

The MASCOE Journal

M A S C O E S U M M E R 2 0 2 1 N E W S L E T T E R

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Dillard's Financial Resources
- Working Advantage-Great Discounts for Members
- MEET the new MASCOE members!
- See the beauty of Missouri Living with pictures from across the state

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Beautiful day, ain't it?" My hat was sagging from the rain. Hunched over in my saddle, I sat chin down and exhausted when the old cowboy rode over and said these simple words. I looked up and saw the smile that made these words just before he turned and rode off, but the point had been made. Immediately my back straightened, and I felt tall on top of that horse. I picked up my head and looked over the cattle and smiled.

In any job or career, there will be rainy days, long weeks, even challenging years, and we have a choice how we are going to approach those challenges. As we welcome customers back to our offices, we are reminded why we do what we do, why we make those extra phone calls or send one more reminder letter. We greet our customers like an old friend that we haven't seen for awhile and we listen to stories about their granddaughter's wedding, or the cow that went through the gate that the son-in-law was supposed to be watching. We listen to these stories and we hold on to them, for there will be another hardship that befalls our customers, and like we have always done, we will figure out a way to help them. Even if the rest of the world doesn't know it, we know the effort it takes to serve our customers. Just like the farmer who sacrifices time from his family to provide food for the world, we sacrifice the same to serve the farmer. Enjoy this summer, treasure the time we get with our customers, and hold on to these moments so that when the next rainy-day hits, we have some perspective to help us be strong for the people we serve.

Congratulations to the retirees, or those close to. We appreciate the legacy you have helped create at Missouri FSA, and we promise to continue the tradition of providing relentless service.

Welcome new employees. We look forward to sharing this career with you and making you a member of our Missouri FSA "Family."

Proud to serve as your MASCOE President.

Sincerely,

Drew Walters



DILLARD FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS



Your NASCOE National
Retirement Benefits Provider



Steve Dillard
ChFEBCSM

Teresa Dillard
ChFEBCSM

Attention NASCOE Members

Learn About Your Personal Retirement Income Options



Licensed Representatives From
Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc.
Are Attending Your Upcoming NASCOE State
Association Conventions

BRING THESE FORMS

Employee Benefits Statement

Print from the Employee Personal Page: nfc.usda.gov

Social Security Statement

TSP Statement

Other Pension & Retirement Investment info

IRAs, 401Ks, etc.

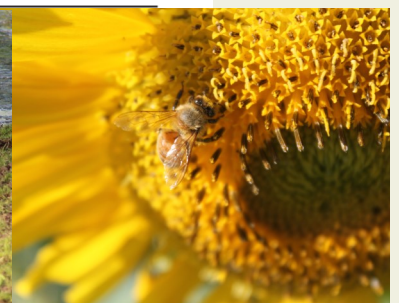
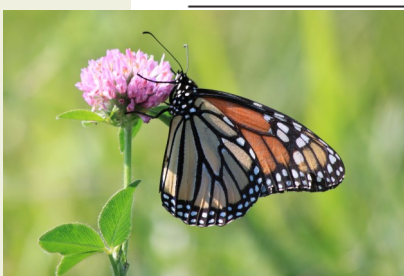
1-on-1 Consultations
are Available

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

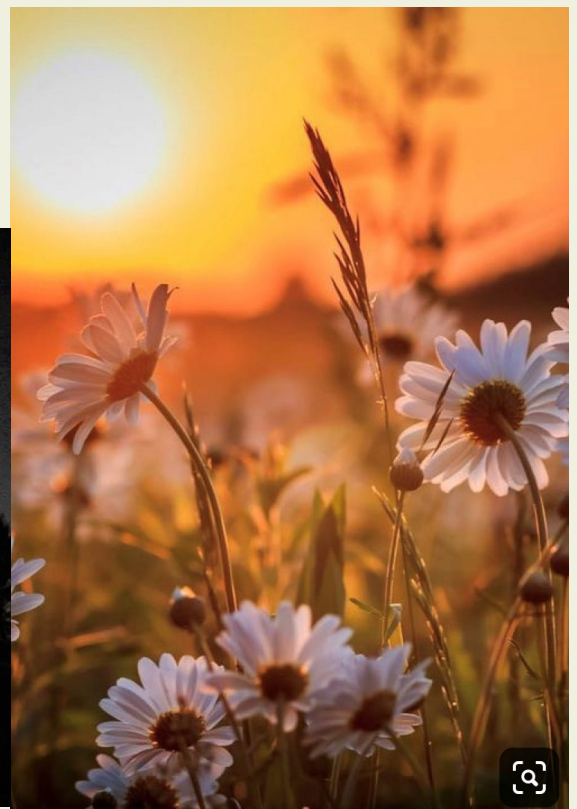
As I look at the calendar, I realize I have served in the Acting SED role for nearly 10 months. I don't know where the time has gone, but I do know the work of Missouri FSA employees has continued without hesitation and with upmost dedication since late last summer. Our farm programs have generated billions of dollars to Missouri agriculture, through CFAP, WHIP+, DMC and beyond. Farm loans are no different. In fact, last year yielded the highest loan making since the early 1980s. All of this is impressive. But then you factor in a global pandemic, which resulted in a complete change of operations for our employees, and the commitment and motivation of Missouri FSA employees becomes crystal clear. Time and time again, you have answered the call, whether it be from national office, state office leadership or your local communities. I know it isn't always easy, or pretty, but we always manage to get the job done and come out on top. For that, I commend each and every Missouri FSA employee.

