



TASCOE

Tales

FALL 2023
POST CONVENTION
EDITION



THE LONE STAR STATE
BRANDS NASCOE!

-PRESIDENT'S REPORT-

Howdy TASCOE family!

We did it, y'all!! We successfully hosted the NASCOE convention in College Station, TX in August and a HUGE thank you goes out to each one of you that volunteered your time, talents, and energy in showing off our Lone Star State in Aggieland! 🍷 WHOOP! We remain so very proud of all the volunteers that stepped up and took on tiring yet rewarding roles in making this event happen for our NASCOE family, members, guests and especially our FSA Administrator. Your efforts were so appreciated and certainly noted and seen. Thank you again!

We were able to enjoy fellowship with over 40 states represented for convention where 350 attendees registered were branded by TASCOE with our hospitality, tours, décor, and fun-loving nature. We honored our awardees, scholarship recipients and our very own TASCOE member and Texas FSA PT, Helen Chamberlain, with her 55 years of service in our agency and association. She beamed in being honored by NASCOE and was able to enjoy this recognition with her family being in Texas! And now she is retiring on September 22, 2023, from the Brown County FSA office with a grand reception that all are welcome to attend! She is an inspiration to me and so many others! Good luck in life after FSA in your retirement, Helen!

Speaking of conventions, keep your minds set for the 2024 TASCOE Convention in Granbury, Texas, July 24-27, 2024. We have some fun events forming up now and a few surprises, too. Conventions are a chance to gather new members, greet the current members, talk to stakeholders, have trainings, and visit with the STO. Granbury will be rolling out the red carpet for us and we are working diligently to make this be a state convention to regroup and renew our networking with each other and enjoy time away from the office as well, too.

I am humbled and honored to serve as your TASCOE President, and beyond blessed to serve with an excellent Executive Board (EC) in John Tyson, Vice President; Veronica Crum, Secretary/Treasurer and Christa Kraatz, Ex-officio past President! Plus knowing that the Directors elections for even districts will bring on an outstanding Board of Directors with odd and even Districts after 09/30/2023; and the soon to be announced TASCOE Committee Chairs makes us proud to know we will have a strong team of like-minded leaders to keep the enthusiasm while encouraging others to join our TASCOE family! Keep up the great work TASCOE! Remember, the EC is here for YOU! Thank you for your support, membership, and faith in our mission!

Respectfully yours,

Jeannine P. Wendel
TASCOE President

Jeannine.wendel@usda.gov



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TOUCHDOWN TASCOE!

I wanted to start off my first address as your new Vice-President by thanking all TASCOE Members. We could not have pulled off a fantastic NASCOE Convention without the help of everyone. We heard nothing but great things from all the visitors across the nation. Truly the only way to describe the event is TOUCHDOWN!

I wanted to give a big thank you to those who have been spreading the word about TASCOE to new FSA employees. We are a family and as such the more family members the better the "reunions" are. Our best reunions are at conventions and 2024 is shaping up to be a Grand time in Granbury! Your Executive Committee is already hard at work to make sure 2024 TASCOE Convention will be a great time for all members and attendees.

I am very honored to serve on the Executive Committee with Jeannine Wendel, President, Veronica Crum, Secretary/Treasurer, and Christa Kraatz, Ex-officio past President. I encourage all members to reach out to us with all questions/concerns, or even just to have a chat. Directors and Chairs list should be posted soon and please reach out to your directors as well. Chairs can help answer questions too! We are all here for you.

Thank Y'all!

John T Tyson

TASCOE Vice-President

John.tyson@usda.gov



SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

Howdy TASCOE members!

Every time I write a report I'm amazed at how fast the year is flying by. I hope that most of you were blessed with some rain recently. Its never enough but it at least helped keep the temps a tad bit cooler!

We are still working on closing the books from Convention but what a great convention it was! We were so grateful for each person that was able to attend. We have heard nothing but compliments since convention not only from people in our state but from all the visiting states. They all loved their warm TEXAS welcome.

Your Executive Board is gearing up for a new year and beginning planning for Granbury! I pray that you and your families are well and have a wonderful beginning to the fall season (if I say it then maybe cooler temperatures will come!). We are always a phone call or email away. Please feel free to contact us if you need anything.

