



National Association of Farmer Elected Committees

Representing Farm Service Agency County Committee Members since 1965

The National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC) represents locally elected committee members in every state and county in the nation. Since the 1930's, the Farm Service Agency and its forerunners (AAA, ASC, ASCS, etc.) have worked tirelessly to deliver farm programs at the local level to support American farmers and ranchers. Beginning with Abraham Lincoln's establishment of the USDA in the 1860's, and continuing with FDR's establishment of the Agriculture Adjustment Administration in the 1930's, bipartisan farm policy supported by our Agriculture organizations and legislated by Congress, have made American Agriculture one of the greatest success stories in our country's history.

NAFEC follows legislation that impacts the farmers and ranchers as well as the functions and responsibilities of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office staff and the Farmer Elected County Committees (COC's) that are located in the county offices across the nation. Recently the House Agriculture Committee submitted draft legislation in H.R. 8467. NAFEC believes the majority of the new recommendations for the 2024 Farm Bill are in the best interest of those that NAFEC looks to support, however, there are concerns regarding Sections 12202 and 12204 of the House Draft Farm Bill which directs the legislation for Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The following items should be reviewed as they are not supported by NAFEC:

1. Language in the submitted farm bill draft shows the removal of the prohibition of the Secretary from authorizing NRCS to implement the conservation reserve program (CRP). There has been a strike of current language in Section 226 (b) of 7 U.S.C. 6932 (b) 4 & 5 and (c) under Farm Service Agency and the revision is also located in the draft Sect Natural Resources Conservation Service amends to remove current law Section 228 7 U.S.C. 6936 section B 2 & 5 by striking subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of such title (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq. NAFEC believes that FSA should remain as the administrating agency for the CRP program and NRCS continue to be the technical planning of practices when processing CRP applications and contracts.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has proven itself to be highly skilled and efficient in the administration of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) since the program inception in 1985. FSA has maintained a good working relationship with the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) when it comes to working together to get farmers and ranchers signed up for the program. NRCS should remain the agency that is responsible for the technical determinations as it is their strength and FSA should continue to work on the administration of the CRP program. NAFEC looks forward to working with your committee, USDA, and FSA as we move forward with the new farm bill.

Sincerely,

Jim Zumbrink

NAFEC President

The County Committee System of FSA:
True Democracy at the grassroots level in the People's Department



Proposed Language:

SEC. 12202. FARM SERVICE AGENCY.

(a) FUNCTIONS.—Section 226(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 ([7 U.S.C. 6932\(b\)](#)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(b) SPECIAL CONCURRENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN FUNCTIONS.—Section 226(c) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 ([7 U.S.C. 6932\(c\)](#)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “the programs specified in subsection (b)(4)” and inserting “any conservation programs that are under the jurisdiction of the Farm Service Agency pursuant to subsection (b)”.

SEC. 12204. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE.

Section 228 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 ([7 U.S.C. 6936](#)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “, except subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of such title”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “, except functions under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 ([16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.](#))”



Current Language:

§6932. Farm Service Agency

(a) Establishment

The Secretary is authorized to establish and maintain in the Department a Farm Service Agency.

(b) Functions

If the Secretary establishes the Farm Service Agency under subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to assign to the Agency jurisdiction over the following functions:

(1) Agricultural price and income support programs, production adjustment programs, and related programs.

(2) Repealed. Pub. L. 104–127, title I, §194(c), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 946 .

(3) Agricultural credit programs assigned before October 13, 1994, by law to the Farmers Home Administration (including farm ownership and operating, emergency, and disaster loan programs) and other lending programs for agricultural producers and others engaged in the production of agricultural commodities.

(4) Subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 [16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.].

(5) Such other functions as the Secretary considers appropriate, except for those programs assigned by the Secretary to the Natural Resources Conservation Service or another agency of the Department under section 6936(b) of this title.

(c) Special concurrence requirements for certain functions

In carrying out the programs specified in subsection (b)(4), the Secretary shall-

(1) acting on the recommendations of the Farm Service Agency, with the concurrence of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, issue regulations to carry out such programs;

(2) ensure that the Farm Service Agency, in establishing policies, priorities, and guidelines for such programs, does so with the concurrence of the Natural Resources Conservation Service at national, State, and local levels;

(3) ensure that, in reaching such concurrence at the local level, the Natural Resources Conservation Service works in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts or similar organizations established under State law;

(4) ensure that officials of county and area committees established under section 590h(b)(5) of title 16 meet annually with officials of such Districts or similar organizations to consider local conservation priorities and guidelines; and

(5) take steps to ensure that the concurrence process does not interfere with the effective delivery of such programs

§6936. Natural Resources Conservation Service

(a) Establishment

The Secretary is authorized to establish and maintain within the Department a Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(b) Functions

If the Secretary establishes the Natural Resources Conservation Service under subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to assign to the Service jurisdiction over the following:

(1) The Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

(2) Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), except subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of such title [16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.].

(3) Salinity control measures under section 1592(c) of title 43.

(4) The Farms for the Future Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 4201 note; Public Law 101–624).

(5) Such other functions as the Secretary considers appropriate, except functions under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.).