For MASCOE's part, we know you continue to work for the good of all county office employees, from benefits to training to fair representation and much more. At the state level, we are committed to continuing a positive working relationship and supporting your overall cause. If there is ever a need for dialogue or state-level involvement, please don't hesitate to reach out.

As we embark on yet another busy time of year with crop reporting, I just want to remind everyone to stay safe and healthy and take time to recharge. And finally....Thank You for All You Do!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Mosley
Acting State Executive Director
Missouri Farm Service Agency





What is Working Advantage?

This cost-free benefit provides you access to thousands of exclusive discounts on:

- shopping
- services
- travel
- entertainment
- and more!

How Do I Become a Member?

- Visit workingadvantage.com and click *Become a Member*.
- Use your company code or work email to create an account.

Not by a computer? Use your phone camera or QR scanning app to access the site:

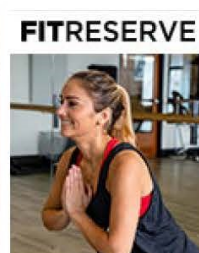
Company Code Message Logan McGhee for the company Code



There's something for everyone with savings on:

January Highlights

- LasikPlus: Save \$800 on custom lasik
- Calm: Get \$40 off the #1 app for meditation and sleep
- Weight Watchers: Save 55% on unlimited workshops + digital
- Nectar: Get \$399 in free accessories
- Save 20% on H&R Block online
- Quicken Loans: Receive up to \$1,500 off closing costs on your mortgage
- FitReserve: Save 30% on premier studio classes
- Save 80% on online only specials at Swanson
- Vitamix: Take 20% off and get free shipping on orders over \$100
- Save up to \$20 on federal products at TurboTax
- Onnit: Get 15% off on orders \$125 or more
- Save 50% on a 1-year subscription to the Transform app
- Get 15% off the Ultimate P.volve bundle



Need help? 1-800-565-3712 - customerservice@workingadvantage.com

MEET THE NEW MASCOE MEMBERS

Welcome new MASCOE members! See below some of our newest MASCOE members. We haven't had the pleasure to meet most of these individuals below so they were kind enough to fill out a short biography about themselves. Please take a look and give them a shout out to welcome them to this great organization!

Name: Kara Dennert

Where you are from: Trenton MO

What county you work for: Daviess County

What programs you in charge of: Eligibility, Conservation and Compliance

Tell us about yourself: Hey everyone! My name is Kara I have been with USDA for 2 years now and I love what I do! I grew up in rural Harrison County on a small cattle farm. I have been married for almost 10 years and we have two boys.

What made you want to work for FSA: Growing up in a farming community you learn fast the importance of your local farmer. I wanted to be able to help the producers while still being able to interact with them daily. FSA provided me with that and the opportunity to work with some of the best co-workers I could ask for.

What would you like to gain from your MASCOE membership? I'm hoping to be heard if I have any thoughts on program changes or improvements that would make things easier for myself and fellow FSA employees.



NEW MASCOE MEMBERS

Name: Hannah Colbert

Where you are from: New Madrid, Missouri

What county you work for: New Madrid

What programs are you in charge of: Eligibility

Tell us about yourself: I grew up in New Madrid, MO and graduated high school in 2008. I got married in 2019 and I have a 2-year-old along with 4 bonus children. I started working for FSA in March of 2019.

What made you want to work for FSA: Growing up, I came from a farming family. Farming has always been an important part of mine and my family's life. When I heard about the job position at FSA, I was eager to serve my community and also my family.

What would you like to gain from your MASCOE membership?

I look forward to being informed with things going on within the agency and building relationships with my fellow peers.



Biographies Continued

Name: Shari Bigler

Where you are from: Lowry City, MO

What county you work for: Henry County

What programs are you in charge of: ARC/PLC, Admin (COC Elections, Timekeeper), CRP

Tell us about yourself: I am a wife and a mother of a two-year-old little girl. I love to be outside, bake, and hang out with my family. I grew up on a cattle farm but have since moved to a small hobby farm right off the lake. We spend a lot of time fishing and looking for arrowheads!

What made you want to work for FSA: I have always had a love for agriculture. Throughout college, I strayed down a different career path, but have always had the desire to get back into this field. This door opened and gave me a chance to work with farmers and yet keep a schedule that works for my family.

What would you like to gain from your MASCOE membership?

I would love to gain a network of people that strives to help each other be the best that they can be within this agency.



