



NAFEC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Email completed form and FSA-444 copy to: robertwbraden@gmail.com

If you need to mail the application because of check or cash, use mailing address at bottom of page.

ENROLL ME NOW IN NAFEC!

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (check one)	METHOD OF CURRENT DUES PAYMENT (check one)
<input type="checkbox"/> County Committee Member (\$40/year)	<input type="checkbox"/> Check (Yearly Dues) – Payable to “NAFEC” - Please mail this form and payment to the address shown at bottom
<input type="checkbox"/> County Committee Member (Payroll Deduction / \$4 per meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> FSA-444 Dues Withholding - Complete an FSA-444 Form and forward the original to your state office. Also, email copy of FSA-444 and this application to NAFEC:
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member (\$20/year)	(THIS FORM MUST BE SENT TO NAFEC IN ORDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member (Payroll Deduction / \$1 pay period)	TO BE ENROLLED IN MEMBER BENEFITS)

New Member Information:

Member Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ *Email: _____

Employer Name: _____

FSA County Office: _____

**NAFEC Newsletters and important announcements are sent via email to all members. If you do not have an email address or prefer to receive correspondence by mail, please mark “No Email” in the email field above.*

Member's Signature _____

Date _____

NAFEC Mailing Address:

NAFEC

% Bob Braden

24280 145th Avenue

Eldridge, IA 52748

Find us on the web at:

www.fsacountycommittees.org

June 2018 version

FSA-444

(06-21-12)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

**REQUEST FOR OR TERMINATION OF VOLUNTARY ALLOTMENT OF PAY
FOR USDA FSA RECOGNIZED ASSOCIATIONS**

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 5 USC § 5525 - Allotment and Assignment of Pay. The information will be used to process an employee request to begin or terminate a voluntary allotment of pay. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for GOVT-1, General Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6, County Personnel Records, and USDA/FSA-7, Employee Resources Master File. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in an inability to process an employee request to begin or terminate a voluntary allotment of pay.

The collection of information is completed by current Federal employees and is therefore excluded from the Paperwork Reduction Act Requirement as specified in the 5 CFR 1320.3, and OMB approval is not required for this collection of information.

The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.

1. Name of Employee (Last, First, Middle)	2. Last 4 Digits of SSN
3. Home Address of Employee (Including Zip Code)	4. Name of USDA Agency (Including Division/Branch)
	5. State/County of Employment

6. Association (Check One):

☐ NASCOE ☐ NAFEC ☐ NASE ☐ NACS ☐ Other: _____

7. **Type of Allotment (Check one)** **NOTE:** A separate FSA-444 **must** be filled out for each type of allotment:☐**ASSOCIATION DUES**

I hereby authorize the Farm Service Agency (FSA) all of the following:

- to deduct from my pay on a biweekly basis the amount certified as the regular dues of the Association or state affiliate beginning PP ____ of CY ____; Associate member \$1.00/PP COC \$4.00/PP
- to make **any changes** in the amount which is certified by the Association or the state affiliate as an uniform change in its dues structure.
- to remit the dues withheld to the Association in accordance with its arrangements with FSA.

☐**SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE**

State: _____ Association: _____

I hereby authorize the Farm Service Agency (FSA) all of the following:

- to deduct from my pay on a biweekly basis the amount certified by me as the premium for insurance elected by me through the NASCOE authorized carrier beginning PP ____ of CY ____.
- premiums withheld will be remitted to the NASCOE carrier in accordance with the agreement between NASCOE and FSA. I understand that if my pay is insufficient to withhold the premium due, I am responsible for paying such premiums directly to the NASCOE carrier if I want to continue my insurance coverage.

*I understand this authorization must be filed with the State FSA Office at least **3 days** before the end of the pay period in which the first deduction will be made. I further understand this authorization will be terminated at any time I give written notice or in case of my separation for any reason. In either case, such termination will be effective only to prohibit further withholdings.*

8. Signature of Employee Requesting Allotment	9. Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
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10. **Termination of Allotment (Check One):**

State: _____ Association: _____

I request payroll deduction for the following allotment be terminated on the first day of Pay Period ____ of CY ____.