Veronica Crum
TASCOE Secretary/Treasurer

Veronica.crum@usda.gov



◆ IMPORTANT DATES ◆

**September 16–30, 2023—TASCOE District Director Elections
(Even numbered districts)**

**November 2023—Executive Committee meets with State Office
(Districts have your questions/concerns prepared for the EC)**

**January 15, 2024—Deadline for DSA Nominations, NASCOE Awards,
and NASCOE Scholarship Applications**

February 15, 2024—Deadline for TASCOE Scholarship Applications

YOUR

 **VOTE**  **VOICE**

★ **2024 District** ★
Director Elections

Watch your email for voting period.

Have your say in who represents your
district for the next year!

-Even numbered districts only-

Membership Committee

Howdy TASCOE Family!

As summer comes to an end, I'm excited for all the Fall Festivities (Football Season and some cooler weather). My name is Alejo Sierra. I'm the CED in Howard County, and I Co-Chair the membership committee with Jenna Leihardt.

We recently held a membership drive that included new members that joined TASCOE from January 1st – July 31st to be entered into a drawing for a \$250 gift card. We also had a separate drawing that included new regular members as well as new associate members that joined from January 1st – July 31st to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card. We want to Congratulate our winners, **Hollie Williams** who won the \$250 gift card, and **Sharon Gooding** who won the \$50 gift card. We also want to thank all our new members that joined and everyone that pushed for them to join (Current members, Directors, Chairs, and the Executive Committee). We wouldn't have been able to accomplish this without y'all. In total we were able to gain 19 new members.

It was great to see everyone during NASCOE convention, and we encourage our new members and all members to attend conventions if they haven't been.

Please reach out to either Jenna or me if you need any membership material or if you have any membership questions. We will be glad to help.

Jenna and Alejo
TASCOE Membership Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE DRAWING WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Hollie Williams \$250 gift card

Sharon Gooding \$50 gift card

National Association of FSA County Office Employees County Office Advocacy Committee

Howdy! Another hat that I wear is the NASCOE County Office Advocacy Committee (COAC) chair. It is truly an honor to serve with such amazing leaders in NASCOE. I continue to be passionate and excited about learning more ways to educate COC's and COF employees, and work with NASCOE, NAFEC, COCs and employees.

A little shout out going out to our very own TASCOE Director #13, Marcy Logan. Her assistance in creating the COAC symbol will be of great assistance in better education and eye catching for all to know what COAC's mission and objectives really are.

Thank you, Marcy, for coming to our aid with your talent in creating such great graphics so quickly. It is always a joy to see what you have designed!

More about COAC in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine P. Wendel
NASCOE COAC Chair



Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
~ St. Francis of Assisi

PROGRAMS AND NEGOTIATIONS

Have a solution to a program or software problem or inefficiency?

Visit the [NASCOE](#) website and submit your
idea through the Submission Form.

