



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF FSA COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEES IASCOE

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September 1, 2005

Mr. Secretary, my name is Tammy Morrison. For the past 20 years, I have worked at the Clark County, IL Farm Service Agency as a program technician, and currently I am the President of the Illinois Association of FSA County Office Employees. The FSA employee groups, IASCOE & IACS, want to thank you for coming to the Land of Lincoln state and providing an opportunity to voice an opinion for the 2007 Farm Bill.

With a new Farm Bill in the near future, we encourage Congress to continue to have FSA be the lead agency for USDA farm programs proven by the current successful delivery of 45 different programs that include, but are not limited to, commodity, price support, conservation, farm loans, and crop disaster assistance. As the world changes with modern technology, we realize that the FSA office must change by implementing the use of GIS & GPS, e-Gov, and e-File. We suggest that the next Farm Bill have FSA work with Homeland Security on animal ID, emergency response & reporting uses of GIS.

We have delivered the standard FSA programs, are adapting to change, and look forward to demonstrating that "Can Do" response to provide the best possible service to our farmers and the communities that we live and serve.

Advancing with modern technology is difficult in a rural community. Rural America must be better equipped with providing a quality Internet server so the producers can register on-line for the new concept of e-Gov and e-File provided by FSA.

The heart and soul of FSA is the county office committee that gives local farmers a much-needed say in how farm programs are administered at the grass-roots level. The system of electing county committee members is an exercise in democracy and must be maintained in the next Farm Bill.

Finally in order to deliver a quality product and service, FSA must be adequately staffed and fully funded to implement all programs so FSA will continue that "Can Do" attitude that the producer expects.

Mr. Secretary, I am extremely proud to be employed by an agency that was established 70 years ago. I truly believe in the quality of service that we as FSA employees provide no matter what obstacles come our way. Thank you for taking the time today to help build a better tomorrow in agriculture.

Sincerely,

Tammy J. Morrison
IASCOE President 2005/2006

Dear Honorable Secretary of United Secretary of Agriculture – Michael Johanns,

I appreciate this opportunity to speak to you at the Illinois Farm Progress Show. I appreciate your willingness to come and here our suggestions on how to make the next Farm Bill more equitable, while reducing the cost of the farm bill.

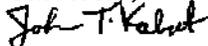
Hello, my name is John T. Kabat, agriculture instructor at Mt. Vernon High School for the past 21 years and a livestock and grain farmer for the past 34 years. I have concerns how the Loan Deficiency Payments are distributed to farmers. There can be a more fair way to distribute the money and there can be a limit to how much a farmer can receive when their income is over \$250,000.00 per year from off-farm income.

I would like to recommend the changing of the 2007 farm bill to more fairly pay out Loan Deficiency Payments to farmers. At the present time, we reward the farmers who have low prices of \$1.92 or lower. This is fine. However, the prices are distributed to farmers who have the best yields. I do not believe that we should pay large amounts to farmers who have excellent yields. We need help for LDP payments to farmers who have reduced yields for that year instead of large payments to farmers who have large yields. An example of this would be if the market price is \$1.72 per bushel, the farmer who raised 250 bushel per acre times \$0.20 would receive \$50.00 per acre, while a farmer who had a yield of 40 bushel per acre would receive \$8.00 per acre. We need to have the State averages or regional averages of yields to pay the farmers loan deficiency payments so that we can keep more farmers on our farms.

We also need to reduce payments to farmers who receive over \$250,000.00 income from other sources. We have 90% of our payments going to large companies and people in other professions.

Please consider these requests of making a more fair playing field while reducing government spending.

Sincerely,



John T. Kabat,

Agriculture Teacher and Farmer

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Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns