

# SDASCOE NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2011

# Representing you...

## STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**President** Peggy Groen, Lincoln  
**Vice President** Becky Zirpel, Gregory  
**Secretary** Racheal Kirkebak, Union  
**Treasurer** Brenda Wicks, Beadle

### Directors

#1 E.J. Goetz, Walworth  
#2 Stan Lamb, Codington  
#3 Joann Schock, Miner  
#4 Mary Haag, Hutchinson  
#5 Roxie Stambach, Ziebach  
#6 Jennifer Chavez, Hyde  
#7 Kay Massingale, Mellette-Todd

### Alternates

Carol Kindelspire, McPherson  
Joel Foster, Grant  
Cindy Peterson, Minnehaha  
Valorie Scherschlight, Yankton  
Doug Hofer, Corson  
Donnie McManus, Lyman  
Janelle Adrian, Mellette-Todd

### Committee Chairs

**Awards & Scholarship**  
Larry Somsen, Kingsbury  
**Benefits**  
Jeanie Emmett, Brookings  
**CAPWIZ Coordinator**  
Doug Hofer, Corson  
**Legislative**  
Bill Chase, Corson  
E.J. Goetz, Walworth  
**Membership**  
Lori Jones, Mellette-Todd

### Programs & Emblems

Cindy Mengershauser, Charles Mix  
**Publicity**  
Barb Dykstra, Clay  
**Travel Coordinator**  
Mary Johnson, Jerauld  
**Ways & Means**  
Terri Roth, Spink  
**Web Master**  
Shana Bialas, Douglas

### South Dakota RASCOE

**President** Leon Edlund  
**Vice President** Jim Iverson  
**Secretary** Lynda Steichen  
**Secretary/Treasurer** Lynda Steichen

### National RASCOE

### Northwest Area

**NWA Executive** Larry Olsen  
**NWA Legislative Chair** James Anderson  
**NWA Membership Chair** Becky Zirpel  
**NWA NAFEC Liaison** Marcia Bunger

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# President's report...



A few years ago we (me and some of you) were at a meeting together.  
I don't remember where we were at or who the speaker was,  
but I do remember the important message.

We were told on the count of three to all say our name.  
As you can imagine it was chaos with nothing understandable.

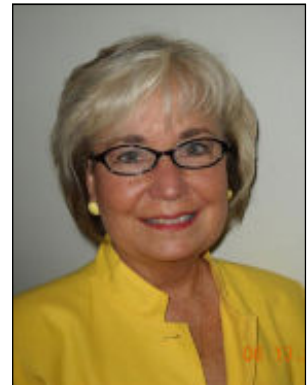
Then we were told on the count of three to say SDASCOE.  
You can imagine the results,  
clear, precise and understandable.  
Together we were one voice with the same loud message.

Respectfully,  
Peggy Groen



# Notes from your vice president...

Not sure where this summer went, but I think I missed it! I also missed the NWA Rally and NASCOE Convention, but this year I needed to spend time with sisters. I did truly miss not attending, but I did enjoy spending time with family. I am fortunate to have three sisters and my parents and when one is in need the others will be there. They are very important to me.



As a new membership year of SDASCOE/NASCOE comes around it is time to once again put the push on the importance of our employee organization. We need all of you and you need SDASCOE/NASCOE with all the things going on. The same as my family by blood, FSA employees have a strong bond as a family and we need to be there for each other in order to survive and do the job efficiently for our customers. There are many things that will affect each of us from:

- *Budget cuts running our number of employees in an office vs the staff to get the job done,*
- *The mood of congress on cutting salary, benefits and programs*
- *Will management look for an excuse to close offices using the budget as their tool*
- *Will they try to change the county committee system so that they only hear appeals – we have lost so much already with conference calls and only 4 face to face meetings a year*

This brings me to my point! We need you! Have you signed up for the PAC? It is my understanding that enrollment is 4% of the members. What would \$3 a pay period hurt (2 bottles of pop)? What would it help? ...Our NASCOE PAC is the single best tool we have to help us get things done in Washington, DC. It delivers our message outlining the priorities necessary for our employees and agency to serve rural America. Do YOU care enough about YOUR job, benefits and your FSA family to give your support to the NASCOE PAC? It is easy to do and I would be happy to help you or please contact your SD Legislative team Bill Chase and E. J. Goetz. This is when it is important to be #1 or in the top ten of the nation's PAC as Congress takes notice. It is achievable to be the #1 PAC with your contribution!

Another tool is CAP WIZ – are you signed up? Nationally there are 4,000 signed up but recent alerts have shown our mood in FSA and it is low. The responses have been very low – I need your support as an employee as everyone needs your support. Please do not sit back and think others will send the alerts – it takes very little of your time and it helps all of our FSA family! Most importantly it helps our customers who are our family, friends and neighbors. Let's get inspired and take the time to do such a small part. We are going to need all of your support with the next farm bill and with the protection of our salaries and benefits.

Other things you could do is consider joining NAFEC and talking to your County Committee about NAFEC and assist them in joining. They potentially can be a strong voice for FSA programs.

Get to know your local congressional aids; let them and others know what FSA is and what we can do for the farmers and ranchers of rural America!

Last but not least – I thank you for being a member of SDASCOE/NASCOE and if you are one of the few that are not a member please consider becoming a member today! We need your support! As always; if you have any questions please ask.

*Becky Zirpel*

[flyingz@gwtc.net](mailto:flyingz@gwtc.net)

C) 605.999.2290

H) 605.775.3028

O) 605.775.9122 X 104

# Board minutes...

The fall board meeting was held at the Staurolite Inn in Brookings on October 13-14, 2011.

Peggy Groen, President, opened the meeting by welcoming all of those in attendance to Brookings and then introduced our SED, Craig Schaunaman.

Mr. Schaunaman answered some questions that had been submitted from the employees; these will be published in the newsletter. We had a great discussion with him and he's working very hard to meet the challenges he's faced with especially when it comes to budget. He also told us we need to keep a positive attitude and think of ideas how county offices can help out their neighboring counties with certain heavy workload programs. With these stressful times, Mr. Schaunaman wanted to remind us that his door is always open and that we can contact him about anything and he'll try to help any way he can. We thanked Mr. Schaunaman for taking time to come speak to us.

Larry Olsen, the Northwest Area Executive (NWA) gave us a report on what's going on at the national level of our organization and in Washington, DC. The NWA Rally is going to be held in conjunction with the NASCOE convention in 2012. The Rally will be held on Tuesday morning and then NWA members will help Idaho with the national convention; this is to save some money for those in the NWA planning on attending both. Since the national convention is going to be in a NWA state, it just made more sense to combine the two events.

Larry reminded us that in these uncertain times, employees should sign up for CAPWIZ and then be sure to respond to the alerts that are sent. This **needs** to be done on our home computers. Also he encouraged us to contribute to the PAC so that we continue to have a voice in Washington, DC. His full report will be in the newsletter.

The minutes from the last business meeting were discussed briefly. Roxie made a motion to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter and EJ seconded the motion; motion carried.