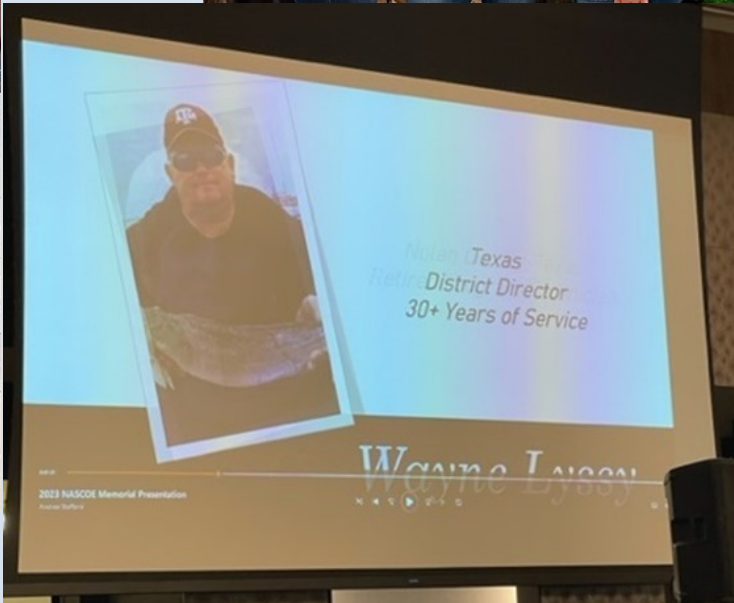


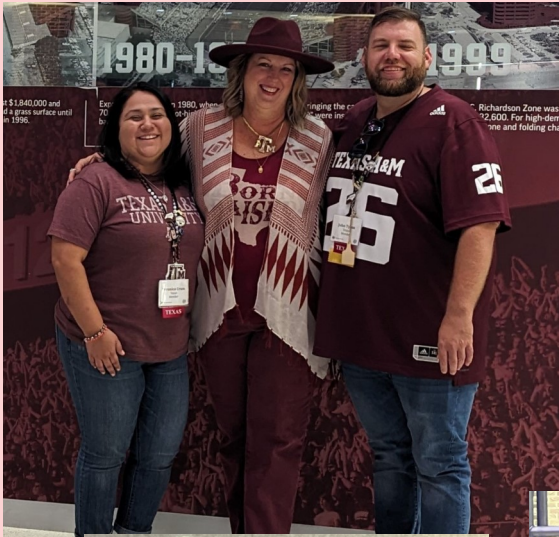
Submissions can be submitted
on work time and can be
worked year-round.
Submit those great ideas NOW!

IF THERE WAS A
PROBLEM YO I'LL
SOLVE IT

2023 NASCOE Convention

On August 1-5, 2023 TASCOE had the pleasure of hosting the 2023 NASCOE Convention in College Station. Many wonderful TASCOE members did a fantastic job of putting on a great convention. Here's a glimpse at some of the fun that was had!











NASCOE Convention Kids Club



TALES FROM THE TRAIL

-The latest happenings from around the state!-

Montague County

On the 4th of July 2023, Montague County PT, Crista Byers' daughter, Camrin, said yes to her boyfriend, Baylen Faris. They are engaged and planning a June 2024 wedding. They are also new home owners in Eddyville, Kentucky. Crista and her husband are very happy for them and wish them many blessings for their future.



Fayette County

Payton LeBlue, son of Fayette/Lee County PT and District Director 12, Lori LeBlue, started his first day of senior year at Fayetteville ISD. Payton was also a huge help at the NASCOE Convention in College Station. Thanks Payton!!



Hale County

Graham Michael Hanson was born on July 5, 2023 to Ryan and Lauren Hanson. Lauren is the daughter of Torrie Gilleland, who is the Chief PT in Hale County. This makes the 8th grand for Torrie, each one a blessing!

Hockley County



Hockley County PT, Mica Durham, & her husband Mike, welcomed their 4th grandchild on 9-11-23. Lydia Jane Lust weighed 6#14oz & was 19.5" long. She was welcomed home by her mommy & daddy, Brooke & TY, and her 2 year old brother, Nathan Allen.

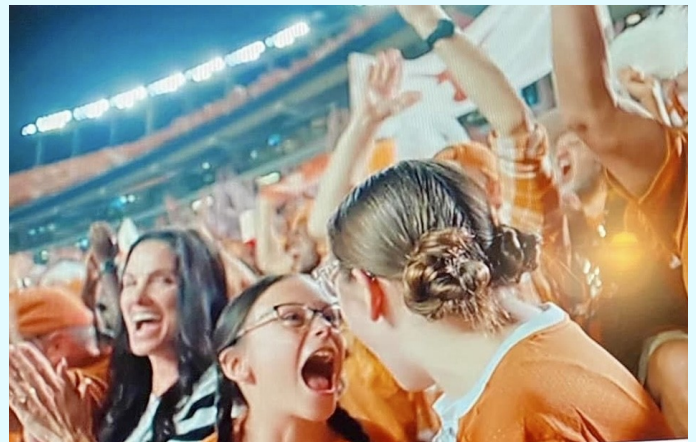
Schleicher County

Brynlee (5) and Braxton (7) on the first day of school. They are the children of Schleicher County PT, Bailee Capuchin.



Caldwell-Hays-Comal County

Watch out Hollywood! Maeby and Lexie Kraatz, daughters of Caldwell-Hays-Comal County CED, Christa Kraatz, had the opportunity to star in a national VRBO commercial. They've made it from the stage to the big screen. So excited for you girls!!



