members.

These are just the recommendations from the different committees. Watch the NASCOE newsletter for full reports.

Davis County planted the packet of Zinnia seeds that was brought back to the office from the 2004 IASCOE Convention in April. With lots of water and TLC from the county office staff (primarily Jan Christensen) they have bloomed all summer long! The flowers brightened up the staff entrance, as well as reminding them of IASCOE on a daily basis! What a beautiful way to start the workday!



National Award Winner from Iowa!
Distinguished Service To IASCOE/NASCOE
Patrice “Trice” Smith – CPT Benton County

My nominee for the distinguished service to IASCOE/NASCOE AWARD has been a member and very active supporter since joining the agency in 1985. Despite her husband’s instructions “don’t come home with another job” as she went off to her first meeting as a newly elected IASCOE director, she somehow managed to go home from the meeting as a newly elected Secretary/Treasurer of IASCOE. As Secretary/Treasurer of IASCOE from 1994 through 1997, many thankless hours were spent keeping the books and finances of IASCOE. Her work as Secretary/Treasurer was followed by serving two years as Vice-President of IASCOE and two years as President of IASCOE. She and her husband are familiar faces at the IASCOE conventions and her enthusiasm has been instrumental in various aspects of planning and conducting many successful IASCOE Conventions. She has attended all but one national convention since becoming “hooked on them” while attending her first national convention in Milwaukee in 1994. It took the birth of her 1st grandchild to keep her from the 2003 NASCOE convention. Her calendar is annually marked to attend the Midwest area rally, and too many out of state conventions to count. She has attended numerous Legislative conferences and made congressional visits on behalf of IASCOE/NASCOE. She has served as a member of the Iowa FSA Partnership Council, the national PT classification taskforce and the CED classification taskforce in Washington. Serving as a member of the Negotiation Consultation Team, she has met with management in Washington on numerous occasions representing IASCOE/NASCOE employees. After serving in all offices of IASCOE she continued her service to NASCOE with two years as the Alternate Midwest Area Executive Committee Person and two years as the Midwest Area Executive Committee Person. Whether she was participating as an IASCOE office or NASCOE officer, she has put forth all of her effort to be successful in each of her elected offices. The IASCOE/NASCOE work is done in addition to her county office duties, which include Reconstitutions, Direct Farm Loan Program, and Chief Program Technician in Iowa’s Benton Co Office. Anyone who knows her knows that she gives 110% to IASCOE/NASCOE and goes out of her way to try to involve employees in the organization and fights for the rights of all FSA employees. I respectfully submit the nomination of my friend and a very deserving Patrice “Trice” Smith for the Distinguished Service to IASCOE/NASCOE award.

Nomination Submitted by Kathy White, CED Iowa County

A Thank You Note From Trice Smith

2004 National Award Winner For Distinguished Service To NASCOE

I want to thank NASCOE for selecting me to be this year's award recipient for Distinguished Service to NASCOE. It was a great honor to accept this award in Baltimore at the National Convention amongst so many of our dedicated members.

I would also like to thank my friend Kathy White for taking the time to write such a wonderful nomination. You can only win if someone nominates you. I encourage members for next year to nominate worthy people in their states for any of the three award categories. There are definitely worthy people in every state.

President Steve has been my mentor for many years as I followed in his NASCOE footsteps. Always encouraging and supportive he has become a very close friend.

Of course there are people in my state such as John, Jolene, Rosie, Denise and Tammy that stood by me in whatever endeavor that I wanted to pursue. They were such great campaign managers when I needed them!

As you can see, when you are involved in an organization like NASCOE it takes many people to make it successful. I share this award with them all.

Trice Smith
CPT Benton County FSA



Trice and Steve Morrison
- NASCOE President



Trice and her husband Ed

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Effective September 1, 2004 - August 31, 2005

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Vice President: Dan Root, 1400 W. Main St., Albert Lea, MN 56007
Secretary: Bonnie Heinzman, 132 Peters Run Rd, Wheeling, WV 26003
Treasurer: Larry Segars, PO Box 112, DeWitt, AR 72042

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MIDWEST AREA UPDATE

Chris Hollis - Midwest Area Executive Chairperson

August 18, 2004

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to update you on what is going on following a fantastic National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. First, I want to thank all the MWA delegates for their support in electing me to have the privilege to serve you as your Exec for the upcoming year. I am looking forward to working for, as well as with, all of you. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

The Officers and Execs had a conference call on August 12. This was in preparation for our organizational meeting which will be held August 27th and 28th in Rapid City, SD. Here are the items that were covered on the conference call:

CapWiz:

Following the Legislative Committees recommendation CapWiz was approved for a 3 year contract starting September 1st of this year. CapWiz is an internet grassroots legislative tool. You will be able to send legislative letters and information to your congressman very easily. You will have to use your home computers (*not* USDA machines), so we will be setting up a way to gather all your personal e-mail addresses. After serving on the legislative committee the last few years, I think this will be a great tool. With the demands of our jobs, families, and other activities, it is almost impossible for us to keep up with everything going on in Washington. Many times the fastball had gone by us while we where looking for the curve. This tool should not only help us stay on top of things but will also allow YOU to become more easily involved in the process.

The three year contract for CapWiz costs \$17,000. Is that a lot of money? Yes! However, looking at the treasurer's report, the officers and execs felt like we could absorb the cost without any dues increases in the near future. NASCOE is fiscally sound at this time. I feel if we don't try to help our cause now, we might not have a cause later to spend money on. Let's make the most of that \$5666.00 per year by becoming familiar with CapWiz and using it to its maximum potential.

The officers and Execs approved Bob McGrath to stay over one night while he was in D.C. working on some workload queries to be trained on CapWiz. Bob should be trained on or around September 3rd. There will then be a PowerPoint or slide show that will be used at State Conventions and Rally's to train ALL our members on how to use this exciting tool. A hard copy of this show should be available to email all members at some time.

