

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION
FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)
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The following is a brief synopsis of the 90 minute MWA NASCOE teleconference on 10/14/08:

Chief PT issue; changes to 27-PM have NASCOE concerned in that it may result in some downgrades for chief PT's that may be in what could be designated as a smaller office (5 PT's or less). This does not include lead PT's in shared management COF's. Each state was to report how many chiefs and those with 5 or less total PT's by today. (I gave a partial report to Jon as I have heard nothing from Neff or Lamb districts and half of Obrecht. So far, I know of only 2 Chief PT's, both in Obracht, one over 5 PT's and one under.)

Farm bill training; how will nascoe membership be affected by extra work (funding) due to untimely decisions or implementation. There are many subsequent actions or bills that may open some things back up; i.e. LF fees may be waived for 2008 578's, so does this mean refunds of fees already collected? 2008 DCP sign up may be extended due to change in 10 acres or less rule, so does this just mean 10 acre contracts missed or does it apply to the guy who did not come in until October 1st? If 10 acre rule suspended what about recon's combining 10 acres or less? There may be a separate sign up just for ACRE. Another big change coming will be the insignificant crops for not needing NAP or FCI to be eligible for SURE, more refunds of fees and premiums?

Make sure each state with new officers, directors, chairs, etc. are updated with Nascoe. Make sure we get as many home email addresses as possible to keep use of government PC's to a minimum.

Performance Eval.; what is the plan in each state? There were so many different versions per state it was amazing how it ran the range from nearly no action to elaborate plans (Ohio I think was the best), Iowa was state wide just for CED's, another just on line training, another training DD's to treat their districts at DD discretion, etc. Then awards was batted around including funding with cases of QSI money unused returned to WDC, one opinion was 75% money should be spot and 25% performance based, how much should funds be inconsistent between states for spot vs. bonus vs. performance and CO vs. GS etc. (this subject took up a bulk of the teleconference to the point that I lost track of fact vs. fiction vs. opinion, sorry.)

Dual compensation; Jon said he would get some clarification on when it happens that an attendee (i.e. state delegate and national chair same person) may get funds from both their state and national organization for expenses. Iowa has a form that Jon will send out that sounds very fair with some clarification.

Leg. Conference; discussion against cutting this back, scheduled for Spring '09, it may be more important than ever with change in administration and so many predicted freshman congresspersons, need to keep NASCOE in mind from very start. Leg. Conference was what some toled higher dues was for! How much should Nascoe pay for each state? Limit people per state or let states decide if each state picks up tab? Rule will most likely be Nascoe pays for 1 room and 2 plane tickets per state. Stay tuned or give them your opinion.

Increase in Natl. dues; how will each state handle? Big discussion on need to get new 444's. However, if Ohio absorbs difference and percentage doesn't change, do we have 444 problem? I think we do if it is a set amount per pay period and does not automatically change with promo's, WGI's, QSI's, and pay raises. Some states charge a flat rate based on the grade of each member. One state doing all new 444's.

PT re-classification; WDC will study 1 state per area, MWA will be 3 COF's in MN. Hopefully, that it may mean higher grades in some cases for PT's. However, fear is that Nascoe will not like some things the "lame duckers" may implement.

Re-org; WDC and the hill are being very secretive. They don't want to address because they don't want a political issue in an election year.

"Alerts"; Nascoe would like to see more members sign up for Nascoe Alert and Capwiz Alerts, even get alert at work but then go home to access (is OK). Numbers are pretty dismal and some important Nascoe issues are buried in other legislation. The alert is a good system to keep membership informed and involved. Jon said he would get some numbers for Ohio and we may need to start a campaign to use or lose! Good example is the FERs sick leave issue being neglected; however, the concern is that it was tied to a controversial bill about tobacco that some membership would not support. Problem.

Did you guys know Ill and Ind have a joint State Conference? What would happen if we had the MI and OH joint conference in Toledo? GO Rockets?

Need to start the big push for negotiation items for that time of the year, May '09! Old or new ideas need to be submitted or face no action.

John P. Gaynor Prez. (I probably missed a mess of something but, I do the best I can at understanding or remembering. I don't know these people very well and it is hard to tell who said what about where.)