Cottle/King-Motley County

Shonda Elliott's, CED for Cottle/King-Motley County, grands are back in school, and the baby grand has all of his great-grandma's attention for the school year!
Haygen Elliott, Sawyer Elliott, and Cayson Elliott.



Hunt County



Brady (4) and Grace (3) are excited to start the new school year at Little Ark Preschool. Brady and Grace are the children of Hunt County CED, Kristal Jackson.

Terry County



Terry County CED, Kyle Longoria's, son, Kooper (5) has started playing Soccer in Lubbock. He plays with the 6 under team called, "The Raptors".

Lipscomb County

MaryBeth Koehn (CED in Lipscomb Co) and her hubby Randy won the 8.5 World Series Team Roping in Dodge City, KS for \$7,540 and qualified for another entry at Southpoint in Las Vegas in December!

A collage of images related to the 8.5 World Series Team Roping. At the top is a large logo with the letters "MC3" and a longhorn head. Below the logo is a photograph of a man and a woman, MaryBeth and Randy Koehn, standing together. At the bottom is a table titled "#8.5 WS Qual Results" showing the average and fast time SGO for various teams.

Average							
#	Time	ST	Tm	Header	Header	Amount	Split
1	43.52	4	48	Mary Beth Koehn	Randy Koehn	\$7,540	\$3,770
2	43.76	4	70			\$5,280	\$2,640
3	51.23	4	8			\$1,890	\$1,845
4	54.67	4	16			\$2,740	\$1,370
5	35.15	3	15			\$2,380	\$1,190
6	43.24	3	26			\$70	\$005
Fast Time SGO							
#	Time	Tm		Header	Header	Amount	Split
1	10.45	10				\$300	\$150

Calhoun County

Jillian and Willie, daughter and husband of Calhoun County PT Jerrell Diaz, enjoyed opening weekend of White Wing Dove Season 2023!



Victoria County



Lacey Wilson (left), Moore County CED, and Marcy Logan (right), Victoria County PT, assisted with the Scholarship Auction at the 64th Annual NASCOE Convention on August 3, 3032! Marcy was particularly fond of the District 13 gift basket donated by Victoria's very own J Welch Farms!

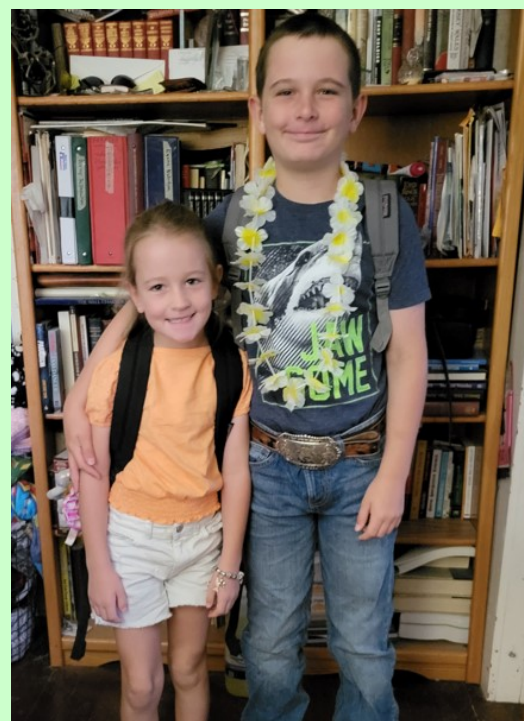
Parker/Palo Pinto/Hood/Somervell Counties



District 8 would like to welcome its newest associate member, Alissa Limon, to the TASCOE Family! Alissa (pictured in the middle) has been with FSA for less than 6 months, but has already learned plenty. She is the Program Technician for Parker/Palo Pinto/Hood/Somervell Counties just west of the DFW Metroplex.

Schleicher County

Jolene (7) and Gideon (10) Williams on the first day of school in Eldorado. They are the children of Schleicher County PT, Hollie Williams.



Hopkins-Delta/Wood-Rains County



Cash Dale has had a busy summer competing at the Simmental State and National Shows. He won several awards at both! He also attended the Texas A&M Livestock Judging Camp and received Most improved in his group. Cash is the son of Hopkins-Delta/Wood-Rains County CED, LaCresha Dale.



