

County Committee Preservation Action Plan

On February 1, 2023 Kayla Mattson, Midwest Area Representative called the Midwest Area Presidents together to talk about and make plans to implement the County Committee Preservation Action Plan. Please see attached documents.

This is a proactive plan to address the role of the County Committee in Farm program delivery, fairness, and integrity and to gather support from the Agricultural industry, stakeholder partners, and key Congressional members of Congress. The elimination of the COC would require Congressional approval. The Equity Commission is meeting and will be making recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture promoting equity throughout the USDA and the programs it administers. One of those recommendations may be the elimination of the COC system. Please refer to the NASCOE website to read the Legislative Update and to listen to the Equity Commission meeting on YouTube.

It is NASCOE intent to get ahead of this potential recommendation by contacting stakeholders to 1) educate them about the benefits of the COC and 2) clear up the myths surrounding the COC, and 3) ask that they support the COC system in their Farm Bill talking points.

NASCOE has developed a three-phase action plan.

Phase one is for members to become familiar with the talking points and develop a list of contacts from State/National Commodity Associations and Congressman. Potential stakeholders are listed in the “County Committee Preservation Action Plan”. They may include the WI State Ginseng board, National Corn Growers Association, WI Farmers Union, National Farm Bureau, National Milk Producers Federation, and WI Beef Growers Association.

Phase two is to partner with NAFEC to support their endeavor to promote the COC system.

Phase 3 is to make appointments with a list of “targeted” Congressional members of House and Senate Agriculture Committee identified by the NASCOE legislative team to distribute information about the COC system. The NASCOE legislative team will guide us through the contacting and “how to” prepare and talk with our Congressman.

I need help. You may serve on some of these boards or have relationships with people who work in the agricultural community who may be able to help us get the COC story out there. Please review the list of potential Identified Associations. Then provide contact information (phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.) of State Agriculture stakeholders to the WASCOE officers and/or directors. Volunteer to talk with these stakeholders. We need this information as soon as possible to be able to begin the contact process. The WASCOE Board appreciates your cooperation in this process.

Kindly, Shelby Niskanen, WASCOE President