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Obama Administration Appoints Members to USDA's Farm Service Agency State Committee in Oklahoma

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, 2010 - The Obama Administration today announced those individuals who will serve on the Oklahoma Farm Service Agency State Committee. State committee members oversee the activities of the agency, including carrying out the state agricultural conservation programs, resolving appeals from the agriculture community and keeping producers informed about FSA programs.

"These individuals will work with USDA to help farmers and ranchers build and maintain successful operations that produce the safe, nutritious food supply that America needs while spurring economic development in our nation's rural communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "They bring the experience and passion necessary to help continue the Obama Administration's efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural America."

The individuals appointed to serve on this committee include:

Cletus Carter (Chairperson)

Carter, from Beaver County, Okla., owns a farming and ranching operation and farm consulting business. He has served on the Beaver County and Northwest Oklahoma Community Development Council and also held a position on the Deans Advisory Council in Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Steve Nunley

Nunley, from Marlow, Okla., has served as a board member on the Stephens County Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation. He has been awarded the Oklahoma Young Farm Family of the Year Award and National Western Region Dairy and Crop Production Proficiency Award.

Brenda Neufeld

Neufeld, from Fairview, Okla., is an integral part of her family farm where she is involved in the production of dairy quality alfalfa hay, wheat and cattle. She also serves as a tax accountant for Curtis D. Karber & Associates. In addition, Neufeld is active in her local community serving as Major County Progressive Farmer Safety Day coordinator, Ag in the Classroom presenter, teacher tour host and an active member of the Major County Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

Steve Butler

Butler, from Wagoner, Okla., served on the Wagoner County FSA Committee for more than two decades before his appointment to the Oklahoma FSA State Committee. Butler previously served

on the USDA State Committee from 1993 to 2000. In addition to his public service, Butler has owned and operated a dairy farm since 1971. After attending Texas Tech University and Northeastern State University, Butler joined the U.S. National Guard.

Jack Sherry

Sherry, from Holdenville, Okla., is part owner of a 2,000 acre farm and ranch. He also is the current president of Holdenville's Chamber of Commerce and president of the Holdenville Public School Board. Sherry's extensive leadership experience includes a stint as president of both the Hughes County Young Farmers and Hughes County Cattlemen's Association. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business from Oklahoma State University.

USDA's Farm Service Agency works to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural Americans. Some of the agency's efforts include facilitating income support, disaster assistance and conservation programs, providing operating loans for the procurement of farm equipment, seed and fertilizer, as well as offering ownership loans to help new and veteran producers purchase a farm. FSA also works to procure various commodities to benefit low-income families through domestic food assistance programs.

The USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture and natural resources and touches the life of every American. Reflecting President Obama's commitment to expanding economic opportunities in rural America, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and the USDA are working to enhance availability of broadband, promote the development of renewable energy, conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment, and promote a sustainable, safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply.

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