Lavaca County

The Hines Boys are well on their way to getting their driver's license. Well... maybe not, but they sure are growing up! They are the energetic sons of Lavaca-Gonzales CED Dawna Hines and her husband Clayton.





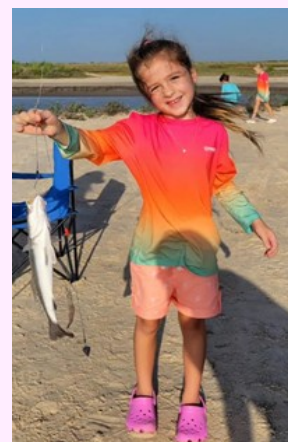
Terry County

Kenzie Gutierrez, daughter of Terry County PT, Casey Holguin, plays varsity volleyball as a freshman. She is the outside and middle hitter and has accumulated many kills. She has earned the nickname "The Enforcer". The Office crew wishes her the best of luck this season and her future years.



Victoria County

The Logan Twins participated in the 22nd Annual Speedy Stop Kids Fishing Tournament in Port O'Connor, Texas on August 12th! Pictured are Lynleigh Kate (left) and Leighton Kady (right). These cuties are daughters of Victoria County PT, Marcy Logan.



Jim Wells/Brooks-Jim Hogg County



Rosalia Garcia has been selected as a Presidential Fellow. She is assigned to the USGS in Reston, Virginia, part of the Washington, D. C. metro-area for the next two years, as part of their leadership training program.

The Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program was established by Executive Order in 1977 to attract to the Federal service outstanding men and women from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths, who have a clear interest in, and commitment to, excellence in the leadership and management of public policies and programs. By drawing graduate students from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, the PMF Program provides a continuing source of trained men and women to meet the future challenges of public service. The Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program is administered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Each year, candidates apply to the program in efforts to be selected as Finalists. Finalists are then eligible for appointment as Presidential Management Fellows (Fellows; PMFs) at a participating Federal agency. The PMF Program is an opportunity for advanced degree holders across all academic disciplines and from all segments of society. (Source: www.pmf.gov)

Rosalia is the daughter of Carlos Omar and Jennifer Garcia (CED, Jim Wells/Brooks-Jim Hogg County) and the late Juanita Garcia.

Terry County



Kayden Wise, son of Terry County PT, Kayla Wise, is a Senior at Brownfield High School and plays linebacker for the Brownfield Cubs. In 3 games he has accumulated over 70 tackles, which leads the State of Texas. The office is mighty proud of Kaden!!



Fort Bend County



Audrina, Ava, and Arianna Crum, daughters of Fort Bend County CED, Veronica Crum, at the 2022-2023 Fort Bend County 4H End of Year awards. Audrina and Arianna received project awards, and Ava received the Rising Star Award.

Arianna has also been busy with soccer. Below is her after winning the Rise Cup Championship Game, and bottom left is her team after winning the Labor Day Cup Championship game!



Houston/Leon/Madison and Anderson Counties

Amber Harrelson's, Houston/Leon/Madison and Anderson County PT, family has been busy busy! Daughter Julie just turned 12, and her other daughter Layla is playing her first year of high school volleyball! They are a Freshman and 6th grader this year. Before the beginning of school they took a road trip to Carlsbad Caverns, Tombstone, Arizona, Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, Swam at Lake Powell, Horseshoe Bend, Monument Valley Colorado and then stopped at the Blue Hole on the way home. They had a wonderful trip!!



Fayette/Lee County

What an eventful Labor Day weekend for the Schneider Girls – Kynsley and Koralyn daughters of Errin Schneider PT of Fayette/Lee Co. Kynsley gave her Little Miss Crown away and Koralyn vied for the winning spot, followed by going to the beach for the remainder of the holiday.



Schleicher County

Braxton Capuchin, son of Schleicher County PT Bailee Capuchin, was Grand Champion Pewee Showmanship winner as well as Pewee Camper Champion at the Compadres Cabrito Classic in Llano, TX.