Brenda gave the treasurer's report. Roxie made the motion to approve the report as given and Joann seconded the motion; motion carried. Brenda led discussion on the audit of the 2011 SDASCOE books. It was decided that Mary H. and Racheal will do the audit at the spring board meeting. Jennifer made the motion and EJ seconded it; motion carried.

The committee chairs gave their reports which will be published in the newsletter as well. Stan L made a motion to approve all the reports and Joann seconded the motion; motion carried.

Brian Stewart, who was a SDASCOE director, was transferred from Jackson County to Hughes-Stanley. Since these two counties are not in the same district, Peggy had to move Kay from the alternate position to active director and then appointed Janelle Adrian as alternate.



Becky commented on the fact that home emails need to be given to the directors so they can get them to Racheal to be submitted to the NASCOE database.

Jim Anderson, the NWA legislative chair gave his report. He said that only 575 members nationwide have signed up for PAC-this is FSA's "life insurance policy". He also said that anyone can use CAPWIZ (friends, relatives, etc). This is our tool to contact our congressional people in Washington, DC. This can be used anytime, not just when alerts are sent out. This is FSA's lifeline to keep our jobs.

He told us that NAFEC (National Association of Farmer Elected Committees) is looking at trying to get the county committee pay to come from some place other than program dollars. Thereby saving their jobs as well as keeping our offices running smoothly and efficiently

There will be some mini legislative fly-ins going on with certain state, but that there will probably be a full fly-in sometime in February 2012 due to the fact that all three South Dakota congressionals are actively involved with the Farm Bill.

The Brookings county staff invited all employees to "Bum" a ride with your "Hobo Friends" to the 2012 state convention in Brookings on April 20-21. It will be held at the Staurolite Inn. Brookings requested a budget for entertainment. Roxie made a motion that a \$2000 budget be given to Brookings County for the state convention. Kay seconded it; motion carried.

More discussion was held on the full legislative fly-in. EJ and Bill will automatically go from South Dakota because they are our co-legislative chairs. Larry Olsen and Jim Anderson will go on behalf of NASCOE. We would like to have 4 more people go to represent South Dakota so we're asking for volunteers from the state. If you are interested and are willing to go to WDC sometime in February, please let your director know. The legislative co-chairs, Jim, Larry, and the officers will decide on the people who will represent us by having a random drawing from the names submitted. Also a budget was set for \$12,000 for the legislative fly-in. Joann made the motion and Jennifer seconded it; motion carried.

Lynda gave a report from RASCOE. She said the first year's membership to RASCOE is free when you retire. A new thing is you can now pay multi-year membership to RASOCE – full or associate dues. She also said there are lots of benefits with JM Marketing which includes spouses, COC, etc.

A discussion was held on the 2012 delegates for NWA Rally and national convention. The Rally and national convention will be held August 6-12, 2012. We are also looking for volunteers from the state willing to be delegates. We tabled this item until our spring board meeting where we will vote on the delegates at that time.

Mary made a motion to adjourn and Joann seconded it; motion carried.

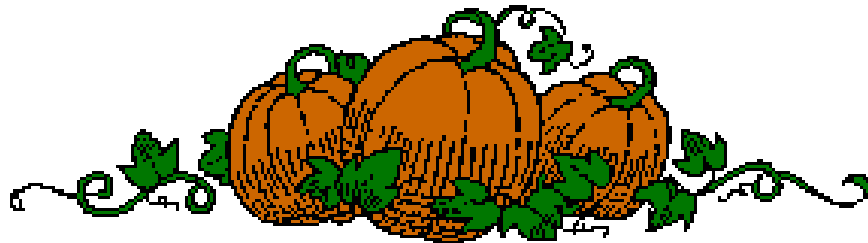
Respectfully submitted,  
Racheal Kirkebak

# SDASCOE Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2011

Beginning Balance as of 7/23/2010		\$10,354.71
Receipts:		
ACH Deposit for Dues	21,775.67	
Dues-Regular	5,268.17	
Dues-Associate	2,575.00	
2011 Legislative Conference - NASCOE	900.00	
2011 SDASCOE Convention - Registration & Donations	3,280.00	
2011 SDASCOE Convention - Scholarship Fund (JM Marketing)	100.00	
2011 Ways & Means	2,173.00	
Interest Income-Checking	7.88	
	<u>36,079.72</u>	36,079.72
Expenses:		
Bank Service Fees	50.45	
Harland Clarke Checks	41.07	
Drawings for Pd Up Dues	125.00	
2010 NWA Delegates	836.76	
2010 NASCOE Delegates	1,510.15	
2010 NASCOE Convention Caucus	762.75	
2010 SDASCOE Convention - NASCOE Expenses	173.55	
2011 Legislative Conference	7,075.62	
2011 NWA Delegates - Airline Tickets	1,265.60	
2011 NASCOE Convention Delegates - Airline Tickets	1,160.60	
2011 SDASCOE Convention	3,691.55	
2011 SDASCOE Pins	591.67	
2011 Ways & Means	566.72	
NASCOE Dues Transmittals	17,920.00	
Emblems - President's Pins	60.00	
SDASCOE Fall Board Meeting / Mileage & Rooms	2,779.48	
SDASCOE Internet Service	171.46	
SDASCOE Newsletter / Annual Bulk Mailing Fee	273.67	
SDASCOE Spring Board Meeting / Mileage & Rooms	2,145.38	
SDASCOE Spring Board Meeting / Banquet	545.48	
SDASCOE Convention Board Meeting / Mileage & Rooms	1,758.76	
Antivirus Software Annual Renewal	46.79	
SD Sec. of State / Annual Domestic Non-Profit Filing	20.00	
Postage & Miscellaneous Supplies & Expenses	557.23	
Transfer to Savings	700.00	
	<u>44,829.74</u>	44,829.74
Ending Balance as of 6/30/2011		<u><u>\$1,604.69</u></u>

# SDASCOE Treasurer's Report for First Quarter of FY 2012

Beginning Balance as of 07/01/2011			\$1,604.69
Receipts:			
ACH Deposit for Dues		5,193.95	
Dues-Regular		3,846.22	
Dues-Associate		1,350.00	
NASCOE - Airfare for Delegates		1,293.90	
		<u>11,684.07</u>	11,684.07
Expenses:			
Drawings for Pd Up Dues		130.00	
2011 NWA Delegate Expenses		740.46	
2011 NASCOE Delegate Expenses		956.47	
Summer Newsletter Mailing		86.34	
Misc Expense / Postage / Supplies		29.58	
Transfer to Savings		300.00	
		<u>2,242.85</u>	2,242.85
Ending Balance as of 9/30/2011			<u><u>\$11,045.91</u></u>





# Happy Fall!

## Ways and Means Committee Report

### Fall Board Meeting

October 13 – 14, 2011

Hello! Thanks to everyone who supported the raffles this year! Special thanks to Becky Zirpel and all of the SDASCOE Board for your help and support!

#### Print Raffle Update:

Tickets this year sold for \$5. Raffle items this year included:

- Marlin Model 917 V 17 HMR rifle with scope.
- John Green print, titled "Find Warmth Within". This is a limited edition print commissioned by the First Presbyterian Church in Wessington when the old church building was retired and a new building built. The print is signed by the artist and numbered.

The rifle was won by Josh Pesek. Sharon Krueger was the winner of the John Green Print

Expenses for the raffle included:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| · Postage ( 59 stamps @ \$0.44 each)        | \$ 26.40 |
| · John Green Print                          | \$180.00 |
| · Marlin Model 917 V17 HMR rifle with scope | \$310.32 |
|   | \$516.72 |

Proceeds from the raffle:

- \$1640 in ticket sales, less \$516.72 expenses = **\$1123.28 net profit.**

#### Room Raffle Update:

Room Raffle tickets were sold for \$1 each. This year's winner was Sarah Wanner, Codington County.

- Proceeds from the Room Raffle were \$223 - \$50 room rental = **\$173 net profit.**

**Total NET profit from the raffles = \$1296.28**

**Thanks so much for your support!**

Thank you to Peggy Groen for asking me to continue on this committee and to everyone for their support. I am always open to new ideas and welcome any input!

Respectfully,

*Terrí Roth*

SDASCOE Ways and Means Chairman

# Fall SDASCOE board meeting



Larry Olsen, NWA Executive.



Vice President – Becky; President – Peggy;  
Treasurer – Brenda; and Secretary – Rachael.



Lynda Steichen, RASCOE Secretary  
and SD RASCOE Sec-Treas and  
publicity chair.



# 2011 Fall Board Meeting

## Legislative Report

**There are a lot of unknowns at this point.** President Obama has proposed increasing the retirement contribution required of all federal employees by 1.2 percent of salary, phased in over three years starting with a 0.4 percentage point increase in 2013. The proposal is part of a large package of spending cuts and tax increases the White House put on the table for the congressional deficit-cutting “super committee.” Various formulas for increasing contributions have been considered for more than a year, and proposals for an even larger increase still could be put forward.

Several other aspects of the administration’s proposal would affect federal employees: the Social Security payroll tax for all workers who pay into that system such as those under FERS and under CSRS Offset, typically 6.2 percent but 4.2 percent this year, would be further cut to 3.1 percent for 2012; the special retirement supplement, which goes to some FERS employees who retire before age 62, would be eliminated for those hired after a future, unspecified date; and a civil service reform commission consisting of members of Congress, employee organizations and other experts would be formed to find ways to modernize pay, “staff development and mobility, and personnel performance and motivation.” OPM would be allowed to contract directly with providers of prescription drugs in the FEHB program in an attempt to command better prices and eliminate middlemen known as pharmacy benefit managers.

The administration’s plan also is notable for not including a number of policy proposals that have been in circulation. It would not change the formula for retirement benefits (such as by changing the base from the average of the highest three straight years of salary to the highest five or changing the multiplier used); it would not change the COLA benefit (such as by switching to a less generous inflation index); it would not change the cost-sharing formula for FEHB premiums; Similarly, it would not set higher retirement contributions for newly hired employees than for current employees, nor would it require higher retirement contributions from FERS employees than from CSRS employees. However, each of those ideas has supporters and there will be numerous opportunities for advancing those ideas in the months ahead.

The amount the government contributes to the pension plans of federal employees is increasing slightly this month. For most federal employees, the amount agencies contribute to their pensions under the Federal Employees Retirement System rose from 11.7 percent to 11.9 percent at the start of fiscal 2012. Individual contribution rates — 0.8 percent of their wages for most of the federal workforce remained the same. The total cost of FERS pensions, adding individual and agency contributions, for most federal employees will be 12.7 percent in fiscal 2012. The changes took effect at the beginning of the first pay period on or after Oct. 1. Individual contributions to FERS are fixed in law. The law requires the rate of the government contributions to be equal to the cost of the FERS pension as estimated by the Office of Personnel Management minus the individual contribution.

Now is the time to take action, if we wish to keep the jobs and benefits that we currently enjoy we must become active participants in the legislative process NOW. There are several ways to become involved and many of them can be done from the comfort of your home.

Sign up for CAPWIZ. CAPWIZ is an effective tool that is currently being underutilized. CAPWIZ is a way for you to individually contact your representative and bring important issues to the forefront. Talk to Doug Hofer about signing up for CAPWIZ , or you can go to the NASCOE website at [nascoe.org](http://nascoe.org) Click on Legislative on the left side, scroll down and click on sign up for CAPWIZ. Make sure you do this from your HOME computer only.

Enroll in the PAC, you can also find out more about that on the Legislative page of NASCOE's website, or visit with any SDASCOE board member.

Contact your SDASCOE directors with questions, ideas or suggestions.

With all of the unknowns out there, we need everyone to be vigilant and take action when called upon. One voice doesn't make a lot of noise, but a unified voice can be heard from miles away.....

Respectfully submitted  
Bill Chase and EJ Goetz, Co-Legislative Chairs

# SDASCOE BENEFITS

October, 2011

It seems that my Benefits Report is about the same from quarter to quarter. There are so many great benefits to check out with your NASCOE membership. Don't forget to take advantage of any and all of them. They are available for your use! The Benefits Committee is continually working to come up with great benefits for our members.

Be sure to sign up for the "**Members Only**" Registration through the NASCOE website. Go to the Benefits page, and click on the Members Only Registration. Use your personal/home email, not your work email. This is the only way you'll receive benefits such as the **Sam's Club discount**. Speaking of Sam's Club, there is a discount coupon being offered through December 31, 2011. As just mentioned the only way to get the coupon is to sign up for the Members Only page. I cannot print the coupon and send it to you. I cannot forward it through email or through the newsletter.

**Cell phone discounts:** This is a burr under my saddle!!! With the Alltel/AT&T merger, please watch your bills. The discount should carry over with the merger, but it will be your responsibility to be sure it does. I hear that, in most cases, it has not. I also hear from members that it's quite a pain to go through. However, I did receive this message from a SDASCOE member:

I got my AT&T bill for my cell phone and noticed the 15% discount didn't carry over from Altel. I called and got this address to enroll for it. [www.att.com/wirelessdiscounts](http://www.att.com/wirelessdiscounts). You will need to use your work email for this, since that's how they verify you are a government employee.

I also received a message from an employee who was told he needed a FAN number. Please contact me if you have any problems or questions. Let's keep at it. This is a benefit we're afforded through our membership, and we should be able to take advantage of it without going through so many hoops!

If you don't have an employee's discount, AT&T and Verizon both offer discounts for SDASCOE members. The discounts vary at times.

**Computer Discounts:** Dell Company ([www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com)) and Hewlett-Packard ([www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)) both offer government employees discounts. The discount and the discounted products change on a regular basis. Check out the websites for further details.

**NASCOE Travel:** Winter is coming up, like it or not! The part of winter I'm starting to really look forward to is the part where we go somewhere warm for a week or two! Check out the great travel deals, cruises, etc. Book all of your travel needs through [www.nascoetravel.com](http://www.nascoetravel.com). Anyone can use this site, so tell you friends and families. You can book car rentals, hotel rooms, airline tickets. The more we use the site, the more we benefit NASCOE's budget through the commissions earned.

Have a great autumn!  
Jeanie Emmett,  
SDASCOE Benefits Chair

## **ATTENTION MEMBERS**

Hopefully you have been keeping yourself up to date on the potential changes in our near future as FSA employees. We're in for a Wild Ride, actually it has already started (COLA freeze, budget cuts resulting in fewer employees, supplies and travel).

Federal employees (including FSA) seem to be a big target when budget cuts are being made.

If you have not given your home email address to your SDASCOE Director or signed up for CAPWIZ alerts... Why?

Lately there have been many emails forwarded to home email addresses from your NASCOE President and NASCOE Legislative team. If you haven't been getting them you are really missing out on some important information about your future.

If you haven't signed up for CAPWIZ alerts on your home computer you are missing out on an opportunity to act in favor of your producers, your benefits and your job.

If you do not have a home email, ask someone in your office that does to print out and share that information with you.

I choose to be informed and to act when NASCOE asks, instead of reacting (complaining) to something after it has happened, knowing I made no effort to help.

What's your choice?

Peggy Groen  
SDASCOE President

# Programs & Emblems



*The NASCOE STORE has  
NEW items for winter on the website.  
A women's Cotton Cashmere V-neck Sweater  
and also a V-neck Jersey Knit.*

**[nascoeemblemsonline.com](http://nascoeemblemsonline.com)**

*If you are looking for an item that was previously listed, they may have moved it to different category. There are sales and discounts weekly.*

***The store is provided as a benefit to NASCOE members  
(as well as all USDA-FSA employees)  
They offer a variety of sanctioned emblem and logo items.***

Visit the website [www.nascoeemblemsonline.com](http://www.nascoeemblemsonline.com)



Please take time to visit the NASCOE website ([www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org)) and click on Programs tab. Read the info on [How Program Committee Submissions Work](#) and also the [Program Status: Issues/Solutions/Responses](#). This has all the information that has previously been submitted and sorted by program category. If your idea hasn't been submitted please take time to submit your request it could be very cost effective and a time saver for all employees!

Cindy Mengenhauser  
Emblems / Programs Chairperson

# NASCOE Delegate Report

As we appreciate the 80 degree South Dakota weather and beautiful green color in our fields, we reflect back on our trip to Corpus Christie, Texas this past week. The heat index was 110 most days and everything was as brown as can be. The heated weather was identical to most of the topics at the convention. Major concerns for everyone seem basically having a job to do and how to get it done with less staff and budget.

With limited budgets the County Committee System has come under scrutiny. The general view of NASCOE is to pursue any action necessary to insure that the COC system remains an integral part of FSA, including supervision of the CEDs. Additionally, NASCOE will spend time and resources on insuring that COC System is covered by farm bill legislation.



**Mary Haag and Brenda Wicks**

A major crossroad for FSA is on the horizon with the new farm bill and budget, but we are the champions in FSA and we will be able to adjust to the change to ensure the American farmers can continue to feed America. We are the heartbeat of the farmer. With a thriving farm economy the need for a safety net and disaster assistance has not diminished. It is in these times with high land values and rising input costs that a safety net remains extremely important to the viability of the ag economy as a whole.

The positive news was the MIDAS presentation. This will transform how FSA will deliver programs and services in the future. It is amazing! Please take the time to review the demos and give your feedback to the team now while it is in the beginning stages.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/midas?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

South Dakota made us proud again. Larry Olson (Minnehaha Co. CED) was elected NWA Chairman, Joseph Schultz (Charles Mix Co. CED ) was awarded National Service to Community Award, and Renita Goetz, daughter of E.J. Goetz (PT Walworth Couthy), NASCOE Scholarship winner. Congratulations to each of you.

We don't want to review nor are able to touch upon all the topics of the convention but we would like to encourage you to take the time to read through all the reports, negotiations, and questions when they are posted on NASCOE NOW at [www.nascoe.org](http://www.nascoe.org).

We appreciate the opportunity to represent our state as delegates. It was extremely interesting to watch the whole process of our employee organization working for the benefits we have been able to enjoy all these years, as well as for the agency and the American farmer. It gives such an appreciation for all that we have and hopefully will be able to keep in the future.

Respectfully,  
Brenda Wicks and Mary Haag

# NASCOE Convention

Mary Johnson  
Peggy Groen  
Cindy Mengenhauser  
Lynda Steichen



Larry Olsen, Brenda Wicks,  
Cindy Mengenhauser and Mary  
Haag, South Dakota's shift  
working at the emblems table.

Mary Johnson  
Mary Haag  
Leon Edlund  
Jim Iverson  
Cindy Mengenhauser

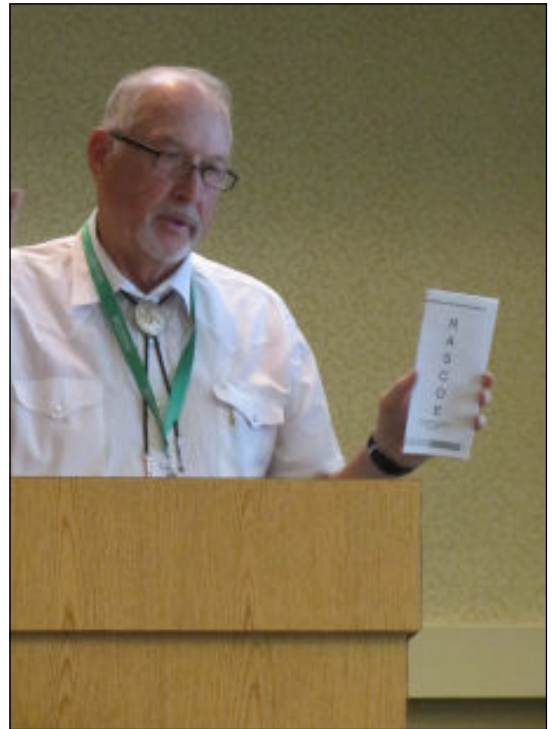




Cindy Mengenhauer showing off the shawl she just purchased at the Scholarship Auction



Larry Olsen, Alternate NWA Exec (our newly elected NWA Executive)



SD RASCOE member, Gene Vognild, at the NWA meeting at NASCOE - promoting RASCOE

Mary Haag  
Cindy Mengenhauser  
Peggy Groen



Back row: Larry Olsen, Cindy Mengenhauser, Peggy Groen, Mary Johnson, Jim Iverson. Front row: Lynda Steichen, Mary Haag, Brenda Wicks, Leon Edlund.  
Not pictured: Gene and Shirlee Vognild and Ron Russell.

Cindy Hall, NWA Exec





The NWA group



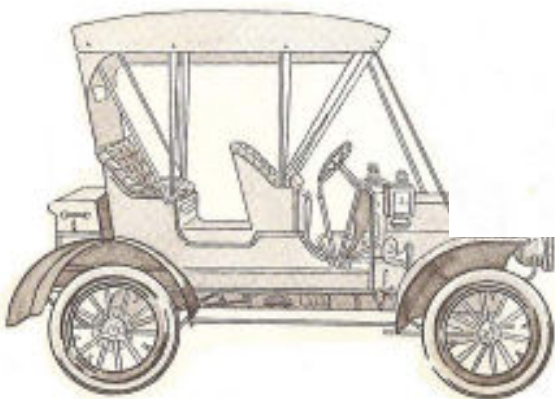
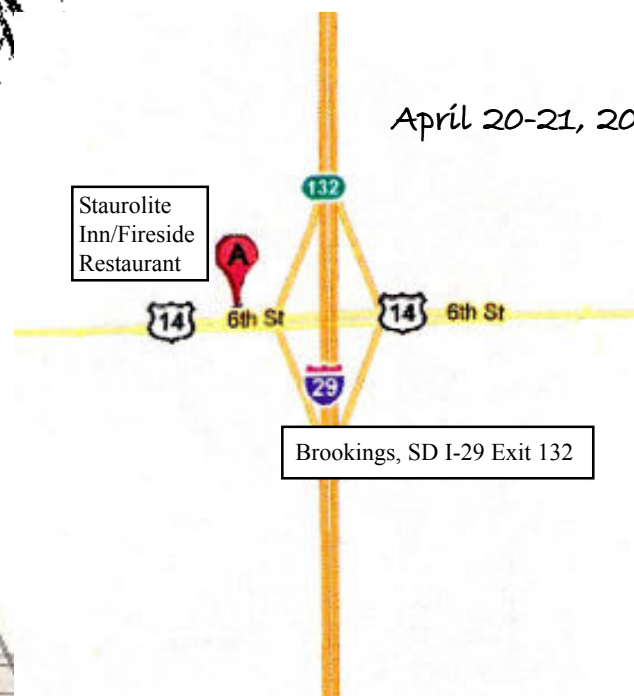
National RASCOE group: left front is Lynda Steichen; middle set of stairs, second row from top, on the right side is Jim Iverson; top row far right is Gene and Shirlee Vognild.

# BUM YOUR WAY TO BROOKINGS

Gather all your "HOBO FRIENDS" and join us  
at the Staurolite Inn/Fireside Restaurant for the  
2012 SDASCOE "HOBO CONVENTION"



April 20-21, 2012



# 2012 National NASCOE Convention

Boise, ID  
August 10 - 13, 2012

*All meetings will take place at the Boise Centre*

**HOST HOTEL – The Grove Hotel**, Boise's only AAA Four-Diamond property. Free airport shuttle, restaurant, lobby lounge, indoor pool and hot tub, FREE workout facility, concierge desk. Hospitality Rooms  
[www.grovehotelboise.com](http://www.grovehotelboise.com) or 888.961.5000

**Hotel 43** – [www.hotel43.com](http://www.hotel43.com) or 800.343.4622 (*Across the street from the Centre*)

**Owyhee Plaza Hotel** –

[www.owyheepiazza.com](http://www.owyheepiazza.com) or 208.343.4611 (*3 blocks from the Centre*)

**Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown** –

[www.boisedowntownsuites.hamptoninn.com](http://www.boisedowntownsuites.hamptoninn.com) or 208.331.1900 (*2 Blocks from the Centre*)

*Please let all hotels know you are with the NASCOE Group to get the special NASCOE Room Rate!*

**I have no idea who may be planning to attend.** A few folks have gone ahead and made their own room reservations... so again, I do NOT plan to make a reservation for a block of rooms.

**Remember – the NW Area Rally will be held in Boise the beginning of the NASCOE convention week.** I am not sure if it will be Monday or Tuesday, or if that decision has been made. So you may want to make your room reservations accordingly.

## CALLING POSSIBLE BUS RIDERS

We have done some tentative looking into the possibility of a taking a bus to Boise, and inviting other states to join in with us on the trip. The details found so far include:

Ballpark estimate of \$8900 for a 48 passage bus/galley. Leave Saturday, August 4th, leave midnight Saturday, August 11.

Quote is \$8900 divided by # of passengers. \$8900 divided by 35 = \$255.00 per rider. Flights about \$400.00

Estimate 22 hours driving time (do not exceed 70 mph)  
Each bus has dvd + tv, reclining seats, internet, & restroom.  
Allow 1 large bag and 1 carryon per passenger  
Refreshments (beer/liquor, food) allowed.

We are always looking for new and more travelers for the NASCOE convention. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to give me a holler! You can contact me at the office 605-539-9232 or Home (605) 853-3299. Or email me at [mary.johnson@hur.midco.net](mailto:mary.johnson@hur.midco.net).

Mary, your Travel Coordinator

# *Second Annual Women in Ag Day*



**Becky Zirpel MC for the event and presenting portions of FSA Programs**



**Craig Schaunaman addressing the group**

Women in Ag Day was held September 13 in Burke and it was a great success. We teamed up with NRCS, Gregory County Conservation District and Gregory County Extension Service and invited District 4 employees and invited all Women in Ag from four Counties around Gregory County. We had 160 registered for the day and had women from as far as Yankton, Avon, Mitchell, Wood, Kennebec, and several from Nebraska. We started the day with a GREAT motivational speaker, Elizabeth Hagen, Sioux Falls; then our four agencies gave a presentation about what each agency offers in programs and services. We were very pleased to have our Executive Director, Craig Schaunaman, drive the distance to address the group in addition to helping serve the meal. Other presentations for the day were Paula Deckert from the S.D. Dept. of Revenue talking about how S.D. tax laws apply to the Ag Industry, then from the Extension Service with topics of “Lawn Care” and “Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare”.



**Elizabeth Hagen, motivational speaker, Sioux Falls**

The group enjoyed a sit down meal served by the men! Craig Schaunaman, Kevin Steckelberg, Marty Mortenson, along with our NRCS – DC Kerry Stiner, Gregory County Extension Educators – Bob Fanning and Jim Krantz and our County Committee Vice Chairman, Tim Martin served the meal and the women thought that was great! Many of the evaluations said to bring the men back again next year. Some suggested costume attire next year! Thanks guys for helping, you did a great job.

We ended the day with all evaluations coming in that our guests really hoped we would do this again. They gave great ideas for coming years and our team is willing to sponsor this event again and we are already planning what to do different.

Thanks to the help again this year from Cheryl, Lesli, Tammi, Suzanne and Tina Schonebaum, District Administrative Assistant for Conservation District for chipping in to help get the meal ready and for their help in keeping the day running smooth! The women enjoyed shopping during the breaks from our many sponsors/vendors and after the event.



**Relaxing after a long day**

Submitted by: *Becky Zirpel, Gregory County FSA*

# ~ Women In Ag Conference ~



This was taken at the Women In Ag Conference held September 29 and 30 at Spearfish Canyon. Pictured from left are: Geraldine Storm, Perkins County retiree; Dixie Oedekoven, Meade County; Kari Sanders, Fall River-Custer County; Dawn Nagel, Sully County; and Cindy Walker, Fall River-Custer County.



# OMG, it's a Fish N Feud



**Jimmy Toe Counter**

VS



**Wakonda Smiler**

## **It seems as though there is a feud among Fish N Fun friends.**

An article in the last SDASCOE newsletter read, in part, "...Dudsey Vognild (defending guardian of "Charlie" ) presented the trophy to this year's proud owner and now the first THREE-TIME winner, HIMSELF!". This statement is now being challenged by Mr. Vognild. ↓

When **Big Jim Iverson** was informed of Dudsey's banter he responded that Dudsey had better cool it because he DID have a total of 3 undesirable wins: "Charlie the Tuna" in 2010 and 2011, and also "Nickadameous" in 2010. Furthermore, Jim said, I didn't even write the article so he doesn't need to hassle me.

