

Tammi Serr – 2014 SDASCOE Distinguished Service Award Nomination for Service to FSA–Agriculture

Tammi Serr continues to go above and beyond in performing the duties of her job. Tammi has been a Program Technician in Gregory County, Burke South Dakota for 15 years. Tammi is an expert in Compliance, GIS, Price Support, which includes Dairy, Wool and FSFL and Livestock Disaster programs. She is also cross trained in other programs in the office in order to help serve the producers in Gregory County. Tammi is the go to person in our district for GIS questions



and performs remote GIS functions for 3 other counties as needed. Tammi is the backup for Conservation, NAP and Sod/Swamp. She has been instrumental with sign up in Farm Programs such as DCP/ACRE and assisted producers with Eligibility documents.

Gregory County is diverse in all programs and in farming ranching operations. Agriculture is the number one industry in our county and surrounding counties. With Gregory County serving producers in 8 small communities, ranging from 10 to 1200 people in the towns everyone depends on agriculture to maintain their businesses and community. Our County has 1443 farms which includes about 150 farms from our neighboring state of NE. About 1/3 of the County is considered ranching with raising beef and buffalo and feed crops with our number one production crop as alfalfa and mixed hay. Along with that we have crop farming with the main crops being Corn, Soybeans and Wheat along with Sunflowers, Grain Sorghum and other feed crops. Our County has a 98% sign up in DCP/ACRE

and about 600 CRP contracts. Gregory County consists of 653,205 acres and 1944 operators and land owners.

From the day that Tammi Serr started with FSA her energy to “get the job done” has been exceptional. She started because of all the disaster programs that overwhelmed our county and the increase in participation in all programs. Tammi recently has been an asset to Gregory County and to other Counties in the District. She has been actively helping with workload in GIS for Tripp County by completing most duties for them due to staffing. She works with both NRCS Offices to aid in our programs that depend on each other. Tammi also has remotely helped in Compliance and GIS training for Davison/Hanson County. Tammi this last year assisted the CED in going to Davison/Hanson to help finish several FSFL folders for approval before the end of the FY. Along with that she is quick to say yes to help train PT’s in Davison/Hanson counties in Compliance and Price Support. She developed spreadsheets and check lists to assist in this training along with much hand on work. She helped in Tripp County to assist in getting work completed to make payments for CRP after returning from furlough. She worked closely with the CRP PT in Gregory County to complete this work in our neighboring office. Tammi has helped develop a spread sheet and maintains the listing to assist in contacting producers for her compliance work in acreage reporting. Tammi is the go to person for GIS in our District when the Key PT’s are not available or if referred to her along with helping others in FSFL expertise. Tammi develops screen print documents to help in cross training other in her program to better serve our customers. Tammi has been complimented by Crop Insurance companies that our Office works with for her kindness and willingness to provide information when needed.

Along with all of Tammi’s work in the office on programs and helping others in the District, she also participates with the CED and NRCS in bringing Ag to the Classroom in 3 schools. She has presented facts about Dairy program and industry to the 4th grade students. Along with this yearly program that our office has developed, she has also helped with a State Program called “Ag in the Classroom” by helping with questions and answers from students and in helping with craft assignments with this program for all 2nd grade classes in all 3 schools.

Gregory County FSA has also developed a program for Women called “Women in Ag Day”. We are one of 3 in the state and have successfully filled to capacity for 4 years straight. We bring women of all ages from 2 states and average 14 counties in attendance each year. Tammi is instrumental in carrying out duties to make this a successful day. Tammi helps in organizing the meal and breaks for 180 guests.

Tammi helps the planning through implementation and through cleanup for the day. The program consists of acquiring sponsorships to fund a budget of average \$6000, lining up items for the registered guests through a welcome bag and material for the guest, 2 breaks and a sit down meal. She helps search for motivational speakers and good quality speakers related to agriculture. Tammi along with all in the office give extra time outside office hours to make this event a success. Tammi helps with setup the day before starting early in the morning and sometimes working into the evening, along with giving her time the day of the event in coming in early and staying late to help make the day be successful and with cleanup after the day is over. Tammi has helped in the past with producer meetings in our County and participates in her program areas.

As CED, Becky Zirpel has received many compliments from customers from SD and NE that come to our Office. Other people that she has worked with in the state in the past still call her with their trust in her ability to answer questions and as a person they feel comfortable with.

Tammi continues to go above and beyond the performance measure of her expertise by continually exhibiting her ability, her knowledge, and her skills to improve the service to the customer whether it be, our farmers and ranchers or other employees that call on her, to her coworkers, and CED and DD that work together as a great team for FSA.

Throughout her 15 years of service, Tammi has been a member of SDASCOE/NASCOE since day 1, she has been rewarded through cash awards and time off awards for the works she does.

Tammi is part of a team in Gregory County FSA that has great respect with others throughout the State.

The Gregory County FSA staff of CED, Becky Zirpel, and PT's Cheryl Baxa, Lesli Heyden and Suzanne Steffen respectfully submits and recommends Tammi Serr for the Distinguished Service Award for Service to FSA–Agriculture.