



# KASCOE e-News

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KASCOE is on the Web at  
<http://kascoe.org/default.aspx>

President's Monthly e-News

May 2011

## NASCOE State Presidents Teleconference

Myron Stroup and John Lohr led a conference call on May 18, 2011 for all state association presidents. They were in WDC yesterday (5-17-11). While in WDC, John and Myron met with Acting Administrator Bruce Nelson, Carolyn Cooksie- DAM, Brandon Willis- DAFP, Barbara Boyd- DAFO, Michael Wooden-DAFO, Pat Spaulding-DAFO and David Senter- NAFEC.

NASCOE position papers have generated a lot of discussion in WDC and other groups are taking interest and responding and trying to keep their share of the pie and get ours too. Many producers have been providing comments and sharing how they feel about acreage reporting and conservation program administration. Employees can submit comments as citizens, however producer comments carry more weight. The deadline is Friday, May 20th at midnight. Comments are limited to 2000 characters.

Met with Brandon Willis who is now point man for the farm bill in the Secretary's office. Look for matching up acreage report deadlines with FCIC so the producer can choose where he wants to report in 2012. The producer will also have the option of filing a report online from at home.

Jackson Lewis report: The Secretary is not going to try to implement changing COC over to appointed as it takes statutory change. They are working to implement changes that do not take statutory change. NASCOE will send those changes out in the future. WDC has a task force working on these changes.

NASCOE is getting a legal opinion on what it takes to move COC over to appointed as recommended. NASCOE is also getting a legal opinion on the recent change in 16-AO concerning COC working for free and if management can put that language in the handbook.

NASCOE met with the Senate Ag committee majority and minority leadership. Neither side is interested in taking up the issue of making COC's appointed. If they did there would be field hearings on it. The Jackson Lewis report suggestions on COC's just isn't high profile on the hill.

Budget: Management now feels we can squeak by without furloughs in 2011. MIDAS had a surplus of \$23 million and that is being moved over to FSA expense side. There could be some early outs offered for FY 2011 but no buyouts. They would then evaluate if they needed to do something for 2012. For 2012 they are talking a 10% reduction in GS staff through early outs our buyouts. They may offer the same to CO at the same percentage to be fair in 2012. That would be a loss of 850 positions that could not be replaced on the CO side. NOTE: information will be coming to the field very soon on this issue.

The debt ceiling issue could really be a problem when it comes to writing the new farm bill. That weighs tremendously on the process according to Willis.



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Questions/Comments?  
Contact Brandon Wilson

## Convention Travel Arrangements

The 2011 NASCOE convention will take place August 10th through the 13th in Corpus Christi, Texas.

KASCOE is asking that if you are attending or thinking about attending the convention and would like to be a part of a group travel arrangement that you send an e-mail to Marsha Gerstner letting her know how many will be traveling with you and what day you would like to leave. If you are attending, but already have travel plans please let Marsha know anyway as KASCOE would like to have an idea how many members will be attending. Marsha's e-mail address is: [marshagerstner@hotmail.com](mailto:marshagerstner@hotmail.com). Please put "2011 NASCOE Convention" in the subject line of the e-mail. Information about the convention can be found at: <http://www.tascoe.org/>.

## State Office Restructuring

As many of you may have already heard, recent retirements and vacancies have created the need to restructure the STO program Divisions. Restructuring is the result of low Price Support workload and encouragement from the National Office. At present there are five divisions which include: Administrative, Price Support, Conservation, Farm Programs and Farm Loan Programs. After the restructuring has been completed the Conservation and Price Support Divisions will merge. Some of the duties that were assigned to the Price Support Division will be assigned to the Farm Programs Division.

Below is a table which explains how the new divisions will function.

State Office Farm Program Division Structure		
	Farm Program Appeals & Compliance Division	Conservation & Price Support Division
Specialists (grade 12 potential, head Specialists will be Grade 13)	Terry Hawk- Head Scott Willbrant Todd Barrows <i>Vacancy (to be announced)</i>	Rod Winkler- Head Carla Wikoff <i>Vacancy (to be announced)</i>
Program Technician (grade 7 potential)	Rachel Ninceheler	Jean Kunze
Responsibilities	DCP, ACRE, Compliance, NAP, SURE & LIP/LFP	CRP, EQIP, GRP, Defense (DP), MAL, LDP, FSFL & MILC, Claims and Receivables
*Note: Administrative Division will assume all e-Gov activities.		

The hiring of the two new STO specialists is not creating new slots at the STO as they are the slots that were previously filled by John Drach and Karen Dekat. When announced, the specialist positions will only be open to current permanent FSA employees from Kansas. Additionally, The STO is down two positions in the Administrative Division due to the resignation of Mike Badger, Kerrie Powell, Regina Fitts and retirement of Westy Westenmeyer. During this transition, Dawna Ford was transferred to Mike Badger's former position and Jean Wrosch filled Kerrie Powell's position. The former positions held by Dawna and Jean will not be back-filled. The vacated positions formerly held by Westy Westenmeyer and Regina Fitts are in the process of being refilled. These positions were requested and approved before the hiring freeze was put in place on February 15, 2011.

Trish Halstead is currently going to serve in an interim position to help the transfer of Price Support Duties within the new Conservation and Price Support Division. Trish will eventually be placed in a slot position that answers directly to the SED with EEO/Civil Rights matters. Trish will also continue with her other assigned duties as emergency preparedness, public affairs and outreach coordinator among her many other responsibilities.