



National Association of FSA County Office Employees

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Dear Secretary Vilsack:

In the last two weeks, the National Association of FSA County Office Employees (NASCOE) Vice President Mark VanHoose and I have met several times with FSA Administrator Bruce Nelson for routine discussions between our association and the national FSA office. During these discussions, we presented the attached paper outlining our plan of cost savings and efficiencies at all levels of FSA. This paper is a result of an internal NASCOE focus group that began working on this plan early this summer when it became evident to us that serious change would be necessary to allow FSA to continue on mission with dramatically smaller operating budgets.

Much to our dismay, Administrator Nelson indicated that he is not aware of any current plan within USDA to do a comprehensive review of all levels of FSA. Mr. Nelson did express interest in creating an organization task force within FSA to address all levels, but at this time the group has not been commissioned.

NASCOE believes that opportunities exist all across the agency for cost savings and efficiencies. While management is quick to identify county FSA offices that should be consolidated, the same arguments could easily be used to justify change and consolidation at all levels of our agency.

NASCOE proposes a complete comprehensive “top-down” review of all layers including County Offices, State Offices, KCMO, St Louis, Salt Lake City and the National Office. NASCOE will not support any plan that looks only at County Offices for efficiencies. Previous attempts to restructure the delivery system for FSA have focused consolidation on only closing County Offices. The ultimate goal must be to provide quality service to producers and to achieve efficiencies at all levels.

Thank you for considering our request and we stand ready to assist with this effort.

Sincerely,

John R. Lohr

John R Lohr, NASCOE President