Legislative Conference:

The Officers and Execs approved a full Legislative Conference that will be held February 26th through March 2nd. Most of you are not aware that we did not meet our commitment on room nights for the national convention in Baltimore. This was caused by last minute cancellations due to sickness or family commitments. Therefore NASCOE is facing attrition charges of \$10,700. We discussed a proposal which will not only eliminate the attrition charges but will also save us approximately \$5,000 in other costs. If we would stay at the Baltimore Marriot for two nights of the Legislative Conference the charge for the unused rooms at the convention will be waived. It looks like we will stay at the Baltimore Marriot on Saturday and Sunday.

We will then be bused to the Hotel Washington Monday and stay there until we travel home on Wednesday. I know your first response is one of inconvenience. I agree! However, we felt it was better than writing the Marriot a check with nothing in return. The Hotel Washington is a little more expensive per night than the Marriot. The difference in room rates will more than pay for the bus rentals. More details will follow.

Committee Chairs:

The Officers and Execs approved our President's request to combine the Awards, Scholarship, and Emblems as one Committee. This is at the National Level and does not necessarily mean that it has to be followed at the Area Level. I plan on keeping them separate. I feel the more people involved the stronger we are as a group. I will announce the MWA Committee Chairs after David has approved them at the Organizational Meeting.

MWA Report:

David wants all the area execs to have a written report ready to pass out at the organizational meeting. In the past this report was verbal. I sent out an email asking for any questions, concerns, or ideas that you might have for me. I will pass them along to your leadership at the organizational meeting.

Conference Call Adjourned!

In closing I want to touch on one more subject that I have heard some concerns about from several states: the decision to move ahead with forming a **Political Action Committee**.

I know you have members in your state, as I do, that are totally against NASCOE's leadership accepting the Legislative Committees recommendation to pursue development of a PAC. It was supported in Baltimore and the Officers and Execs have decided to move forward with this endeavor.

We do not want this to cost us membership and I ask you as your State's leadership to help inform and educate the members of your state. A Political Action Committee is a VOLUNTARY fundraising committee that will contribute to congressional campaigns. IT WILL BE AN INDIVIDUAL'S DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PAC. No NASCOE dues will be put into the PAC to give to campaigns. Make sure your members realize this point.

Bob Redding (our consultant), as well as a group of NASCOE members, will determine who these contributions will go to. The days of being rewarded for working hard and doing a good job are just not reality anymore. Our sister agency has numerous PAC's working on their behalf.

Whether you agree or not, leadership has to try things that will keep us competitive. It would not surprise me if in the upcoming farm bill that FSA's CRP is in jeopardy of becoming NRCS's CRP. If you ever read the newsletter Buffer Notes you would think it is already NRCS's program. I am more than willing to talk with any member that would like more information on this subject.

As always I appreciate everything you do to make our Association and its members the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Chris Hollis
Midwest Area Executive Chairperson

TO: MIDWEST AREA STATE PRESIDENTS, DIRECTORS, & MEMBERS
FROM: CHRIS HOLLIS, MWA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: ORGANIZATIONAL/BUSINESS MEETING
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2004

I want to pass along some notes from our Organizational meeting held August 27th and 28th in Rapid City, SD. Officers, Executives, and National Committee Chairs attended the meeting. We met at the hotel of next years National Convention. The hotel is very nice and South Dakota is beautiful. I encourage you to attend if at all possible. There are a lot of things to do. Mt. Rushmore, the Black Hills, Crazy Horse, and my wife liked the mall that is within walking distance of the hotel. I think the best reprieve from our Midwest weather was the low humidity. The South Dakota people are working on a fly/drive package for those attending. More details will be available at a later date.

The following were discussed at the organizational meeting:

- A. Communications: The Officers and Execs were committed to increase the communication between the board, State Presidents, and members. I ask that State Presidents try to email things I send out to your state directors, who will then send it to members in their district. I want to make sure that National Chairs communicate with Area Chairs, who will then pass along information to the State Chairs. I recommend that one director in each district set up an address book of employees for that district. We need to make sure that every employee knows what we are doing for them. I am going to call this my “NO EMPLOYEE LEFT UNINFORMED PROGRAM”. No pun intended. I feel that sometimes our members are not informed on the issues NASCOE is working on. If anyone has a problem with communications, please let me know.
- B. CRP: There is concern that OUR CRP program might be in jeopardy in the next farm bill. If you ever read the newsletter Buffer Notes you would think it is already an NRCS program. We need to work with various conservation groups to get out our message. If you know anyone with Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, etc., try to get involved and educate them on what FSA does for the CRP program. I think you will find that many organizations already think it is our sister agencies program. We need to educate and communicate with these groups.
- C. State Association Meetings: David stressed that we need to invite NACS and NASE to our conventions and rally’s. He would also like for us to get them on the agenda to speak. Also, if you plan on inviting a NASCOE Officer, please give them plenty of notice.
- D. PT Classification: The officers and execs want to make it clear that this issue is not dead. We looked into adding an SED, AO, and DD to our already strong NASCOE task force. I emailed Presidents earlier for some suggestions. If you have any, please feel free to contact me.
- E. 2005 Staffing and Budget: We will probably be working with a CR for a while. The Senate and House have not finalized the 2005 budget. What we were told in Baltimore is that the budget shortfall could come in around 30 million. I know that the MWA SED’s are meeting in Iowa this week. I was told that the budget people were also going to attend. They did not attend some of the earlier area meetings. Keep in touch with your elected officials. It is my understanding that they are going to look at staffing numbers again this fall. Therefore, that over/understaffed might change with the new workload numbers. I will let you know when I hear more on the budget.
- F. PAC and CAPWIZ: I will send something out on these two issues at a later date. Timing might be tight but I hope to have a demonstration on Capwiz at the Missouri State Convention.

