



The National Association of Farmer Elected Committees

Contact:

March 2026

Jim Zumbrink, President
Jimzumbrink@gmail.com
937-423-8507

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NAFEC's Continued Concern over Staffing Shortages at USDA and USDA Reorganization that Threatens Farm Program Delivery

According to NAFEC, the National Association that represents farmers and ranchers all across the nation elected to serve on local FSA Committees, continued understaffing in our local FSA Service Centers is creating major problems getting the work done to deliver programs that producers need to survive. We have FSA offices across the country that have no employees in them and are only open one day a week. There are also many more with only one employee. As a result, when someone is sick or on earned vacation, the offices are closed. To make matters worse, FSA is still under a general hiring freeze for permanent employees. In some cases temporary employees can be hired. However, spending six months training a temporary employee, only to lay them off, is a waste of time and financial resources.

USDA has the funding approved by Congress to lift the hiring freeze. We need all hands-on deck during these difficult times. NAFEC's job is to support and advocate for our Farm Service Agency's local offices to be able to provide the programs and support for our local farmers and ranchers. From local natural disasters to low prices and the need for emergency payments, we as Farmer Elected Committees and our FSA County Employees, are here to help our producers. The work needed cannot be accomplished only using computers; you need employees for the input to create the payments producers are eligible for.

NAFEC also has concerns that moving the headquarters staff to regional centers will make it more difficult for commodity organizations and groups such as NAFEC to meet with the decision makers currently located in one spot. These moves may also disrupt USDA's work which is required to keep our local offices functioning to serve producers.

Finally, NAFEC wants to make sure policy makers keep their eye on the deepening farm crises across Rural America. We desperately need USDA to keep providing programs to help family producers survive this looming crises.

Jim Zumbrink
NAFEC President

-34-

The National Association of Farmer Elected Committees is a non-profit organization composed of and led by farmers, nominated and elected by farmers, and serving all farmers in each of their county USDA Farm Service Agency offices. To learn more about NAFEC or to join please go to <http://www.nafecfsa.com>

All information and materials carried in this email are believed to be reliable, RuralWire makes no representation, neither expressly nor impliedly, as to the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or reliability of the materials or any information contained in this email. Groups or Organizations issuing media releases, not RuralWire, are solely responsible for the facts and accuracy of all information submitted for transmission by RuralWire. By relying on any of the materials or information contained in this email, you assume all risk and responsibility arising out of its use, and release RuralWire from any liability for any loss or damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to any direct, indirect, special, consequential, incidental, punitive, or other damages arising out of the use of any materials contained in this email.
