



National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC)

2025

The County Committee System of FSA:

True democracy at the grassroots level in
the Peoples Department.



National Association of Farmer Elected Committees

Representing Farm Service Agency County Committee Members since 1965

December, 2024

Dear County Executive Director & COC Chairperson:

On behalf of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC), I want to thank you for your service to American Agriculture. As either an elected County Committee member, or a CED directing your county office, your roles in the delivery of farm programs are vital in keeping American Agriculture #1 in the world.

Each year when County Committees (COC) hold their organizational meeting, one of the requirements set forth by the Deputy Administrator for Field Operations (DAFO) is to review with each COC member information regard NAFEC (COC training guide Module 1, page 10). The contents of this packet were developed in an effort to assist CED's in meeting this requirement and provide the COC chairperson the information needed to ensure every COC member has the opportunity to join NAFEC.

It is our request that the CED make copies of the enclosed information for each COC member and advisor for your next COC meeting. In addition, to finding information about NAFEC membership you will also find information about the benefits available to NAFEC members through the NAFEC benefit provider, "Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc."

Finally, over the past couple of years many CED's in the nation have had one of our marketing persons meet with their committee during their monthly regular session meeting using "Teams". Kevin Dale (from Oklahoma), our National Marketing Director can be reached at (580) 916-1470. Tammy Eibey (from Iowa), our Assistance National Marketing Director and current Iowa State NAFEC board member, can be reached at (563) 920-7542. Both Kevin & Tammy are ready to present NAFEC information for you if needed. Whether they do so, or you do so yourself, please take time to ensure your COC is familiar with NAFEC and has an opportunity to join the only organization recognized by FSA management to represent COC's. Thank you again for your service and we appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jim Zumbrink
NAFEC President



National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC) County Committee Informational Fact Sheet

History:

The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) was passed in 1935 and this created the forerunner of our county committee system. The County Control Associations were formed and these local committees were set to oversee the Federal Farm programs implemented by the Roosevelt "New Deal" legislation. Then, in the 1938 Farm Bill the elected county committees became part of the permanent law we have operated under for over 80 years.

Congress reorganized the Department of Agriculture in 1994 with HR 3171, Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act. This established what we call today Farm Service Agency (FSA). The 2002 Farm Bill included provisions increasing transparency and accountability of county committee elections and requiring participation from socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmers in county committees and USDA programs. Effective March 1, 2013, Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, was given the authority to appoint a Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) member to a committee if it is warranted based on the area demographics to ensure fair representation. Counties not meeting the thresholds established for appointed voting SDA members have non-voting SDA advisors as recommend by the locally elected committee in consultation with local community groups and local Tribal organizations representing SDA members. The 2018 Farm Bill established a pilot program to operate county committees in urban and suburban areas. County Committees must ensure that county office operations remain farmer- focused while providing quality customer service that is fair and equitable to all farmers and ranchers.

County Committee Responsibilities:

Local County Committees make decisions as a committee rather than as individuals and must have a quorum present when conducting official business. Additionally, a voting and non-voting SDA member provides an additional layer of oversight to ensure fair representation for all participants. COC's provide local input on the administration of FSA farm programs. Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operation of FSA, upholding the original mission of county committees in the 1933 AAA act by providing integrity and accountability to FSA farm programs. County Committees are held accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The duties of the county committee currently include:

- Overseeing the administration of Farm and Conservation programs at the local level
- Informing and educating farmers on the purpose and provisions of FSA Programs

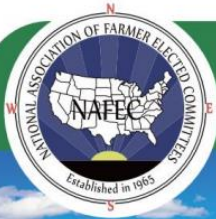
- Hiring and supervising a County Executive Director to monitor the day to day activities in the local office.
- Keeping the State FSA Committee (STC) aware of local administration area (LAA) conditions
- Monitoring changes in farm programs
- Participation in county committee meetings
- Directing outreach activities to reach all stakeholders in local area
- Make recommendations to STC on existing programs
- Conduct hearings and reviews as requested by STC
- Ensuring SDA farmers and ranchers are fairly represented
- Participate and follow rules on ethics and security

The COC's oversee the Federal Farm programs at the local level, they do not oversee the FSA direct or guaranteed farm operating or ownership loans administered locally. Farm loan programs are administered by federal employees and the COC have no authorization of supervision of federal employees. However, handbook 16-AO policy states that the COC is an important resource within the FSA county office and the local community. FSA employees with FLP loan making authority may consult with the COC on a regular basis to stay informed of any conditions that may affect demand for FSA loans, shall work closely with the COC and CED while conducting outreach activities, and may consult with the COC for information about local agricultural practices and productions conditions.