- G. National Newsletter and Webpage: The National newsletter will have a few changes to it. David is going to try to eliminate redundancy by giving each Exec a topic to write about. This will hopefully eliminate a topic being repeated by every area Exec. We also voted to send out the newsletter quarterly instead of Bi-monthly. We hope to utilize the NASCOE Website more frequently for any HOT TOPICS. If we can accomplish this, I feel we will keep the membership more informed and save money at the same time.
- H. FSA Task Forces: We have found that a lot of times task forces are put together in D.C. and no NASCOE person is involved. Mr. Frago has agreed to try to include our membership on upcoming or existing task forces. I would like the State President's to notify me of anyone on an existing task force. We don't believe we have a complete list of all the task forces in D.C.
- I. National mailings: It is my understanding that the two individuals that were delegates to the National Convention in Baltimore will receive any National Mailings that Bonnie sends out. If you want to change those names go into www.nascoe.org, fill out the form and email it to Bonnie.
- J. Legislative Conference: A full legislative conference is scheduled next spring. Tammy Eibey, will provide more information after she attends the legislative committee's organizational meeting next month. The scheduled date for the legislative conference is February 26th through March 2nd.
- K. National Committee Chairs: The Chairs attended the meeting with Job Descriptions and Goals in hand. I will email them to you once I receive them via the computer. I would like to say that I was very impressed with all of our National Committee Chairs.
- L. Directory: I will be sending a MWA directory to all State Presidents and Chairs. Please look these over and send me any changes if needed. The directory will have the names of all the National and Area Chairs, Execs, and alternate Execs. It will also have the leadership of every state in the MWA. If changes from your state need to be made, please let me know.
- M. Questions: I need the State Presidents to let me know the following:
 1. State association's position on the animal ID system? Do we pursue the program?
 2. Temporaries? What is the status in your state?
- N. State Conventions:
 - Missouri - September 10th and 11th. Lake of the Ozarks.
 - Michigan – October 8th and 9th. Houghton Lake
 - Ohio – November 12th and 13th. Columbus, Airport Marriot
 - Illinois – March 11th and 12th. Springfield
 - Iowa – April 1st and 2nd, Marshalltown
 - MWA Rally – June 3rd through June 5th. Nebraska City

In closing I would like to thank all of you for your support. I would like to thank my MWA committee chairs for agreeing to give up their time for the betterment of our membership. I think we have a very strong group here in the Midwest.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Chris Hollis

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.

Denise Dugan, Emblems Chairperson for 2004, presented NASCOE with a check for \$974.73 at the National Convention in Baltimore in July. This was the commission on sales for the first year of thenascoestore.com. Sales are growing as more people learn of the online store. New items are being added, and plans are to continue adding items that people want to buy. Items that do not sell well will be discontinued by offering them at Sale prices, so it's very important that everybody check the site often and not miss out on any of the good prices that are available from time to time.

One unadvertised sale that's going on right now is buy 1 journal and we'll send you 2. We hope that by word of mouth, that this will soon be a very "advertised" sale. Pass this info along.

Shop often and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us.

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Polo for Him - 100% Combed Cotton pique shirt. CLOSE OUT PRICES ON EMBROIDERED MEN'S POLOS! Every men's polo shirt is on sale for the month of September.

Men's 3-Button Placket Shirt

100% Peruvian Cotton! CLOSE OUT PRICES ON EMBROIDERED MEN'S POLOS! Every men's polo shirt is on sale for the month of September.





Past and present employees gathered Tuesday for a special lunch honoring Larry Niles. Pictured in front, Liz Harris, Leora Anderson and Delores Kesler. In back, Linda Blum, Diane Richard, Niles, Carol Wirtz and Arlene Gage.

FSA Milestone

Director Larry Niles is honored for 30 years of service in Emmet County

By KARA BEAUCHAMP

ESTHERVILLE — Emmet County Farm Services Agency (FSA) celebrated a milestone Tuesday, as the agency honored FSA Director Larry Niles for his 30 years of service to Emmet County.

Niles joined the then Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service (ASCS) in 1974 with a workforce of three, Leora Anderson, Janet Johnson and Betty Wellnitz.

The workforce was later downgraded to two employees.

Currently, Emmet County FSA workforce has over 100 years of combined service to the county.

Today, local staffer Carol Wirtz has 40 years of experience. Linda Blum has 22 years. Arlene Gage has 21 years and Diane Richard has 19. Wirtz, Gage and retired employee Delores Kesler all began in 1950.

“Most of the employees began as part-time for six months,” explained Niles. Today, Wirtz, Blum, Gage and Richard are all full-time.

The past 30 years has provided Niles with many memorable moments. In 1983, Emmet County farmland experienced its driest conditions to date. In 1988 the agency issued Payments-In-Kind (PIK) to area farmers and no one can forget the flood of 1993, which left Emmet County farmland severely damaged and unworkable.

“In 1993 we offered the 0-92 program, which allowed farmers to destroy their crops,” explained Niles. “We had about 600 to 700 producers at the Elks, to explain the program.”

In addition to memorable moments, county producers have something to be proud of.

“Here in Emmet County we have 100 percent certified farms and 100 percent participation in the farm programs. We are probably the only county in the United States that is 100 percent certified,” explained Niles. “The certification is the basis used to establish program payments.”

Laced between the major and proud moments are funny stories from each employee. “I remember when the girls were working on 24-hour continuous, rotating shifts. The police stopped out here to make sure everything was all right,” laughed Niles.

All programs provided by FSA are established by congress and fluctuate depending on rural conditions, weather conditions and markets.

Three of the biggest programs include Price Support, Conservation and Production Adjustment.

Employee Linda Blum said, “When I first started, I was told there would be a series of peaks and valleys. There have been more peaks.”

Richard added, “We all have families, but we consider this our second family.”

“I agree. Whenever I am traveling and need to know where to stay or eat, I can visit a county office and get information to any question I may have,” said Niles.

Besides its dedicated employees, several other factors have led to the success of the FSA.

