

Who Is NAFEC?

Like the Washington Monument, Empire State Building and Statue of Liberty, the most important component of the Farm Service Agency is the foundation upon which it stands. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the only federal agency possessing a 'grass roots' foundation of democratically elected farmers. Representing America's farmers and ranchers, the local County Committee oversees the administration of farm programs.

County Committees (COC) have a unique foundation of support through the *National Association of Farm Elected Committees* (NAFEC). NAFEC supports County Committees' existence, influence and oversight within FSA. They promote the local delivery of Congressional farm programs coupled with a good dose of agricultural common sense. NAFEC's mission statement is:

"The primary purpose of the National Association of Farm 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."

Unrestricted by the rules and regulations that employees are subject to, a strong NAFEC presence can influence national change and overcome national barriers thus ensuring farmers' and ranchers' interests and needs thrive at the local county level. In fact, NAFEC can do two things FSA County Committees cannot. First, NAFEC can request meetings with National FSA leadership to discuss administrative concerns; and, second, NAFEC can discuss program needs directly with Congressional leaders.

With the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill and the need to have adequate staffing and budget, farmers, ranchers, and FSA employees have an unrestricted voice through NAFEC. This strong unified voice can ensure their financial needs and concerns are *delivered to* and *considered by* the appropriate political representatives and national office leaders.

Because of NAFEC's unrestricted voice and tenacity to promote a local farm program delivery system, the National Association of FSA County Office Employees (NASCOE) believes in and supports NAFEC. Starting in 2013, NASCOE is supporting NAFEC with communications infrastructure and increasing memberships. Simply put, for NAFEC to better serve farmers, ranchers and FSA employees, NAFEC needs your financial support!

Only FSA County Committee members (past, present, advisors) are eligible for full-voting Regular Memberships within NAFEC; however, any FSA employee, agricultural partner, family member or friend, can support NAFEC's mission and become an Associate Member. Regular Memberships are \$40/year (or \$4 per pay period utilizing form FSA-444), while Associate Memberships are \$20/year (or \$1 per pay period utilizing form FSA-444). For Membership Applications, go to:

<http://www.fsacountycommittees.org>

NAFEC's future is FSA's foundation!