Although the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS) and Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) merged in 1994 to form the Farm Service Agency (FSA), it should be noted, the previous FmHA, prior to the merge, did have local committees that acted on farm operating and ownership loan applications. These committees were appointed and not farmer elected like the committees of ASCS and now the FSA.

Conclusion:

County Committees continue to play a vital role in the administration and integrity of the FSA programs at the grass-roots level. Their personal knowledge of local farming practices and conditions provide the county office a better perspective and insight into the local needs of farmers and ranchers as well as bridge the gaps between federal farm policy and program implementation. It has been noted through the years that undoubtedly, the county committee system is the most unique form of accountability and integrity in all of Federal Government. The COC system of election by peers should be held in high regard and used as an example of a true grass-roots form of government administration and oversight of federal programs.



NAFEC Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees 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.

A voice in Washington, D.C. working with commodity groups, associations, and cooperatives in providing a united voice to promote American Agriculture.

VISIT WWW.NAFECFSA.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION



NAFEC AND DILLARD FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS
\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

DEADLINE:
MARCH 30, 2025

CONTACT TAMMY EIBEY
FOR MORE INFORMATION

563- 920-7542 | teibey@dillardfinancial.com

Top 5 Reasons To Join NAFEC

- 1. AN ADVOCATE FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE**
A voice in Washington, D.C. working with commodity groups, associations, and cooperatives in providing a united voice to promote American Agriculture & Ranching.
- 2. FIGHTING FOR THE COC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT**
The only voice for Farmers & Ranchers fighting to keep the Farmer/Rancher Elected Committee System in place.
- 3. EMPLOYING A LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT**
The only group representing FSA Committee's employing a Legislative Consultant, working in Washington D.C. for the benefit of all Committees across the country.
- 4. A DOOR TO WASHINGTON DC & STATE OFFICES**
The only group who has the ability to speak on behalf of local committee regarding special issues and concerns. NAFEC officers have regular discussion with FSA officials in Washington D.C. and at the state FSA level.
- 5. A PARTNER WITH NASCOE**
The only group consistently standing beside NASCOE, advocating for additional COF staffing and COF employee benefits.

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Educating Federal Employees
on their Retirement Benefits



2024/2025

NAFEC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (For New or Renewing Members)

Member Information

Name _____

Spouse Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

City _____

Mobile Phone _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Employer _____

FSA County Office _____

Member Signature _____

Date MM / DD / YYYY

Select Your Membership Type: New Membership OR Renewal Membership

County Committee Member

CIRCLE ONE PAYMENT OPTION ONLY

Pay in Full Now

\$50

ANNUALLY

OR

Deduct from Payroll

\$6

PER MEETING

OR

ONE-TIME PAYMENT

\$250.00



LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Associate Member

CIRCLE ONE PAYMENT OPTION ONLY

Pay in Full Now

\$20

ANNUALLY

OR

Deduct from Payroll

\$1

PER PAY PERIOD

FOR PAYMENTS IN FULL OR 444 FORMS

Mail your check and completed NAFEC Membership

Application to:

NAFEC

c/o Tammy Eibey

1597 220 Street

Manchester, IA 52057

Membership begins after completed application and dues are recieved and processed.

For questions concerning this application, email Tammy Eibey.

tammyeibey@gmail.com

This form is available electronically.

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) USDA/FSA
	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 Membership ___ \$1.00/PP COC Membership ___ \$6.00/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)
D. Name of Employee Updating Request		E. Signature of Employee Updating Request

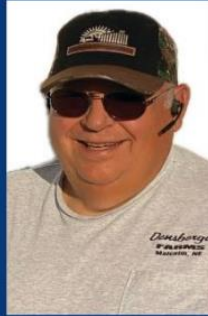
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NAFEC Executive Officers 2024-2025

Jim Zumbrink,
President
Ohio



Jim Densberger,
Vice President
Nebraska



Craig Turner,
Executive VP
Texas



Bob Braden,
*Secretary/
Treasurer*
Iowa



NAFEC Marketing Team For Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc.



Teresa Dillard
Owner
Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc.



Kevin Dale
NAFEC National
Marketing Director



Tammy Eibey
NAFEC Assistant National
Marketing Director