“Our producers have been extremely cooperative and understanding due to the complexity and all the paper work,” said Niles. “Also, the newspaper and radio have been extremely cooperative over the last 30 years. Their stories on the front page and on the radio have helped us become 100 percent certified and have 100 percent participation.”

Recently, Niles was honored with an award for his 30 years of service. The award was presented by the Iowa State Executive Director for the FSA, Derryl McLaren.

“I have to say my most important job over the last 30 years has been hiring good employees. When you do that, everything runs smoother,” he concluded.

A lunch was held Tuesday afternoon for Niles as a thanks for his 30-years of service to Emmet County.

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Hello, my name is Samantha Zeman. I am a Program Technician at the Pocahontas County FSA. As all of you probably know, on Friday May 21st, 2004, a tornado went through the towns of Rolfe and Bradgate demolishing many farmsteads and homes. Unfortunately, my house, along with many others stood right in the line of fire. We had lost a lot of our belongings, but nothing that couldn't be replaced.

Through the whole nightmare, I never blamed anyone for our loss. In my eyes, everything happens for a reason, even if it's something that is as devastating as this. All I can say is that I thank God for all the things that did not happen that day. For instance: my husband and I came out of the tornado without a scratch. Although it may have seemed like we had lost everything, we still had each other (in one piece). Our two dogs went for a heck of a ride and came out just fine, and we were lucky enough to find that our horses were still alive, but unfortunately a couple of days later we had to put one of them down due to a broken vertebra in his neck.

The reason that I can sit here and say that everything happens for a reason is because ever since that horrible day, it seems like everything has fallen into place. We have found that perfect acreage that is set up for just what we need, we have been able to replace most of the things that we lost, and most of all we have had a BEAUTIFUL baby girl, (Taylor Joy) that was born July 10th. It's amazing how something so little can take away all the pain. She definitely makes me forget about anything bad that happens in my life.



The main reason that I'm writing this is to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers and donations. With the most sincere gratitude and respect I can never thank you enough for all of your help through our time of disaster. The disaster fund account that was set up for us was something that I never expected, but I am very grateful for. The funds that were donated have been used for replacing the baby items that we had prior to the tornado and replacing all the furniture that was damaged.

Again, thank you ALL!!!

"Pages" of Summer

Submitted by Jolene Fechter - CED Page County

The celebrity in our office, Carol Brown (DCP & Recon PT), had an outstanding performance in the Clarinda Community Theatre production, "Once Upon a Mattress". Her magnificent performance as Queen Aggravain was enjoyed by the staff who attended the play. Her character barked out orders to the King and the Prince throughout the play and when asked, her husband indicated she barks out orders at home, just like she did in the play!



Nashville, TN was the site of the National Home Interiors convention and Donna Marriott (CRP PT) attended for the first time. Besides selling home interiors she spends time decorating for weddings and other occasions and she and another local woman started a decorating business. When she doesn't have anything else to do she mows lawns and cleans houses.

Deer and patrolmen have kept Todd Weppler, (FL0), alert as he travels from his farm near Lewis, Iowa to Clarinda each day on Highway 71. Todd joined our staff in August, 2003 and has been a welcome addition to Page County FSA. His vacation this year included attending the Iowa State Fair on one of the beautiful days in August that we have been so blessed with.

Compliance & FSFL PT John Kenagy's many operations keep the medical community busy. He has now had carpal tunnel surgery on both hands so we expect perfect compliance work as we digitize our photography and certify CLU units this fall. Spring and fall keep him busy with field work and he also took time out to attend the State Fair.

Chris Irvin (PS PT) just found out she will be a grandma again in March. Her 1-year old grandson, Austin is currently the center of her attention, however she will now have 2 kids in college in Storm Lake and 1 in high school keeping her busy traveling to sports activities. Her only disappointment is that Austin is not closer as he lives in North Carolina. She was excited to take a trip to see him this summer and even got to bring him home for a week.

The other grandma in the office is Janet Wagoner (Admin PT) who now has 6 grandchildren. She keeps busy traveling between Clarinda, Kansas City, MO and Osceola, Iowa to keep up with all their activities and babysitting. A summer trip to Oceans of Fun led to peeling skin from sunburn. When asked where the sunscreen was and she stated it was in the beach bag where it is supposed to be!

Judy Lundgren (FLP PT) celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary with a trip to Colorado, California and Arizona. For someone who only likes to travel a few hours a day, the trip was grueling but well worth it as they enjoyed seeing Disneyland, Newport Beach, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon to name a few.

“Pages” Of Summer continued



Dyanne Millikan (Compliance & EQIP PT) has found out how busy a mother can be with two children under tow. Paige Elizabeth was born in January and joined brother Matthew who turned 4 in July.

Painting, painting and more painting have kept Gary Armstrong (FLM) busy this summer. First the two story house had to be scraped, then primed and finally painted. The project is yet to be completed but by the time the weather chases them inside, they will have inside projects to work on as their oldest son will graduate from high school next spring. Everyone knows how that brings out the house projects!!!!

I am looking forward to a “girls week” in Hawaii as I visit my daughter and daughter-in-law. My daughter joined her sister-in-law in Hawaii this summer to keep her company while my son is deployed to Iraq. They have many activities planned when mom/mother-in-law arrive and I just hope I can keep up with them!



Page County Staff purchased several items from theNascoeStore.com as shown in this picture. The shirts being held are for Janet’s grandchildren as we couldn’t get them together when we took the picture:

Like everyone in FSA the “Pages” of summer pass through all the staff as they keep busy with their many activities and families.

GREENE COUNTY FARMERS MARKET WATERMELON FEED!!



