

NWA RALLY – DELEGATES REPORT

June 4 – 6, 2015

It was a great trip to Cody WY. Larry and Becky took the southern route on mostly 2 lanes, and they were glad to get through the Lusk area before the rains hit on Wednesday evening. Joel took the northern route and stayed in Sheridan on Wednesday night. Larry and Becky came home via I-90 as many roads and bridges were



SD Crew (Joel, Becky and Larry)



Yellowstone

washed out. Joel spent a couple extra days to tour Yellowstone, and drove through Beartooth Pass along with stopping at Little Bighorn Battlefield on the way home.



Beartooth Mountain

A little human interest story from our travels! At the lake Joel reports that he rescued a couple people in need. A car pulled up with a mother

and 3 college age girls. They were all from southern California, but the daughter went to school in Billings. The daughter got out of the car, turned around, and said “Mom, the car is on fire”. It was overheating. The good thing for her is that it must have just started to overheat. It was a rental car as the mother and the other 2 girls flew into Billings to visit the daughter. Joel had bottled water with; just in case his vehicle overheats so he got the car cooled down and replenished with water. Joel told her to turn the a/c off, unroll the windows, and enjoy the mountain air. Joel followed them through Beartooth and the car did not have any more problems. Way to go Joel!

Wyoming put together a great convention with a record number attending. The other thing that was great to see was that WY held the STC meeting in the area so members of the WY STC, the WY SED, and other Program Specialist (such as SD’s one and only, Dave Gunderson, FLP Chief) attended the Rally.



June 5 started with registration and the silent auction. Philip Morton, NWA Exec called the meeting together with Mike Idler, Crook County CED giving the invocation and a wonderful video of “Why I love America”. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Anderson, WY STC Chairperson, followed by introduction of guest and a warm welcome to WY by Jennifer Dutton, WYASCOE President. Roll Call was taken and all states had members, guest and some RASCOE present.

The 1st guest speaker was Miss Wyoming 2014, Jessie Allen. Jessie grew the summer months in the mountains on a ranch with limited modern and then they would spend the winter months near Lander, WY. She told an story of how she led a 9 hour fishing tour via horseback when she was 16 during a and how this 16 year old young lady had to be the leader for all these men who struggling with the weather. In addition, she has spent time as a congressional participated in WWOOFING in New Zealand. WWOOFING is a program where participants live on a farm and ranch in exchange for labor. Wow is all we can say, Miss Allen gave a wonderful presentation for Ranching, Farming and following your dreams. It was a great message for everyone especially our youth today. Jesse plans on continuing promoting FFA and agriculture through social media now that her term as Miss Wyoming has concluded.



up spending conveniences, interesting snow storm, were intern and

Next we had comments from WY SED, Gregor Goertz. He thanked the approximate 8000 employees in FSA and encouraged everyone to do the FSA Viewpoint survey. He talked about the Farm Programs we have had to implement and what FSA does to implement those programs. His comment is “We are the faces and foundation of FSA”.



Mike Schmidt, DAFP was up next and gave a hand out of what the NWA States had accomplished since implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill. SD was at or near the top in several categories, and he specifically mentioned SD for our workload and efforts. Mr. Schmidt commented that we did the quick and dirty in implementing the programs, and now the cleanup will begin with software needing to be tweaked along with other fine tuning as we move

forward. He is just as frustrated with the automation issues as he made the comment that he is in way too many IT meetings. FSA can play a larger role in programs related to agriculture, and we need to think about our footprint beyond our traditional customers. We have an opportunity to improve upon NAP and FSFL such as possible bulk tanks for dairy. WDC needs to provide better tools to help us sell our programs with more uniformity. We have an opportunity to realize our new customers, our next generation. He is open to suggestions on what can we do to move forward.

A question and answer session was held with most of the question revolving around Acreage Reporting.

This is not verbatim!

Q: The current process of acreage reporting at both FSA and RMA is a concern for FSA and especially for our producers

A: WDC is working on this with one of the hurdles is that software needs to be more compatible.