☐ NASCOE Dues ☐ Supplemental Insurance Coverage ☐ NAFEC Dues
☐ NASE Dues ☐ NACS Dues ☐ Other: _____

11. Signature of Employee Terminating Allotment	12. Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
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13. **State Office Action (Check NFC tables to determine current PP dues, or supplemental amount):**

A. Date Received (MM-DD-YYYY)	B. Effective Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	C. Date Updated (MM-DD-YYYY)
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D. Name of Employee Updating Request	E. Signature of Employee Updating Request
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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotype, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-6339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NAFEC

National Association
of
Farmer Elected Committees



History of County Committee System

- Created in 1933 with the passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)
- Part of Roosevelt's "New Deal" that included Federal farm programs
- Original committee members were selected by the County Extension Directors in 1933
- County Committees (COC) ran the county office until 1953 when an office manager was hired
- Each township had a committee made up of 5 members (3 of which were county voting members)

Most American's probably aren't aware that the government has an agency that could be the perfect model for the future of Federal government agencies, and it has been around since the early 1930's. This little known system of grass roots government with local control is the County Committee system of the USDA's Farm Service Agency.

History of COC (continued)

- Township/community committees would have a convention to nominate and elect the 3 member county committee
- Local Administrative Areas (LAA) were formed in the early 90s which marked the end of the township/community committees
- Each LAA elects one person to represent their area for a 3 year term
- The COC was created as a grassroots system of government with local control of farm programs
- COC closely models a board of directors in the private sector

The employees of the former ASCS were under the county office system with local control while the employees of FmHA were under the Federal employment system with no local control. Under the Federal system employees are responsible for loan making. The line of authority moves down from Washington D.C. through state offices, district directors and county farm loan managers and the locally elected FSA committees have no oversight or control over these employees.

County Committee Duties

- Hire & Supervise the County Executive Director
- Provide oversight and accountability of farm program administration
- Ensure that producers and the public understand FSA programs
- Assist with outreach to local farmers & ranchers
- Approve farm program contracts
- Conduct hearings and inquiries



Conversely the County office system is responsible for all of the farm programs. The County office employees are responsible for all program functions of the FSA and serve under the locally elected County Committees who have supervisory review and program review responsibilities. The line of authority moves downward from Washington D.C. to State offices and upward from County Committee's with local hiring authority and program oversight. District Directors serve as liaisons between the locally elected committee's and the Federal bureaucracy.

History of NAFEC

- Created in 1965
- Mission of retaining, improving, and strengthening the county committee system of program delivery
- Ensure fairness for county committees and employees in FSA offices, as well as promoting the interest of American farmers and ranchers
- Work closely with all agricultural organizations on county office issues

The farmer elected County Committees system has worked very well for almost 80 years. This system has played a major role in the stability of the nation's agriculture sector. Instead of trying to end or change it, maybe the rest of government should look more like it. The County Committee system is grass roots common sense government at its best.

NAFEC Membership

Regular Full Membership

- Annual membership fee \$40/calendar year for current and former COC members and Advisors
- Payroll deduction available for \$4/meeting for current COC members/Advisors
- Former COC pay lump sums annually.

Associate Membership

- Associate membership \$20/calendar year
- Available to all FSA employees and others
- \$1/Pay Period for associate members

As the Administration and our Congress move forward with many proposed changes, the American people would be well served if the FSA County Committee model of grassroots control of the Federal bureaucracy were put forth as a model for all future government agencies.

Why is it important to Join NAFEC?

- NAFEC helps producers maintain the grassroots organization of the COC system.
- NAFEC provides resources to help drive positive change thru multiple channels.
- NAFEC has its own Washington DC consultant to assist with agency and legislative contacts.
- NAFEC provides opportunities for COC members to utilize their leadership skills and be active participants in the process.

*In spite of the success of the FSA County Committee system, there appears to be a growing number of critics within the Federal bureaucracy and even a small but very vocal number of groups in the private sector who are calling for the watering down or possibly elimination of this system. Why would a government system that appears to be a perfect model for government be under attack when so many Americans seem to want more systems like the County Committee system?
Could it be an issue of control?*

NAFEC Officers 2018-2019

➤ Executive Committee

- President – Craig Turner, Texas
turner_and_turner@yahoo.com (806) 269-0610
- 1st Vice President – Tom Montgomery, Montana
monty9@midrivers.com (406) 538-8638
- 2nd Vice President – Tony DeGiusti, Oklahoma
degiustifarms@aol.com (405) 831-3441
- Membership Vice President – Cole Sims, Louisiana
farmercole@msn.com (318) 282-9951
- Secretary/Treasurer – Bob Braden, Iowa
robertwbraden@gmail.com (563) 320-2061

Become a Member

Membership forms are available from your County Executive Director, Area NASCOE NAFEC Chair, any NAFEC officer.

