

MASCOE CONVENTION NOTES

The MASCOE convention was held in Branson this year on the 23rd and 24th. The theme was PT Appreciation. Members from our part of the state were well represented. Thanks for all who came and thanks for the opportunity to go as your MASCOE board member from the 6th district. There was plenty of information and good times. I hope this report will give you some information you were not aware of. If you have any questions, feel free to drop me a line and I will tell you what I know or find out something for you.

The convention was called to order by our president, Kathy Post. The first speaker was Eddie Jo Hamill, State Executive Director.

He introduced the members of the STC that were with us.

Kenneth Hensley-Albany, Mo

Sharon Oetting-Concordia, Mo

Aaron Whelan-Stoutsville, MO

Also introduced was proposed committee member, Sam Schaumann from Billings, MO.

Mr. Hamill told of accomplishments in Mo FSA this year.

\$150,000,000 in FSA loans

Missouri was the first to make a BCAP payment

\$1,000,000+ in LIP payments

CRP 1st signup in 4 years, new rental rates, streamlined the MCM and mowing regulations

FSFL-implemented hay barn loans

IRS forms for the verification of AGI regulations

\$60,000,000 in SURE payments

2010 crop year Prevent Planting, late-filed reporting streamlined with a variance

Received a Secretarial designation for flooding in the state

A designation is on the way for drought in the state

Missouri has made it to the end of 2010 in good financial shape

Implemented summer interns throughout the state with the hopes of introducing young people to the great jobs at FSA

He stated he felt it was a great way to finish the year with MASCOE and the STO together

The labor agreement was signed by Mr. Hamill and President Post.

Johnny Rosier from JM Marketing spoke but I will defer his comments until later when he covered all their products.

State Committee member spoke on behalf of the state committee. She wanted to thank the PT's for all their hard work in the trenches. The state committee is there to help.

Then program chiefs from the STO each gave a few words about what was going on in their areas.

Everette Woods- 171 FSFL loans this year.

Gerald Hrdina-39th CRP signup went well. Thanks to everyone for being patient with the changes.

160,000 acres offered on 2600 offers in 85 counties. 98.6% accepted in MO and 91.0% nationwide. Will probably hold another CRP signup in the first half of 2011.

Mike Lafortte-Thanks for all the work on the DCP, ACRE, and SURE signups. \$60,000,000+ in SURE and 70,000 contracts in DCP.

Bob Fullerton-2011 budget will be less but expect 2011 staffing to be the same. Expect to not be able to carry as many temps.

Dan Geiseke- More \$\$ in loans made this year than since the 80's. They have started the Conservation Loan Program. Damage assessment reports for drought through STORM are due.

Gerald Sergent- Thanks for all the work on PP, Failed and acreage reporting. We will not be taking acreage reports on the SY36 this year. Everything will go to the web. He stated as of right now the software is not opened up for use so manual reports would be necessary if producers want to report. The software has a place for end dates but these will have to be data loaded. Gerald said this is a good time to get data corrected as in the correct practice number for CRP, the correct grasses (some county has everything in the county reported as brome), and just a general clean up. Gerald stated there would be some training probably mid October. The thin client GIS would be at the same time. No mention of what type of training they plan to do.
LIP payments over one million dollars
LDAP- payments made for honeybee losses
NAP-some payments for losses were made.

Then there was a Q & A session.

Q-When will the CRP payments be made?

A-Gerald felt that probably by October 4th, Monday. No sure date but he felt there would be no hold ups.

Q-What is going on with the AGI compliance forms?

A-IRS will be sending out a letter to producers who did not respond. Counties will be getting a list of who did and who did not get the forms in possibly by October 6. The 2010 final payments will be issued regardless. They felt there would be several more opportunities for producers to become compliant before we would be required to take action.

Q-How is ARS going and what do you see in the future?

A-Overall ARS has smoothed out and seems to be running okay. No real comment on the future.

Then Wade Guemmer from Benefits Planning Inc. spoke. He is a certified financial planner that specializes in government retirement. He is offering to come do a personal benefit profile for anyone in the state. This is free to you. He has a form for you to fill out with some of your personal information. His main topic was Roth IRA's. He was encouraging us to put the matching 5% in TSP and then put whatever other money you want to invest into a Roth IRA. The purpose is that the income from these IRA's will not be taxed when the money comes out. He also felt a good investment right now would be in a RIT or #####. You would be investing in apartment, nursing homes, etc. This is a way to diversify your investments. Phone Number 816-229-5948

That was the end of day one- a bar-b-q was held at table rock lake. It was a fun evening with members and state office staff getting to mingle. The weather was perfect.