Victoria County



Hey you guysssssssss!!” In August, the Worsham family made their way to Cannon Beach, Oregon where part of the movie *The Goonies* was filmed! Unlike the *Goonies* kids, the Worshams didn’t use Haystack Rock to navigate a treasure map, but they did get a pretty cool family photo while they were there. L-R: Ryan (Victoria PT), Heston, and Cathy Worsham.

Jackson County

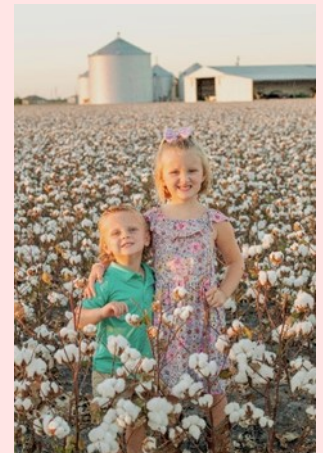


A big WELCOME to TASCOE to Jackson County PT Chelsea Slusher, who joined our FSA Family in June! Chelsea has two boys: Ryland, Edna High School Sophomore who is #21 for the varsity football team, and Rhett, a 5th grader who is #5 for the Edna Cowboys Youth Football League.



Wharton County

The Gangl kids, daughter and son of Wharton County PT Jessica Gangl, have been busy the past couple months. Sawyer started her first day of 1st grade at Brazos Elementary, and Truitt started his first day of Preschool at Little Arrows Christian School. They also enjoyed being a part of Papaw’s harvest of his corn and cotton in Fort Bend County.



Jackson County

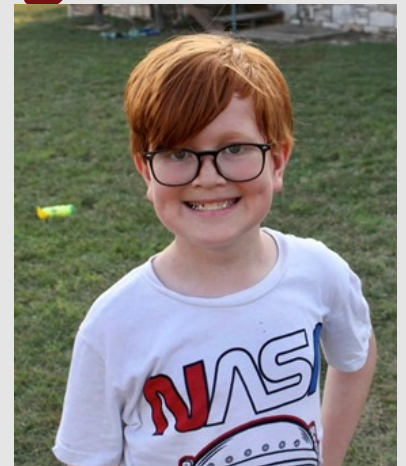


Jackson County PT Tristin Kallus' husband David is in his 6th year of coaching for the Edna Cowboys, and their little one, Presley, showed up in a custom game-day outfit! And a Happy Birthday shoutout to Presley who turned 2 on September 10th!

Colorado County



The kiddos of Colorado County CED, Dawn Hoffmann, are up to exciting things. **Kylee** is excited to participate with the Schulenburg High School band this year. She will also get the opportunity to twirl in some of the upcoming games. **Clay** is so proud to be chosen to serve on the Schulenburg Elementary Student Council. He was also honored to be chosen to represent the Council in a ceremony honoring local first responders before the Friday night football game.



Fayette/Lee County



Fayette/Lee County CED, Levi Garlick, celebrated his daughter, Hannah's wedding to Aaron Janda on August 12th in La Grange, TX. She was a beautiful bride. Levi even managed to show off his jitterbug moves for the father/daughter dance.



Service Awards!

District 15 gave out Length of Service Awards to these hard workers!



Graciela Pena
Hidalgo County FLM
35 years of service



Martin Garcia
Duval/Webb Counties CED
35 years of service



Cris De Los Santos
Nueces/Kleberg-Kenedy Counties PT
20 years of service



Gloria Nieto
Willacy County PT
25 years of service



Maria (Maggie) Chavez
Hidalgo County FLP PT
5 years of service

IT'S TIME TO CLOCK OUT!

Happy Retirement!

Continue to inspire and achieve great things. We'll miss you!

-Your TASCOE Family

Martin County



The Legend retired!! After 35 years of dedicated service Martin County Lead PT, Marco Arizmendi, decided to give retirement a try. The office honored him with a come and go party. Marco (left) is pictured with his wife, daughters, father and mother. He will be missed by the office and producers.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Retirement Celebration

IN HONOR OF
HELEN CHAMBERLAIN

FRIDAY , SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

2:00 - 4:00 PM

BROWN COUNTY FSA OFFICE
2608 C HWY 377 S BROWNWOOD, TX 76801

Honoring 55 years

OF DEDICATED SERVICE
WITH THE
USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY AND TO THE
FARMERS & RANCHERS
OF BROWN COUNTY

CARDS MAY BE SENT TO
2608 C HWY 377 S
BROWNWOOD, TX
76801

Brown County

Longtime Brown County PT, Helen Chamberlain, received an award at the NASCOE Convention Awards Banquet for her astounding 55 years of dedicated service to the Farm Service Agency.

