

## SDASCOE 2016 Spring Board Legislative Committee Report

FSA budget was 9 million better than expected and about 12 million above the president's request. NASCOE's collective advocacy efforts have allowed us to protect recent accomplishments and funding levels.

- County committee meetings are fully funded and should not be restricted.
- That none of the funds available to Farm Service Agency shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices.
- That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to permanently relocate county based employees that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations.
- MIDAS continues to be a problem; FSA's management of certain information technology projects over the past several years has resulted in cost overruns and poor performance.
- FSA has failed to deliver a modernized and integrated IT solution for farm program delivery that was promised to Congress and the agricultural community. The agreement includes statutory language that requires the Government Accountability Office to review, and the Committees to approve a plan for expenditure for IT projects.
- FSA is directed to continue quarterly briefings in writing on all IT projects related to farm program delivery.

There are only about 30 competitive seats in the house election this year and only about 3 competitive seats in the Senate. Congress is only in session for 107 days due to the election, don't expect them to accomplish much this year.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Chase and EJ Goetz, Legislative Co-Chairs