Download the form from the NAFEC website at
www.fsacountycommittees.org

or from the NASCOE website
at

www.nascoe.org/nafec/

NASCOE's NAFEC Committee 2018-2019

➤ NASCOE's NAFEC Committee Chairperson

➤ Carla Spencer, Texas

Carla.Spencer@tx.usda.gov

432.837.2325

➤ NASCOE's NAFEC Committee Area Chairpersons

➤ NWA – Teresa Vonn, Oregon

Teresa.Vonn@or.usda.gov

541-664-1070

➤ SWA – Marla Hammer, Kansas

Marla.hammer@ks.usda.gov

620-544-2261

➤ MWA – Mary Roberts, Iowa

Mary.Roberts@ia.usda.gov

712-297-7528

➤ NEA – Dan Shockey, West Virginia

Daniel.Shockey@wv.usda.gov

304-518-9242

➤ SEA – Pamela Rhoades, Mississippi

Pamela.Rhoades@ms.usda.gov

The agency for which this unique system was developed, (AAA, ASC, ASCS and now the FSA) have been known for many, many years as the “Can do Agency”. Our ability to implement Federal programs quickly and efficiently via the County Committee and County office system of government is somewhat of an anomaly when it comes to Federal programs.





To: FSA COC Members and Advisors
FSA County Office Employees
November 15, 2017

Dear Friends:

The County Committee system of government has been in place since the very beginning of the Farm Service Agency. Being one of the very few forms of federal government with grass roots control, we believe this system is the most responsive and accountable government system in existence. Applying the principles of democracy in action, our locally elected committees play a critical role in the implementation of farm policy and provide much needed accountability to our taxpayers. As you know, this committee system also provides the first level of appeal for farmers under a host of USDA programs. It is these fundamental principles and responsibilities that separate the FSA County Committee system from all others.

Since 1965 the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC) and the National Association of FSA County Office Employees (NASCOE) have jointly worked to support the County Committee system of government. NAFEC officers and directors from all across the U.S. regularly visits and works with NASCOE's leaders on issues and concerns that requires working with FSA Management at the state and national offices. Working on behalf of FSA County Committees and FSA County Office Employees, NAFEC and NASCOE can jointly accomplish more, for the benefit of agriculture.

To accomplish these goals NAFEC needs a strong membership. If you are already a member, we appreciate your prior support and encourage you to continue your membership by submitting your annual payment at this time. If you are not currently NAFEC members, you can help by joining today. Dues for County Committee members are \$4 per meeting for those of you signing up for dues withholdings, or if you prefer to make a lump sum payment, the dues are \$40 per year. It is also extremely important for COF employees to become NAFEC associate members. You can do so for as little as \$1 per pay period (\$26 total) or for \$20 per year if you choose to pay in a lump sum. Included with this packet are the needed NAFEC application membership form and the FSA-444, if needed for dues withholdings.

Please join us today as we continue our support of American agriculture and the County Committee system of government.

Sincerely,

Craig Turner
NAFEC President

Dennis Ray
NASCOE President



NASCOE & NAFEC

Working together for all FSA.

Farmers themselves largely administer the adjustment programs through county control associations. These bodies help to make, as well as to administer, adjustment policy. Thoroughly democratic in form and spirit, the associations are effective instruments in economic self-government..... In thus decentralizing administrative work, and at the same time creating new channels through which farmer opinion may find expression, the Agricultural Adjustment Act promotes true democracy
Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, 1934

Mission of NAFEC

The primary purpose of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC) is, and will always be, to promote and improve the farmer elected committee system for the local administration of farm programs. The coordinated effort will give us strength, and much more influence in Congress for the kind of farm programs America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities need in order to thrive.



Why should you become an associate member of NAFEC?

- A stronger NAFEC will provide NASCOE with a much stronger support base.
- NAFEC speaks on behalf of the County Committee system like no one else.
- NAFEC has the respect of Congress and the USDA.
- NAFEC associate dues are only \$1 per pay period or \$20 per year.

How can you become an associate member of NAFEC?

- Complete the Membership Form on the NASCOE website: www.nascoe.org/nafec/
 - 1) click on NAFEC Committee on the left column,
 - 2) click on NAFEC Membership Application. Print and complete.
 - 3) submit dues including a check for \$20 or print out the FSA-444 just below the Membership Application, complete and submit to your State offices for dues withholdings. Please enter \$1 per pay period on the FSA -444.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP

- Become an associate member of NAFEC
- Provide your local COC information regarding NAFEC and Membership enrollment options
- Provide your local staff information regarding NAFEC and how to become an associate member.
- Get involved in your state NASCOE association affiliate.
- Encourage your state association to support NAFEC with membership and with financial support such as assisting NAFEC directors attending state, area and national meetings.
- Invite NAFEC members to your state meetings and encourage their participation.