Q: There are some states with up to 4 reporting dates and not all of our participants are RMA customers. There are some counties where 1% of participants as RMA customers whereas another county has 99% as RMA customers.

A: WDC is open to consolidating dates, but we need to go through the proper channels such as STC making recommendations to WDC. We need to explain the concerns and draft solutions. Mike talked about a Streamlining acreage reporting team. Why do we need to report CRP every year? Why do we need to report Grazing every year when it never changes? Suggestion was to report this once and make it a continuous certification that only needs to be reported if the acreage changes, such as when CRP expires. They will be looking at putting together a task force on this.

Q: We need to educate producers on 1026 with regards to RMA, FSA, and NRCS. The handbook needs to be more compatible for use with all agencies.

A: This was acknowledged and he understood the concerns.

Q: MIDAS and concerns (not enough notes to cover this)

A: Report is out (not enough notes). Report is not kind to MIDAS.

Q: There needs to be a 1 page flyer on NAP to handout at Farmers Markets for outreach to new potential participants

A: There is a flyer out, it will be reviewed, and he will look into getting it out to the offices.

Q: There needs be more done on NAP Organic Prices, and it needs to be driven down from the top

A: We need to go through your STO

Q: RFS What is it doing for us – workload – what

A: it is mandated - out of area of expertise for Mr. Schmitz

Q: Reporting grazing and haying in Oct/Nov. Producers do not know who will have the land nor do they always know if they will graze or hay some of the land and we cannot change intended use. Registers for not being able to complete work timely are time consuming, and this adds to the workload on staff that is already too short to get the work done.

A: They understand the issues, and will look into things to streamline Acreage Reporting process.

Mark VanHoose, NASCOE President spoke next and started with talking about Performance Management Committee in which Jill Lorang, PT, will represent us in WDC. She will do a great job for all of us. We have has some wins in our negotiating process and some of them are:



- Keeping GovDelivery in the hands of local office.
- PM notice 2940 talks about expanding the KPT to 1 in each district
- Top 10 reports and management listened and is working on this
- Aspiring Leader program

The OIG Report on MIDAS is out. By 2022, the program is projected to have a total cost of nearly \$824 million, and it recognizes that we do not have a data base in IT big enough to accomplish MIDAS. We asked for more work a few years ago and now we have it. Mark asked what else do you expect or want of NASCOE? Mr. VanHoose promoted PAC, and explained it helps get the right people elected and re-elected for FSA along with building legislative relationships that help us tell our story. PAC provides job insurance similar to auto, health, and life insurance. He commented that membership is up and NASCOE budget is in the black and this is all because of you (the members). Mr. VanHoose concluded by stating there are three reasons to join NASOCE and support NASCOE:

- NASCOE is the only organization recognized by management!
- Pay Legislative Consultant to lobby and act on your behalf to benefit members and FSA.
- NASCOE attorney is covered for a 1 hour consultation if needed by a member because of issues job related.

NAFEC, Dan Noteboom, from Washington State was present along with 1st VP of NAFEC, Tom Montgomery. They addressed the group on what they can do for FSA that we as members can't. There is a need to have more County Committee members join NAFEC along with employees becoming associate members.

There were reports from all NWA Committee Chairs were presented, and will be posted to the www.nwanascoe.org web site. Legislative PAC promotion signup is underway, and it is the best Job Insurance you can buy. The enrollment form is on the NASCOE webpage at www.nascoe.org. Aspiring Leader Program was discussed. The Rally for next year was

discussed as possible a joint rally with SW or as an all-West with SW and MW. More information to come on this.



NWA Chairs, Exec and Alt Exec along with membership awards



Great food, fun and entertainment throughout the 3 days were enjoyed by everyone. Dillard's gave retirement training. JM Marketing also addressed the group. The Rally ended with all having a safe trip home.

Respectfully submitted by:

SD Delegates

Joel Foster and Becky Zirpel