The Greene County FSA staff handed out 5 seedless watermelons. The crowd was waiting in line for the luscious cold melons! This is an annual event that is awaited by employees and the public!



at table - Kevin Fitzpatrick – CED & Diane Ostrander-PT
back row - Candy Hoyle-PT, Debi Ostrander-PT, Jean Finch-PT & Diane Wise-PT

District #1 “TOP TEN Questions”

Items of interest in each county

DICKINSON COUNTY

- 1- Most talked about tourist attraction in your county?
Natural Blue Water Iowa Great Lakes
- 2- Oldest resident in your county?
Letricia Lawson is 108 years old
- 3- Best food in your county?
Taco House, Mrs. Ladys, Newman's Cakes & Crustaceans, Tweeters
- 4- Prettiest drive in your county?
Lakeshore Drive around the lakes either by car or boat
- 5- Best kept secret in your county?
Higgin's Museum
- 6- Unusual events to attend in your county and when?
BRASL - Bike Ride Around Spirit Lake -Summer
Okoboji Summer Theatre -Summer
Arts Center -Summer
Performances in the Green Space in Arnold's Park -Summer
University of Okoboji Homecoming & Winter Games -Winter
- 7- Interesting history fact about your county?
Abbie Gardner Cabin & the Spirit Lake Massacre
- 8- Healthiest thing to do in your county?
Swimming, walking and biking on the Okoboji Trail System
- 9- Best picnic spot in your county?
Pikes Point or any of the parks around the lakes
- 10- Coldest beer in your county?
Barefoot Bar

District #1 “TOP TEN Questions”

Items of interest in each county

EMMET COUNTY

1. Most talked about tourist attraction in your county?
Site of the world's largest meteor, fell north of Estherville in the late 1800's
2. Oldest resident in your county?
104 year old lady landlord who just took out an FSFL loan!!
3. Best food in your county?
The pork tenderloin at Mac's Top Hat in Estherville
4. Prettiest drive in your county?
Through Ingham-High Lake Recreational Area and Okamanpedan State Park
5. Best kept secret in your county?
The beautiful new Regional Wellness Center in Estherville
6. Unusual events to attend in your county and when?
Chuckwagon Days in June and Sweet Corn Days in August
7. Interesting history fact about your county?
Fort Defiance built near the Des Moines River to protect early settlers from Indian attacks
8. Healthiest thing to do in your county?
Go to the new Regional Wellness Center on a regular basis
9. Best picnic spot in your county?
In the park by the Swinging Bridge over the Des Moines River in Estherville
10. Coldest beer in your county?
Woody's Pizza in Estherville (Best pizza, too)

District #1 “TOP TEN Questions”

Items of interest in each county

SIoux COUNTY

1. Most talked about tourist attraction in your county?
3 Day Tour of the Holy Land - spend 1 day in Sioux Center and 2 days in Orange City
2. Oldest resident in your county?
Any one of us after the DCP sign up
3. Best food in your county?
Everything Joyce brings
4. Prettiest drive in your county?
The drive home after work
5. Best kept secret in your county?
If we told you it wouldn't be a secret
6. Unusual events to attend in your county and when?
Rearranging office furniture while people are on vacation
7. Interesting history fact about your county?
Each employee has been with FSA for at least 100 years
8. Healthiest thing to do in your county?
Going home after work
9. Best picnic spot in your county?
Paul Kats' (COC) back yard during COC inspection tour
10. Coldest beer in your county?
Beer!!!??!! In Sioux County???????

District #1 “TOP TEN Questions”

Items of interest in each county

O'BRIEN COUNTY

1. Most talked about tourist attraction in your county?

We couldn't decide on just one attraction:

1. Figure 8 Races in Primghar
2. Stained and Blown Glass Window Plant in Sutherland
3. Getting's Gardens at Sanborn
4. Bruiser's Football at Paullina

2. Oldest resident in your county?

The oldest resident in O'Brien County is Welthy Albright. Welthy is 107 years young and lives at the Health Center in Hartley. Welthy will be 108 on September 14th

3. Best food in your county?

Pete's in Hartley gets our vote for the best food in the county. The restaurant features his award winning pork along with anything else you might be hungry for.

4. Prettiest drive in your county?

The prettiest drive would be through the southwestern part of our county, through the Sutherland Hills and Waterman Creek Area.

5. Best kept secret in your county?

Our golf courses are our best kept secret. We have 5 excellent courses in O'Brien county, located in Primghar, Paullina, Hartley, Sanborn and Sheldon.

6. Unusual events to attend in your county and when?

Cowpie Bingo at Sutherland's Annual Labor Day Celebration

7. Interesting history fact about your county?

On November 23, 1882 the residents of Sanborn decided the county courthouse should be in Sanborn, not Primghar. In the middle of the night a group of Sanborn residents came to Primghar and removed all the records and the safe from the courthouse and moved them to Sanborn. The Primghar residents wouldn't stand for this and went to Sanborn and brought the records back to Primghar.

8. Healthiest thing to do in your county?

Participate in ROTATE, a bicycle ride from Sheldon to Archer and back to Sheldon. ROTATE stands for 'Ride Over To Archer To Eat'

9. Best picnic spot in your county?

Mill Creek State Park in Paullina

10. Coldest beer in your county?

Rumor has it that the coldest beer is somewhere in Archer. Archer doesn't have a café or a bar so we will need to investigate this rumor and let you know if it's true.