N A S C O E

CURRENT ISSUES FACING EMPLOYEES TODAY

Reduced COF staffing in FSA offices

Increase in Shared Management
Offices

Reduced COC program
responsibility

Reduced COC role in the
administrative functions of the COF

Reduced COC role in COF
performance evaluations

Reduced understanding of the need
for local grass roots input in FSA
programs.

Reduced COC Meetings

Emphasizing that Annual Funding
and increased priority for COC
Orientation Training is important

Regulation changes with no COC
input

NASCOE Officers & Executive Committee

President—Dennis Ray, MO
Vice President—Brandon Wilson, KS
Secretary— Marcinda Kester, FL
Treasurer—Curt Houk, IA
Past President—Wes Daniels, SC
Past Secretary—Deb Essleman, WI

Area Executives
MWA—Jackson Jones, MO
NEA—Lawrence Parker, VT
NWA—Jessi Colgrove, NE
SEA—Mike Mayfield, TN
SWA—Jay Goff, OK

NAFEC Committee
Chairperson—Carla Spencer, TX
MWA— Mary Roberts, IA
NEA—Daniel Shockey, WV
NWA—Teresa Vonn, OR
SEA—Pam Rhoades, MS
SWA—Marla Hammer, KS

Please consider
Associate Membership in
the following Sister
Organizations

RASCOE

Retiree Association of
FSA County Office
Employees Associate
dues only \$10, contact
Cindy Hall
3025 Snead Drive
Fremont, NE 68025
(402)210-1814
nwanascoe@gmail.com

NARFE

National Association of
Retired Federal
Employees. This
organization is a partner
with NASCOE working
for many of the same
benefits.

Contribute to PAC!

www.nascoe.org



History & Benefits of the County Committee System of Government

Formed in the early 1930's by the Roosevelt Administration. The intent was to deliver farm programs utilizing farmers and ranchers for the delivery. The first committee's were called County Control Associations and were elected by a County Convention of delegates. Later the Control Associations were called County Committee's and the election by convention evolved into an election by popular vote.

In the early days the Committee's ran the offices. Temporary employees worked in the field and during signup. Later managers and directors were hired to run the local office, always maintaining the control at the county committee level for which these employees worked.

These committee's were patterned after the private sector. Similar to bank boards, cooperative boards, school board's etc. local input into Federal programs made the agency one of the most successful ever invented.

Just as Abraham Lincoln envisioned when USDA began, the FSA County Committee system is truly a great example of USDA the "People's Department". The FSA County Committee's provide all of the following in meeting this objective.

Democracy In Action – The only grassroots form of the Federal Government located at the local level

For the People – To ensure fair, effective and efficient implementation of Federal Farm Program's

By the People – Locally elected Committee members by the people they represent



NAFEC Officers & Directors

President - Craig Turner

P.O. Box 666

Matador, TX 79244

Cell 806-269-0610

Fax 806-347-2974

turner_and_turner@yahoo.com

1st Vice President—Tom Montgomery

Lewistown, MT

Tel 406-538-8638

monty9@midrivers.com

2nd Vice President - Tony DeGiusti

Tuttle, Oklahoma

Tel (405) 831-3441

degiustifarms@aol.com

V.P. of Membership—Cole Sims

P.O. Box 471

Mer Rouge, LA 71261

Tel 318-647-5005

Cell 318-282-9951

farmercole@msn.com

Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Braden

Eldridge, Iowa

Tel 563-320-2061

bas1000@aol.com

Midwest Area Director— Dennis Kuhlengel

Okawville, IL

Tel 618-243-5963

dkuhlengel@hotmail.com

Southeast Area Director— Neal Baxley Jr.

Mullins, South Carolina

Tel 843-431-8878

baclevfarmslc@bellsouth.net

Northeast Area Director - VACANT

Southwest Area Director - VACANT

Northwest Area Director— VACANT

At Large Director—Jim Densberger

Nebraska

Tel 402-783-2563

densbergerfarms@aol.com

Washington Consultant- David Senter,

KSC Strategies

1912 Sunderland PL NW

Washington, DC 20036

Tel 202-293-4761

Fax 202-331-1360

dts@kscstrategies.com

Mission Statement of the NAFEC Committee

To support and cooperate with NAFEC promoting a more effective and active farmer elected committee system for the betterment of agriculture.