### ***The Russell family had this response:***

Dudsey better catch fish next year or it will be a guaranteed 3-peat. None of us want to see Big Jim take his boots off to count his toes !! We Russell's are just too proud and are waiting to weigh in with quality fish. It was noticed that some in the boat (Russ) have no pride and will weigh in any sardine caught. Russell's are just too proud for that and are just satisfied taking a zero and knowing our day is coming when we will shock the tournament with a large weigh-in.....I don't know if Charlie can survive 2 years in Wakonda, if he does it is a miracle in itself.

**The fight (or is it more of a "fish opera" ?) is on !!**

To whom it may concern:

In the 2011 newsletter it was stated that Dudsey was a three time winner of the Charlie the Tuna award. On my wall hangs the championship plaque from 2009.

Big Jim Iverson better start using a calculator instead of his toes because thats a back to back, not a three-peat.

Charlie the Tuna could have gone to three deserving Russels instead they gave it to me. That really blows. I will be back next year, head held high with a guarantee to catch fish.

Smiling in Wakonda,  
Dudsey

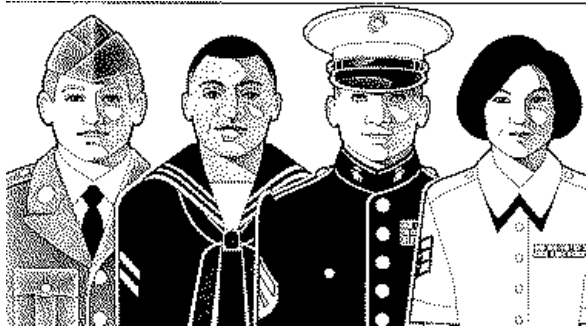
Will the author of the article retract the "three-time" label?

Will Dudsey keep smiling when the pressure to catch fish in 2012 keeps building?

Will Russ defend himself against the Russell's claim that he has no pride and catches sardines?

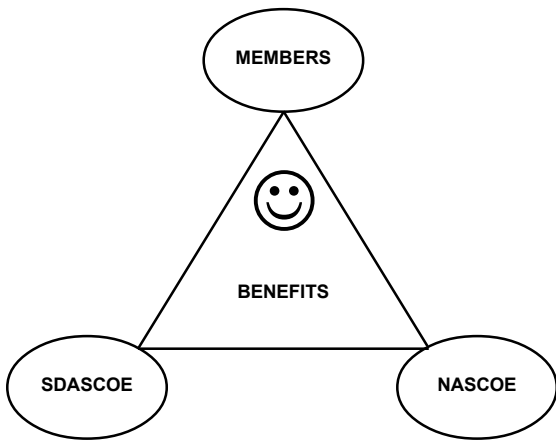
**Who is right and who is wrong and who doesn't really give a hoot? ..... to be continued.**

Please email your views to: [willynillynews@yahoo.com](mailto:willynillynews@yahoo.com) – but beware, it may be published.



# A Salute to our Military

Name	Branch	Current Location / Service History	SDASCOE / FSA Relative
SPC Brandon Adams		Returned from Kuwait in March 2010	Son-in-law of Rhonda Deutch, Roberts County
Travis Dooley	Army	Currently in Afghanistan	Nephew of Duke Westerber, Haakon County
SPC Katie Boesch	Army	Returned home from second deployment to Iraq	Niece of Mike Goetzinger, Bennett-Shannon County
SPC Dan Boesch	Army	Returned home from second deployment to Iraq	Spouse of SPC Katie Boesch
Cpt. Matthew Strand	Army Infantry	Deployed to Afghanistan	Son of Rodney Strand Edmunds County
Master Sgt. Shaye Melton	Air Force	Abilene, TX	Son-in-law of Cathy Olstad, Fall River-Custer County
Major Michael Thompson	Air Force	Currently stationed in Albuquerque, NM	Son of Stan Thompson, Marshall County
Cpt. Matthew Thompson	Marine Corp	Stationed in OK. Occasional trips to and from Afghanistan	Son of Stan Thompson, Marshall County
Sgt. Josh Bryant SD	Army NG	Served in Iraq 2003-2005 Recruiter in Redfield, SD	Son of JoDee Bryant, Faulk County
Staff Sgt. Ryton Hitzel	Air Force	Stationed in Minot, ND	Son of Ruby VanderMay, Jackson County
SPC Phillip Olson PV2 Joshua Olson MP Aaron Monteith	SD Army NG SD Army NG SD Army NG	In Kuwait In Kuwait Stationed in Rapid City, SD	Nephews of Kathy Lindquist, DD
Sgt. Scott Fried	101st Airborne Army NG	Two tours Iraq-Active duty completed MN National Guard - Attending SDSU	Son of Peggy Fried, Perkins County
Sgt. Jason Lunders	SD Army NG		Nephew of Mary Rae Peterson, McCook County
Craig W. Nelson	Air Force	Stationed in Arizona. Served previous tour of duty overseas	Nephew of Mary Rae Peterson, and Peg Schmidt, McCook County
SPC Caleb Schaefer	SD Army NG	Returned from Kuwait in April 2010	Son of Debra Schaefer, McPherson County
SPC Katherina Schaefer	SD Army NG	JT Force Headquarters, Rapid City, SD	Daughter of Debra Schaefer, McPherson County
S/Sgt. Joshua Schaefer	SD Army NG	Admin. NCO Rapid City, SD	Son of Debra Schaefer, McPherson County
PFC Jacob Busser	SD Army NG	Home from Afghanistan, Sept. 2010 Attending DSU	Son of Lisa (PT) and Leon Busser, Lake County
SSG Ben Layton	Vermont NG	Home from Afghanistan, Fall 2010	Son of Pam Layton, Beadle County
Darin Lenow	SD Army NG	Deployed to Afghanistan in 2009	FLOT - Charles Mix County
SPC Nicholas Peterson	Army Reserve	Walter Reed Hospital, VA	Nephew of Becky Zirpel, Gregory County
Tracy Lennick	SD Army NG	Redfield Unit	Son of Bonnie Nickelson, Hand-Hyde County
Zach Carter	Navy	Whidby Island Naval Air Station, Washington State	Nephew of Stacy Smith, Pennington County
Josh Horstman		Currently deployed to Iraq	Husband of Angie Horstman, Hutchinson County



# SDASCOE MEMBERSHIP

2011 – 2012  
FALL BOARD MEETING — BROOKINGS  
OCTOBER 13 & 14 - 2011

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259	TOTAL COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEES	}	<b>96.9%</b>
251	COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEE MEMBERS		
8	COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEE NON-MEMBERS		
83	TOTAL GS OFFICE EMPLOYEES	}	<b>12.0%</b>
10	GS COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEE MEMBERS		
73	GS COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEE NON-MEMBERS		
66	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		