Helen will be celebrating her retirement later this month, and will be greatly missed! She is pictured to the right at the convention with Jeannine Wendel, Christa Kraatz, and Veronica Crum.

Congrats Helen and best wishes on your retirement!



Haskell County

A retirement reception was held for Terri Klose on August 25th at the Haskell County FSA Office. Terri retired with 41 years of experience and had accumulated 3,000 hours of sick leave. "I have never seen anyone as enthusiastic and dedicated to her job after such a tenured career as Terri Klose," says Shawn Ferguson, CED. "After 41 years, she still came to work every day with a smile on her face eager to serve our farmers and ranchers and constantly reminded me that she loved her job. She will be missed." Terri retired with just over 2500 sick leave hours that she will be recognized from NASCOE with a certificate soon.



Pictured above: Shawn Ferguson, Haskell CED, and Terri.

Pictured Left: Shawn Ferguson, CED, Reagan Agrz, PT, Terri Klose, CPT, Rodney Tsoodle, PT, Kimberly Mendez, PT, and Aimee Bilbrey, PT.



Hockley County

Delores Stewart, Hockley County PT, retired from FSA on August 31, 2023. She had 33 years and 7 months of service with the agency. We wish her best of luck and much relaxation in her retirement!





www.tascoe.org

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-association-of-FSA-County-Office-Employees/188526634494360>

www.nafecfsa.com

<https://www.facebook.com/fsacountycommittees/>



www.nascoe.org

<https://www.facebook.com/NASCOENews/>

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AWARDS

Errin Schneider

BENEFITS

Taylor Hand

COAC

Kyle Longoria

DOOR PRIZES

John (Jay) Hinojosa

FINANCE

Darrin Watkins

LEGISLATIVE

Jennifer Garcia

MEMBERSHIP

Alejo Sierra
Jenna Leihardt

PROGRAMS

Courtney Decker

PUBLICITY/

WEBMASTER

Dawn Hoffmann

SCHOLARSHIPS/

EMBLEMS

Ellie Stringer

DISTRICT TASCOE DIRECTORS

Do you have questions about TASCOE/NASCOE?

Do you have suggestions about how to make your day-to-day FSA job better?

Do you have concerns about your rights/responsibilities as an FSA Employee?

Reach out to these folks—they want to help you!

DISTRICT 1

Adam Acker
Potter/Armstrong/
Oldham County
adam.acker@usda.gov

DISTRICT 6

Jodie Watson
Schleicher/Sutton/
Val Verde County
jodie.watson@usda.gov

DISTRICT 11

Kallie Lovelace
Houston-Leon-Madison
County
kallie.lovelace@usda.gov

DISTRICT 2

Torrie Gilleland
Hale County
torrie.gilleland@usda.gov

DISTRICT 7

April Cowling
Montague County
april.cowling@usda.gov

DISTRICT 12

Lori LeBlue
Fayette/Lee County
lori.leblue@usda.gov

DISTRICT 3

Shonda Elliott
Cottle/King-Motley County
Shonda.elliott@usda.gov

DISTRICT 8

John Tyson
Johnson/Tarrant-Bosque
County
john.tyson@usda.gov

DISTRICT 13

Marcy Logan
Victoria County
marcy.logan@usda.gov

DISTRICT 4

Mica Durham
Hockley County
mica.durham@usda.gov

DISTRICT 9

LaCresha Dale
Hopkins-Delta/Wood-Rains
County
lacresha.dale@usda.gov

DISTRICT 14

Brian Hanson
Bexar County
brian.hanson@usda.gov

DISTRICT 5

Michelle Strain
Reeves/Loving/Ward
Winkler County
michelle.strain@usda.gov

DISTRICT 10

Lindsey Hansen
Bell County
lindsey.s.hansen@usda.gov

DISTRICT 15

John Hinojosa
Hidalgo County
john.hinojosa@usda.gov