District #1 “TOP TEN Questions”

Items of interest in each county

PLYMOUTH COUNTY

1. Most talked about tourist attraction in your county?
Well's Dairy (Ice Cream Capital of the World)
2. Oldest resident in your county?
Sena Pagelar - 101 years
3. Best food in your county?
Bob's Dog at Bob's on the corner of 75 & 3
4. Prettiest drive in your county?
Loess Hills in South West Plymouth County
5. Best kept secret in your county?
We haven't heard... OR we can start one.. OR if we tell you we'll have to kill you.. OR if we told you it wouldn't be a secret.. OR we have no secrets.. (Make A Choice)
6. Unusual events to attend in your county and when?
Test Fest (Testicle Festival) in Craig, 1st Saturday after July 4th each year
7. Interesting history fact about your county?
In 1872, by a close vote, the county seat was moved to LeMars. The town of LeMars had been platted in 1869 and was named by using an unusual method. A party of bankers, realtors, a state legislator, and state register of deeds took an excursion to the LeMars area. The ladies along for the journey decided to use their first names initials to name the town. In order to form a six-letter word from nine initials, a combination of marital status and numbers was used. The letters "L" and "M" each represented two married women. That is why both are capitalized. The "e" stands for one married and one unmarried woman and the "a,r,s" each stand for one married woman. The order of the "L" and "M" were chosen by drawing straws. If it had gone the other way, LeMars could be MeLars.
8. Healthiest thing to do in your county?
City of LeMars Walking Path (Watch out for flying golf balls as the path is around the golf course).
9. Best picnic spot in your county?
Hillview Park outside of Hinton
10. Coldest beer in your county?
Schootch's in Kingsley

District #1 “TOP TEN Questions”

Items of interest in each county

CHEROKEE COUNTY

1. Most talked about tourist attraction in your county?
Sanford Museum & Planetarium
Sioux Valley Match Play Tournament
2. Oldest resident in your county?
Verda Ehlers - Cleghorn Iowa Born October 29, 1903
3. Best food in your county?
The Gasthaus & The Chapparel Steak House/Lounge
4. Prettiest drive in your county?
Martin Access Area - east of Larrabee on C16
5. Best kept secret in your county?
Adam Timmerman - Cherokee Farmer/Land Owner & Lineman for the St.
Louis Rams
Cherokee Jazz Festival in January
Wonderful World of Christmas Parade - This year on 12-2-04
6. Unusual events to attend in your county and when?
Cherokee PRCA Rodeo in Cherokee (weekend after Memorial Day)
7. Interesting history fact about your county?
Cherokee Mental Health Institute - Celebrated 100 years in 2002
8. Healthiest thing to do in your county?
Wellness Center in Cherokee
9. Best picnic spot in your county?
Spring Lake Park in Cherokee
10. Coldest beer in your county?
VFW

District #1 “TOP TEN Questions”

Items of interest in each county

BUENA VISTA COUNTY

1. Most talked about tourist attraction in your county?
The windmills along “Buffalo Ridge” in western Buena Vista County. Built in 1999, the wind farm consists of 257 towers standing 215 feet high. The blades are 72 feet long weighing 9000 pounds. The best route to see them is driving north of Alta along County M31
2. Oldest resident in your county?
We had a 107 year old lady, but she died.
3. Best food in your county?
The rolls Cheryl makes for the office! The Turkey Filets from Sara Lee in Storm Lake are also a favorite of many.
4. Prettiest drive in your county?
The drive between Linn Grove and Peterson along County M36 and Hwy 10 is on the “Iowa Scenic Byways”.
5. Best kept secret in your county?
The Raccoon River actually starts in Buena Vista County The only other secret would be the location of “Bobby's Sandbar - Fish Naked”! (Refer to #10 below!)
6. Unusual events to attend in your county and when?
The “Marathon To Marathon” would probably be it. This is the only sanctioned marathon in Iowa that has an international field of competitors. The June marathon starts in Storm Lake and ends up in the town of Marathon - hence the “Marathon To Marathon”. You can check it out at www.marathon2marathon.com
7. Interesting history fact about your county?
Sioux Rapids was the first county seat and the James Gang camped out along the Little Sioux River on their way to Minnesota. Bonnie and Clyde also passed through Buena Vista County. Several other outlaws work here at the FSA office!
8. Healthiest thing to do in your county?
Ride the bike trail around Storm Lake.
9. Best picnic spot in your county?
There are many nice city parks along the shores of Storm Lake for picnics and recreation. In Chautauqua Park there's a nice shelter house for family reunions or larger groups. The Buena Vista County Park south of Peterson also has a nice picnic area and campgrounds.
10. Coldest beer in your county?
That would either be at “Ikes Job Site” in Marathon or “Bobby's Sandbar - Fish Naked” (you'll have to find it yourself - remember #5 above!)

District #1 “TOP TEN Questions”

Items of interest in each county

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

1. Most talked about tourist attraction in your county?
-The big Pocahontas Indian statue that is on the east side of town
-Gilmore City is the Limestone Capital of Iowa - the quarry was started in 1880 and the cement plant was started in 1900
2. Oldest resident in your county?
George Stockdale is 100 years young & Herb Hammer is 98 years
3. Best food in your county?
Home Plate in Pocahontas & Palmer House in Palmer
4. Prettiest drive in your county?
Coopers Cove Park with the Keystone Bridge that was moved there in 1981
5. Best kept secret in your county?
Halderwood Farm B & B - 14155 510th St - Pocahontas IA 50574
www.everttek.net/halderwood/infopg.html
Owned by: Linda VanderZyden, our COC Adviser & Lee Halder
Restored two of the old family barns (built in 1890 & 1906) into a new restaurant from 1997 to 1999. It now seats 10 to 400 people with a dance floor in the hayloft above
6. Unusual events to attend in your county and when?
-Wiegert Prairie Farm Days in August that are like the Albert City Thresherman Days
-Varina Fish Fry, where you wait 1 ½ hours for the best fish you've ever had. This happens during Lent in early March
-Winegarden Machinery Auction two or more times a year. This is a good time to observe the largest local gathering of farmers in their natural setting
7. Interesting history fact about your county?
Smallest towns are Pinkertown & Rusk. Now only signs & rock monuments.
Rusk was established in 1868, growing to two stores, a creamery and implement shop, and a school. And "Old Rolf" was once the county seat (in 1860). The courthouse was moved to Pocahontas in 1876.
Last large Indian battle occurred in this area in the spring of 1854 between the Sioux and Winnebago tribes.
8. Healthiest thing to do in your county?
Walk, run or bicycle the Tree Rivers Trail
9. Best picnic spot in your county?
Plover Pit
10. Coldest beer in your county?
Any and All of the small town bars in the county



WHY MARRY A FARMER?

