**2019 IASCOE President’s Letter to Membership**

Hello Illinois FSA Employees,

I think I am safe in saying that 2019 has started out as one for the books. We have a new Farm Bill, recently experienced the longest Government furlough in history, and are having one of the wettest springs on record. IASCOE and NASCOE have been there through all of it. Whether it is the furlough information that was shared on our websites and Facebook, or working with management to implement the Farm Bill, we are here to assist you, the Illinois FSA employee.

Included with this letter is the **new** 2019 IASCOE membership form. Please complete and return it by **July 1st**. While we prefer one form per office, you can submit the form individually. This form is used to track membership, and starting this year, determine years of individual IASCOE membership so that individual membership awards can also be given out. The form is now also fillable, so emailing it back is easier than ever. If you or your office is total dues withholding, then simply fill out the form and email it to Charlene Neukomm. If paying by check, mail it to the address listed, along with a check made payable to IASCOE.

Not an IASCOE member? Whether you’re a new employee who doesn’t know what IASCOE is all about, or a seasoned employee who never got around to joining, I am asking you to take a look at what IASCOE is now! Go try our website <http://illinois.midwestnascoe.org/> or look us up on Facebook. If you are looking for national level information, go to <https://nascoe.org/> There you can sign-up to receive emails to keep you up-to-date on what NASCOE is doing. If you are looking for someone to talk to about IASCOE, we have 2 directors and 2 alternates in every district, or feel free to get ahold of me or any of the other officers. Joining is easy! A few forms and you are all set.

What does the rest of 2019 have in-store for us?? Well I can’t predict that, but I can tell you, whatever it is, IASCOE will be here to help us through it.

Questions? Reach out to me at jeff.pingsterhaus@usda.gov or jeffpingsterhaus@hotmail.com

Jeff Pingsterhaus
IASCOE President