Biographies Continued

Name: Britney Arnold

Where you are from: Drexel, MO

What county you work for: Cass and Jackson

What programs are you in charge of:

Cass

Eligibility, MAL, GovDelivery

Jackson

CRP, Eligibility, Farm Records, MAL, Price Support, NAP, GovDelivery, Acreage Reporting

Tell us about yourself: I grew up in a 4th generation farming family in Drexel, Missouri. I tend to be a major homebody, but I enjoy spending most of my weekends at dirt bike races watching my younger brother. I enjoy spontaneous getaways, in or out of the country, anywhere it is sunny and warm.

What made you want to work for FSA: I grew up on a local farm and knew many farmers in the area. An opportunity came for me to do some temp work in the local office. I really enjoyed the staff I was working with and getting to know more farmers in the area and how the USDA worked. When the opportunity came for full time employment – I applied believing that it was a good fit.

What would you like to gain from your MASCOE membership? I would like to connect with more people with similar interests, learn from people who have more experience, and explore the opportunities within the group.



Name: Denis Odom

Where are you from: Mansfield, MO

What county you work for: Douglas/Ozark

What programs you are in charge of: NAP, DMC, ECP

Tell us about yourself: I have been with the Farm Service Agency since 2018, started as a temporary PT and became a full time PT in 2020. I am passionate about learning new skills and being able to serve our producers in anyway I can.

What made you want to work for FSA: I love helping others. Working for FSA has given me an opportunity to do that.

What would you like to gain from your MASCOE membership? I hope to gain networking with other new PT's and gain wisdom from seasoned PT's across the state of Missouri.



Photo provided by Pam Thompson, PT in Moniteau/Morgan County. Find her at Farm Life in Focus on Facebook



Date: August 4 - 7, 2021

Location: Grand Wayne Convention Center

Contact: nascoenationalconvention@gmail.com



COME HAVE A BALL IN INDIANA AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION 2021

Indiana is hosting the 2021 NASCOE National Convention August 4th – August 7th in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Fort Wayne is in North East Indiana. Not only does Fort Wayne have its own international airport, the airport is within 8 miles of the convention site. Check out the National Convention website, your one stop shop for all information you need!

Registration, Tours, Hotel and City information is posted on here along with some welcome videos! <https://www.visitfortwayne.com/meetings/upcoming-meetings/nascoe-2021-convention/>

<https://nascoe.org/convention-information/2021-nascoe-convention/>



All hotels offer free airport shuttles and free parking. The hotels are all located in downtown Fort Wayne, within walking distance to the Convention Center. The easiest way to book your hotel room for the convention is to access the National Convention Website at <https://www.visitfortwayne.com/meetings/upcoming-meetings/nascoe-2021-convention/>. On the website you can click on "Hotels" at the top or scroll down to the portion of the page that says, "Book Your Hotel" (example below). On that portion of the website you can click on one of the three hotels and it will take you to that hotel's website that has been designed specifically for NASCOE with our group rate already entered. If you have trouble navigating the websites for the hotels you can call the hotel directly.



IASCOE is still working hard on fundraising. If you would like to be a sponsor or make a donation please contact nascoenationalconvention@gmail.com!

IASCOE is still selling face masks that have the USDA emblem on them. The masks are offered in a variety of colors. If you would like to order masks the order form can be found on the National Convention Website.



Don't forget to leave extra room in your bags to take home items from both the silent and live auctions! The auctions will have goodies from all over the great state of Indiana for you to take home and remember your time at the 2021 National Convention.



Wednesday night will be the annual pin trading. For those who haven't participated in a convention, pin trading is when you are able to trade your state's pins for others! Try to get as many pins as you can! Some like to sport their pins on lanyards while others have enough to fill up their jackets!



Indiana's theme is "Have a Ball in Indiana". So, bring your nice evening wear and brightest masquerade mask to partake in the fun festivities that will take place Saturday.



MASCOE Updates on National Convention

Mascoe is sponsoring a first time National Convention Attendee!!

Mascoe will pay travel, registration and hotel.

If interested please submit your name ASAP to Drew Walters. Notification of selection will occur before convention. Reimbursement will occur after Convention.

Mascoe State Convention

Missouri is tentatively planning on having a virtual state convention this year. The plan is to host the event in September unless FSA Covid travel and meeting guidelines change!

We will keep everyone up to date as soon as we have more information.



Mandi Bird, CED in Daviess County, son Dawson out checking his calves.

In each newsletter for MASCOE we would like to start highlighting different portions of Missouri Farming and Rural living from our MASCOE members. If you have any pictures you would like to share with fellow members please send them to Emily.shelby@usda.gov to be featured in the next issue. We will post the pictures throughout the newsletter and if there are more than can fit we will include an extra page like this below! Thanks so much for taking the time to read the updates! We hope to see you all soon. Take care and Stay Safe.

Emily Shelby

CED Henry County

MASCOE Publicity Chair





Working Cows with dad: Emery Shelby, daughter of Emily Shelby, CED Henry County



Harvest by Moon Light: Photo of Andy Dawson producer in St. Clair County



These photos and various others above were provided by Pam Thompson, PT in Moniteau/Morgan County. You can follow her on Facebook at Farm Life in Focus to see more amazing photos.