Not too long ago, someone wondered aloud, "Why would anyone marry a farmer?" She went on to state she could never survive on a farm. She believed farmers had too few vacations, no free Sunday afternoons or evenings, no dependable income - and they were at the mercy of often unpredictable or harsh weather.

Furthermore, she noted, a farmer could never sleep in or have a leisurely breakfast in bed. Several loads of clothes are washed daily by the worn out wife, manicures and beauty parlors are unheard of, overflowing grocery carts are standard shopping features, there are no cozy dinners out, and only older, well-used vehicles are parked in the driveway.

There are too many sacrifices a farm wife must make, and always, always, the farm comes first.

I realized some of her statements were true to a degree, but I also felt obligated to tell her why a gal would want to marry a farmer. So, for her or anyone else contemplating marriage to a farmer...

If you like carryout food shared in a wide open field, comfortable blue jeans, worn tennis shoes, and a house that's well loved in, marry a farmer.

If you like looking out of your kitchen window at Holsteins in the pasture, heifers' kicking their heels up, green hay fields, full corn cribs and knowing its all yours from the sweat of your labor, marry a farmer.

Marry a farmer if you like being equal to your spouse, sharing chores and responsibility and raising children in country-fresh air.

To be sure there are long days, but with them comes a feeling of satisfaction and fulfillment when evening comes. There is a sense of pride, of being your own boss, working side by side with your Maker. If this appeals to you, marry a farmer.

If you like knowing the success or failure of your farming operation rests on your shoulders and there is no one else to blame if you fail and only yourself to praise if you succeed, marry a farmer.

If you like the anticipation of growing crops from seed to harvest, the unique ups and downs of life, waiting anxiously for new birth, receiving a check for the product you produced, marry a farmer.

By all means, marry a farmer.

Written By Karen K. Blasiman

Submitted By Sue Beemer - IASCOE Secretary/Treasurer & PT Taylor County FSA

The Best of Wapello County

*Submitted by Dee Ann Lehn – CED Keokuk County
& Rose Woerner – PT Wapello County*

On April 30, 1843 at the stroke of midnight, the firing of a shot gun echoed in the darkness and a band of eager settlers raced toward the “New Purchase” where they would make their homes. Within a month of the night, 5000 people were living within the borders of what is now known as Wapello County.

It’s been over a century and a half since that event, so just what does Wapello County have to offer today. No doubt, one of the most talked about attractions in the county would be the house located in Eldon, which was used as a backdrop in Grant Wood’s famous painting “The American Gothic”. There are other attractions, though, such as Chief Wapello’s grave. The county, of course, was named for this Fox Indian Chief. Pioneer Ridge Nature Center is another point of interest.

And remember those long Sunday afternoon drives Grandpa and Grandma used to take? Wapello County offers a scenic drive along Highway T-61 and Monkey Mountain that is absolutely breath-taking in the fall. Need a bit more excitement in the summertime? The Beach, a water park located in Ottumwa, offers swimming, water slides, kayaks or sand volleyball. There are hot air balloons races held in the summer months and an Oktoberfest each fall.

Some parts of the county have been preserved through the years, yet, some have been lost. The Central Addition, an area of Ottumwa that was developed for the “upper class” in the late 1800’s was one of the first areas that had street lights and paved streets. The area had flooded so many times however, it no longer exists.



Ottumwa, Iowa “The City of Bridges”

“FSA LINGO”

FIND A WORD PUZZLE

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| G | S | T | O | Y | S | S | W | O | C | B | R | O | M | E | G | R | A | S | S | P | D | L |
| N | I | A | R | E | T | G | N | U | S | P | Z | U | A | D | M | I | N | N | I | Z | Y | Y |
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| T | N | G | S | R | R | S | M | R | O | F | T | P | S | X | P | B | S | P | N | O | E | I |
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|---------------|---------|-------|--------|-------------|
| BARLEY | DISC | PC | CED | LYON COUNTY |
| OATS | HOUR | DAIRY | PT | FARMERS |
| BROME GRASS | NOON | BEEF | ADMIN | CROPS |
| RAIN | LUNCH | NRCS | COC | CORN |
| SUN | BREAKS | SIGN | HEL | SOYBEANS |
| CLOUDS | WORK | WHEAT | FLP | LDPS |
| PRICE SUPPORT | BINS | HAY | STORMS | WOOL |
| COMMODITY | IASCOE | FSA | MILC | SHEEP |
| USDA | PRINTER | DCP | NAP | WEEDS |
| STO | PIGS | EQIP | GIS | ALFALFA |
| CED | COWS | CRP | MAPS | FORMS |
| PLANTING | NHEL | LOANS | SPRING | TREES |

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PT Lyon County FSA

FSA WORD SCRAMBLE

Submitted by Lorene De Boer - PT Lyon County

- IFLE AICETBSN 1. _____
- PYOC AHINCME 2. _____
- IERTSRPN 3. _____
- CCLLAATROU 4. _____
- BDSSUOT 5. _____
- EEWABML EETNRONIT 6. _____
- CEXEL PRSADEHESET 7. _____
- ODFELSR 8. _____
- AILCITY 9. _____
- EDBOLU ISEDD 10. _____
- LECITCRE TPRELAS 11. _____
- EMRFRAS 12. _____
- BADHOKN 13. _____
- CIERP SOPRTPU 14. _____
- VERCISE EETNRC 15. _____
- RAVEDMIISANTVE 16. _____
- PANLMCCEOI 17. _____
- IDERCT AMYETPN 18. _____
- OUNCTRE YCCCILLA 19. _____
- ELASER 20. _____

Answers on the next page

It is almost the end of August and I chuckle when I hear “where did the summer go?” because I am thinking, where did the month go, or where did the year go!!!! Time seems to be speeding by all the time not just those summer months.