Day 2

JM Marketing sponsored a breakfast and gave us information packets on the things they offer. John Rosier from Possum Point, Louisiana gave the presentation. He first stated you can go to www.nascoebenefits.com for information.

Critical illness plan- They will not ask health questions and you can sign up anytime.

Cancer insurance-they will ask if you have had cancer in the last 5 years.

Life insurance-you can get a policy for your children and grandchildren and they will not ask about their health.

Long term care

Accident insurance

Cancer plan

Dental insurance-no waiting period. If you are told you need 2 root canals, you could get the insurance and then go have this done.

Life insurance with long-term care

Vision plan

Identity theft program-through this program you can get 6 wills at no cost(kids, parents, etc.)

Pension Maximization Planning

Farm-owners disability protection plan

Estate planning

Annuities and alternative saving plans

Low cost term life (large face amounts)

They will assist with Ag days or Outreach programs so if you need a speaker....

Federal Benefits analysis-free service

These were the things they mentioned. If you have a particular interest, you can go to the website and fill out the form or the contact in Missouri is Tim Puyear. 1-800-330-6223 or tpuyear@jminsuredirect.com

Then the convention opened with a welcome from President Kathy Post.

Myron Stroup, NASCOE President from Kansas spoke.

He told us PT classification was still being worked on. There is a notice out there so maybe it is closer that just being talked about. First there would be one per state on a pilot program. There would be a key program PT. States would have to fund this position within their current budgets.

Extend the COT training from 1 to 5 years. PT could take the training and then stay on a register for 5 years. They would assist CED's and be at a higher grade until a position was open.

Also he talked about a hybrid position where a PT would take the training and learn farm loan and farm program and work in both areas at a higher grade. These are all things being discussed to get PT's a higher grade.

Mr. Stroup stated he felt the COC system was so important to the delivery of farm programs and he did not want to see anything taken away from that system.

NAFEC – the county committee national organization. They can talk about program at the national level. It is an important organization for FSA so he wanted everyone to go back and talk to the committees about joining.

Farm Bill-Chairman Peterson would like to write the farm bill by 2012 so the current administration could sign it into law. There is talk of doing away with direct payments, ACRE and SURE and going to a full farm revenue program. Elections in November will be critical. NASCOE has been proactive in the farm bill process. They are pushing for FSA to take over conservation administration role.

Crop reporting is another item that NASCOE feels we need to show we can do this better than any other agency. RMA is making a push to be the one stop to take reports.

The future of NASCOE was discussed. Over 30% of FSA are eligible to retire in the next 5 years. This means that over 30% of NASCOE members will be leaving the organization. They have a group put together that has a large number of new employees to see what they want from the organization.

The Midwest area led the nation in sending in negotiation items. If you see something that would help you in administering the programs, send the item up through your representatives.

Charlene Nuekomm, Midwest area Exec was present and gave a few words.

She said there is a new member brochure that can be used when new employees come on to let them know about NASCOE.

Accomplishments of NASCOE are on the webpage.

She mentioned the PAC and Capwiz as good tools to let our congress persons know about FSA.

She mentioned again the importance of the negotiation items. Keep sending in your ideas.

She gave dates of area conventions for next year. The National convention will be held in Corpus Christi, TX. August 11-13

Kathy Post gave her Presidents report. She handed out information from the National convention. You will be able to see this report on the MASCOE page soon.

Tony Augustine, Midwest area legislative chairman

He stated that the Iowa Farm Bureau organization came within one vote of asking Congress to do away with all farm programs and increase risk management. He mentioned the same items as above with doing away with direct payments and crop reporting. Also, FSA is trying to show they can do a good job with administering the conservation programs. He gave a talk on how easy it is to be a part of Capwiz. Go to the NASCOE page and sign up. These messages come to your home computer and then you can decide if you want to be a part and send to your representatives with one easy click. NAFEC (National Association of Farmer Elected Committeepersons) has a yearly fee of \$35 to join. They can do payroll deductions of \$3.00 per meeting. They have a big voice and can talk about things we cannot. Then lastly he talked about the PAC (Political Action Committee). This is something you need to do on your own time. Talk with any director about this venture.

Billy Swiney, national Vice President of NADD(National Association of District Directors).

This has been an organization since 1992. Billy was one of the founders. They work with the administration to make the programs work better. He stated that is was being worked on to have a joint

national convention in 2013 of all the organizations. This is being looked at to be in the central part of US so Missouri would need to be a big player.

Bob Streba, representative from NARFE(National Association of Retired Federal Employees). NARFE has a big voice in Congress. This is a strong organization across the nation and they are looking out for our benefits as we look toward retirement. They encourage folks to be members now to help them represent us.