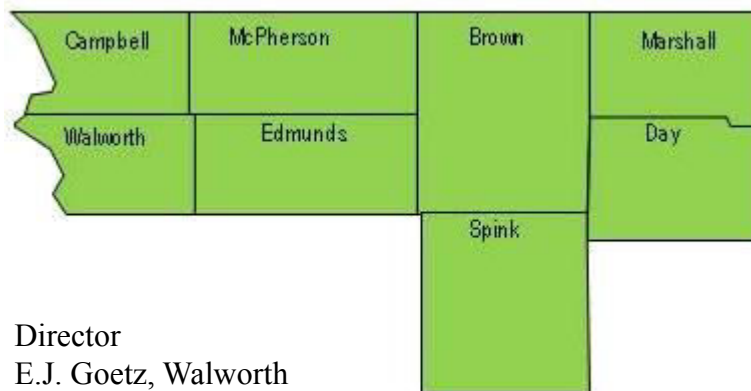
COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;  
KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;  
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS!  
*Henry Ford*



# The news from...

## North Central District #1

**Brown**  
**Campbell**  
**Day**  
**Edmunds**  
**Marshall**  
**McPherson**  
**Spink**  
**Walworth**



Director  
E.J. Goetz, Walworth  
Alternate  
Carol Kindelspire, McPherson

## CAMPBELL COUNTY

Deb Schuetzle and Vanessa Goehring are enjoying the stress free life of retirement. Deb worked at the Campbell County office for more than 28 years and Vanessa worked for more than 22 years. We want to take this opportunity to thank both Deb and Vanessa for their service and wish them the best.

## SPINK COUNTY

After 26 plus years of service to Spink County Farm Service Agency, Barb Dickhaut has decided to retire. We want to take this opportunity to thank Barb for her service and wish her well.

...

As I finish my last day, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my FSA “family” for all your guidance and support over the past 26 years! Words cannot express what all of your friendships have meant to me! This was not a planned retirement, but welcomed just the same. As many of you know, I was diagnosed with breast cancer the same day USDA came down with the rules and regulations of the early-out retirement, and I am taking this opportunity to take care of myself for the next 9 months to a year (or however long it takes to fight this cancer) and then I will see where the Lord takes me. I have enjoyed my time with FSA, but will not miss the stress and workload!

# EDMUNDS COUNTY

To my FSA family:

As I sit at my home computer with my second cup of coffee, I am reflecting on the 28 1/2 years that I spent getting up early and going to work at ASCS/FSA. All I can do is smile, being able to sleep in 15 minutes longer and deciding what I am going to do first on my long list of things to do.

I am looking forward to a less stressful life and enjoying things in life that I was not able to while working full-time.

On the other hand, I am very thankful for having been able to work for this agency. I have met many wonderful people throughout the years, both co-workers and producers.

I will truly miss the people who have helped me along the way, put up with me, and put a smile on my face.

Thank you all for the cards, well wishes, and gifts that were sent my way. I hope to see many of you from the other side of the counter.

To steal a quote from Red Skelton: "Good night and may God Bless."

Sylvia Davis

*May you always have work for your hands to do.  
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.  
May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.  
May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.  
May the hand of a friend always be near you.  
And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.  
— Irish Retirement Blessing*

# The news from...

## North East District #2

**Brookings**

**Clark**

**Codington**

**Deuel**

**Grant**

**Hamlin**

**Kingsbury**

**Roberts**

Director

Stan Lamb, Codington

Alternate

Joel Foster, Grant



## DEUEL COUNTY

Deuel County would like to announce a new addition to their office. Stanford Health Systems donated a (AED) portable defibrillator to our office in Clear Lake. Thanks to Stanford Health for this wonderful addition.

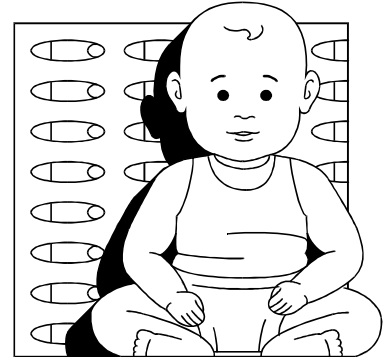
# CODINGTON COUNTY

Watertown FSA office had a send off for Verona Goens's next adventure.  
Her last day was September 30.

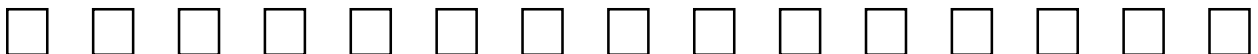
After 28 years 9 months and 5 days Cathy Dally ended her career with ASCS/CFSA/FSA. We wish her the best in her retirement and hope she has fun with her children and grandchildren. Most retirees we know say they keep busy and don't know how they ever had time to work. We are guessing Cathy will have a similar story to tell the next time we see her. It has been a pleasure to work with Cathy and she will definitely be missed.



# CLARK COUNTY



Marty and Michele Bertsch are the proud parents of a baby boy born September 23. He weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz. and has been named Michael Lee. Mom, Dad and brother Matthew are all doing well.



# The news from...

## South East District #3

**Clay**  
**Lake**  
**Lincoln**  
**McCook**  
**Miner**  
**Minnehaha**  
**Moody**  
**Turner**  
**Union**

Director  
Joann Schock, Miner  
Alternate  
Cindy Peterson, Minnehaha



## TURNER COUNTY

Rodney Strand, the new CED in Turner County is pictured with his new granddaughter, Kara Jo Terry. Kara was born on July 6, 2011, one day before Rodney started his new job in Parker. Kara is Rod and Maribeth's first grandchild and is the daughter of their daughter Samantha, and her husband Joe. Kara was born in Sioux Falls and lives with her parents there. Rod and Maribeth also live in Sioux Falls, so feel fortunate to see their family often. Their other daughter Kris and husband Ian also live in Sioux Falls. Their son, Matt is stationed in Afghanistan until February.





# MOODY COUNTY

Joe Knippling presented a certificate to Jackie Hay after 26 plus years of service to Moody County.



# MINER COUNTY

Teresa Abrahamson, Miner County FLO, retired July 29, after more than 27 years of dedicated service.



# LINCOLN COUNTY

After 25 plus years of dedicated service, Vi Holman has decided to retire!

# The news from...

## South Central District #4

**Aurora**  
**BonHomme**  
**Charles Mix**  
**Davison**  
**Douglas**  
**Gregory**  
**Hanson**  
**Hutchinson**  
**Tripp**  
**Yankton**



Director  
Mary Haag, Hutchinson  
Alternate  
Valorie Scherschlight, Yankton

# HUTCHINSON COUNTY



Susan Horstman retired from Hutchinson County FSA with 26 years of service on August 31.

# DAVISON - HANSON COUNTY



Cynthia Folkerts retired as of September 30 with 33 1/2 years of service to FSA.



Curtis Fox with COC chair Dan Olinger. Curtis retired from FSA the end of July with over 28 years of service.



# DOUGLAS COUNTY

Theresa Hoderby decided to retire August 31.

“It has definitely been quite a ride, but now just seems like the right time to get off the bus.