I like to think of happy things each month are maybe I should say highlights to look forward to as I turn the pages of the calendar.

- January - White snow and cold, sun dogs, and maybe a vacation where it is warm
- February - The color red, chocolates, and time to hurry and get your work done because this month goes the fastest!
- March - Wind and clouds but much warmer, melting and mud!
- April - New life, green trees and time to get the lawn mower out.
- May - Flowers and gardening, garage sales, and graduation
- June - Forest of green, sun burn, ball, swimming, and berries
- July - Picnics, fireworks, camping, and vacations,
- August - Garden vegetables, heat, fair time
- September - Hot days and cool nights, football, apples, socks and shoe time again
- October - Indian Summer, colorful trees, campfires and hiking
- November - Pumpkin pie, shopping, and turkey
- December - Christmas music, baked goodies, family time, presents and TV specials

There are no seasons better than the next one, I just am glad that I get to live through each one and try to enjoy each day as it comes. There are so many things that we can put down for each month after you start your list. Do that for me and then you too will see that each and every month has so many good things there for you.

Keep smiling!!!!
Lisa Forburger, PT Kossuth County

Answers to 'FSA WORD SCRAMBLE'

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. file cabinets | 8. folders | 15. service center |
| 2. copy machine | 9. facility | 16. administrative |
| 3. printers | 10. double sided | 17. compliance |
| 4. calculator | 11. electric stapler | 18. direct payment |
| 5. sodbust | 12. farmers | 19. counter cyclical |
| 6. ewelamb retention | 13. handbook | 20. sealer |
| 7. excel spreadsheet | 14. price support | |

THE PERILS OF POLLY P.T.

PART TWELVE

Written By Roseanne Woerner, PT from Wapello County

Created by Dee Lehn, CED from Keokuk County

Visit our
Website at
www.iascoe.org
for the entire story
of "The Perils of
Polly PT"

It's Wednesday morning and we're well into CRP signup. Admittedly I'm a bit on the testy side, mostly because it stormed last night and my cat Moochie is afraid of thunder. So when the thunderclouds clapped, she yowled. Time of night made no difference to her whatsoever. Also, I spent the entire evening talking to myself about Ophelia Bedford and I know that I'm not going to settle down until I've had my say.

I stomp into Stevie Corona's office first thing, plunk my sleeping bag next to his desk and I tell him, "There's no room in my cubicle or in the hall closet for this, so I'm leaving it in here."

"Uh huh," he says. Since he's looking down, engrossed in notices, while slurping coffee, it doesn't dawn on him that I'm being a drama queen. (And a darn good one at that I might add)

I cross my arms...no reaction...I tap my foot...still no reaction...I clear my throat...twice. Finally he looks up. "What," he says.

"I'm leaving this here," I tell him again.

"I heard you," he says. "And I know I'm going to be sorry I asked, but why did you bring your sleeping bag to work?"

"I'm obviously going to have to stay all night and I think I deserve a decent place to lay my weary head."

He picks up a notice and holds it in front of his face. He pretends to study it so that I won't see that he's smiling all over himself, but his earnest act only makes my foot tap

harder. "Why would you want to spend the night here?" he asks as soon as he regains his composure.

"I don't want to, I have to, and it's all your fault because you made an appointment for me with Ophelia Bedford for 3:30 this afternoon. You know how much she talks."

"Yes I do," he admits. "And I made the appointment for her convenience because she is a working woman with appointments of her own to keep, but I also told her that we close at 4:30."

"She sells Avon for pity's sake. She can set her own schedule."

"Polly, what is our first priority in this office?"

"Customer service," I mumble.

"And how do we provide good customer service?"

"By being friendly and putting the customer first."

"Very good. Now, I will stay with you until she leaves," he says. "But you know as well as I do that once in awhile we have to hang around a little later than usual. So you might as well put a big smile on your face and prepare to greet the day."

Ophelia gets to the office almost forty minutes early, which I take as a positive sign. She wears a bright purple pantsuit that swishes when she walks. Plus, she has a paisley turban wrapped around her head and a big gob of clunky bracelets dangling from

her wrists. She sounds like a walking wind chime. While Stevie talks to her about the point system, I study her face. It is an artful display of practically every item contained in the sample case she just ‘happened’ to bring along, in case anyone wanted to purchase her cosmetics. She is a veritable wheel of color, blue mascara, green eye shadow, and bright red lips.

I lay out a map of her farm and then Stevie and I start our spiel. She says that she wants as many points as possible, so I suggest that she might consider planting trees. Her face prunes into an instant grimace. “I’m not interested in anything that permanent,” she says, and then she lightly touches Stevie’s hand. “I want my ground to rest, like a piece of freshly kneaded dough.”

Stevie explains seeding mixtures and I tell her about midcontract management. Ophelia tells us about the pies she baked last Sunday, the miles that she puts on her car every week, and the demanding life of a salesperson. I’m getting the feeling that she’s not the least bit

interested in CRP, but I proceed with my explanation of the bidding process and I tell her that September 24th is the final date to offer a bid.

She talks nonstop about her parents, who are now deceased, the neighbors, who she doesn’t like, and how she might just opt to sell the farm because prices are good and she’d really rather live in town. At 4:27, she checks her watch. “Oh my goodness,” she says. “I have an important appointment at 4:30. I’m going to be late.” She rises slowly from her chair and tells Stevie that she’ll see him on the 24th if she decides to put in a bid.

I’m thinking that I should tell Stevie I’ll leave my sleeping bag in his office, in case she returns, but I decide that for once, I’ll keep my mouth shut. There is just enough time to clear off my desk before I leave, but then Wilbur Simmons walks through the door, carrying a flattened paper sack that is full of scribbles and scrawls...another story altogether.

THE END

Emmet County Farm Service Agency Was Visited By Students From The Estherville STAR Program.