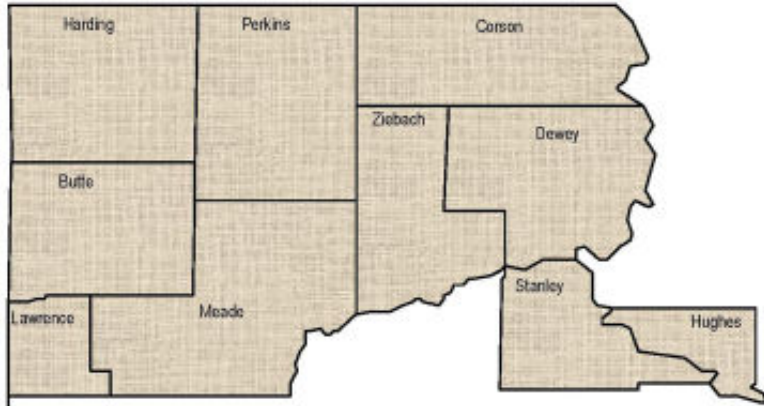
The past 25 years have gone by way too quickly, and I will always cherish the friendships and fun times that have gone along with them.

However, probably not-so-much the long hours (remember PIK certificates & LDP’s!), ever-changing rules/reg.s, deadlines and budget restraints.”

# The news from...

## North West District #5

**Butte**  
**Corson**  
**Dewey**  
**Harding**  
**Hughes**  
**Lawrence**  
**Meade**  
**Perkins**  
**Stanley**  
**Ziebach**



Director  
Roxie Stambach, Ziebach  
Alternate  
Doug Hofer, Corson



## ZIEBACH COUNTY

Roxie Stambach was honored with an open house for her 30 years of dedicated service to the FSA office in Dupree. Her co-workers and Jodie Schrempp, CED, honored her with a beautiful cake, flowers and candy dish to make her day more special. Jace Birkeland, chairman of the COC presented her a certificate in recognition of her 30 years.

Roxie said she “has enjoyed working with the area farms and ranchers through the 30 years and hopes to keep working for a few more years.”

# CORSON COUNTY



Diane Geigle recently celebrated her 50th birthday.



Shari Evenson, has finally reached middle age like the rest of us.



# PERKINS COUNTY

After 25 plus years of service to the Perkins County Farm Service Agency, Peggy Fried decided to retire. We want to take this opportunity to thank Peggy for her service and wish her well.

# The news from...

## Central District #6

**Beadle**  
**Brule**  
**Buffalo**  
**Faulk**  
**Hand**  
**Hyde**  
**Jerauld**  
**Lyman**  
**Potter**  
**Sanborn**  
**Sully**

Director  
Jennifer Chavez, Hyde  
Alternate  
Donnie McManus, Lyman



# BEADLE COUNTY

Vilene Campbell received her 25 Year Service Award from County Committee Chairman, Ron Baruth.



# HAND COUNTY



Kim Joy-Nelson took advantage of the early out offer. Her last day was August 31. On Kim's last day the COC and DD were on hand (and in Hand) to wish her well. Pictured are: Matt Rogers, Mike Clements, Kim, Carole Grey and Ron Russell.

# BRULE COUNTY



After 27 plus years, Renee Schaub decided it was time to leave the stress behind and spend more time with her family. She has seen many changes throughout her years with FmHA and FSA. She says she will miss the producers but not the work or stress these days. We wish her well in her retirement

# The news from...

## South West District #7

**Bennett**  
**Custer**  
**Fall River**  
**Haakon**  
**Jackson**  
**Jones**  
**Mellette**  
**Pennington**  
**Shannon**  
**Todd**



Director  
Kay Massingale, Mellette-Todd  
Alternate  
Janelle Adrian, Mellette-Todd



# FALL RIVER - CUSTER COUNTY



Conservation district manager, Julie Tomlinson and Fall River-Custer County PTs Cindy Walker, Cathy Olstad, and Kari Sanders serving dinner to the seventh graders from Hot Springs, Oelrichs, and Edgemont for the Youth Conservation Day held at the Whitney Preserve.



Brian Malde's family received a Century Farm award during the South Dakota State Fair in Huron. His family has owned the farm in Aurora County since 1909. Family members include: Brian's wife, Sheryl, Brian (CED Fall River-Custer), his mother, Virginia Malde, his brother, Randy and his kids Krista and Matt and Matt's girlfriend, Crystal.

# MELLETTE - TODD COUNTY



It's not too often our office has a celebrity stop by — but one did! Let us introduce you to the lead guitar player for “Sawyer Brown” — **Shayne Hill**! This picture is of Shayne Hill, his wife Kristin, their son Jesse — with the Mellette – Todd County FSA Staff. On August 26<sup>th</sup> they stopped by the office with Shayne’s Aunt — Charlene Lolley – FSA retiree. She had brought them by to show off some of her husband’s handiwork. (see “Sweed Lolley” story on the next page) They had stopped by to visit family & friends on their way to a Sawyer Brown Concert out west. What a nice young family! As you can see — their little one took a liking to Lori — must be the “Grandma” touch!

Shayne and Kristin share this bio info with us: **Shayne** has played for numerous acts in country and Christian music, including Mila Mason, Chely Wright, Ty Herndon, Little Big Town, Chris Ledoux, Lee Ann Rimes, Nichole Nordeman, Avalon, Mark Schultz, Zoe Girl, and Richard Marx, and currently, with the group Sawyer Brown. He has played on records for Bucky Covington, Michael English, John Waller, Rebecca St James, Sawyer Brown and many others. **Kristin** is a former Atlantic / Warner Brothers recording artist. She completed an album, radio tour and her single “Let’s Burn It Down” was released to country radio in 2001. She continues to sing and perform throughout the year for the annual worldwide Microsoft events held in Atlanta at the Philips arena and recently, an MGX event in Denver Colorado. When Shayne is not traveling on the road with Sawyer Brown, he and Kristin spend most of their time writing and recording music in the studio at their home in Nashville, TN and together they also work for hire in developing and producing other artists. In addition to being new parents to their 8-month-old sweet baby boy Jesse Marvin Hill. Shayne and Kristin are the worship leaders at their church Bethel World Outreach in Franklin, TN and are grateful for the opportunity to serve.



Sweed, Charlene and Paul in the workshop!



Paul and Sweed at Make-a-Wish in Sioux Falls.

Sweed Lolley (husband of retiree Charlene) is quite a handyman! He orders patterns, cuts out all the little pieces and puts together "projects". Yes - each and every piece is cut out by hand - not a kit of any kind - just a pattern! The past few years Sweed has made an item and donated it to the Make-a-Wish program to auction off at the annual Make-a-Wish Special Event Weekend in Sioux Falls. This year Paul Gropper of White River assisted Sweed by making the stacks & bell on the top. This event is held in conjunction with the Northern Bull Riding Tour (NBRT) Championship Finals held at the Sioux Falls Arena. This year Sweed's train brought \$1,100 for Make-a-Wish!

We feel very privileged at the Mellette-Todd FSA Office that Sweed displays his handy work here. Our producers enjoy looking at them and once in a while we have a passerby stop in to look at them. Below are a number of the items he has make - the pictures in no way do them justice as they all have very intricate details. Anytime you are in the area stop by, as we would gladly show them off!



**SDASCOE**  
Barb Dykstra  
601 Mitchell Dr.  
Alcester, SD 57001

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