The Secretary of Agriculture appoints the individuals who serve on the Oregon Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Committee. The State Committee members oversee the activities of the Agency, including carrying out the state agricultural conservation programs, resolving appeals from the agriculture community, and helping to keep producers informed about FSA programs. State Committee members fill a key role in working with the 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.

USDA’s Farm Service Agency works to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural/all 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 individuals appointed to serve on the FSA Oregon State Committee include:

**Anna Sullivan, STC Chair**

Anna Sullivan is a first generation Basque and was raised on a farm in the Treasure Valley. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agri-Business from Eastern Oregon State College.

Anna is a rancher in Hereford, Oregon. She operates a cow/calf operation that produces hay and grain with her husband Pat, and daughter Cassie (her daughter now also serves on an FSA County Committee).

Anna has over 10 years of experience with FSA serving on the Baker County Committee, and 3½ years serving as an Oregon State Committee member, serving as Chair since 2018. Anna has also served on a number of local boards including the Burnt River School Board, the Baker County Planning Commission, and the Northwest Farm Credit Services Local Advisory Committee.

**Denver Pugh, Member**

Denver is a sixth-generation farmer from Shedd, Oregon, and currently is the president of Pugh Seed Farm, Inc., a family ran farm corporation. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in General Agriculture in 1997 from Oregon State University.

Pugh Seed Farm grows crops for seeds, primarily grass seed, but also for wheat, meadowfoam, white clover, radish for the Midwest cover crop industry and hazelnuts. As well as farming, their family has two custom cleaning facilities and a wholesale seed company, Ampac Seed, Inc.

Denver serves on numerous Oregon volunteer activities and committees. Since 2018, Denver is the vice-president of the Linn County Farm Bureau Board. He is also on the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Commission, a delegate for the Oregon Seed Council, and serves as a delegate from the Oregon Rye Growers Commission.

**Phil Hassinger, Member**

Phil Hassinger, a farmer from Cove, Oregon, has owned and managed an irrigated farm. Presently the farm is transitioning in management to his two sons, making them the fourth generation. Crops include wheat, grass seed, peppermint, alfalfa, teff, and a few others.

After six years in military service during the Vietnam era, Phil attended the University of California, School of Agriculture and Environmental Science (Davis campus), attaining his Bachelor of Science degree. He also engaged in post baccalaureus work, receiving a teaching certification from Eastern Oregon State College.

Phil has been a Union County, Oregon, Farm Bureau president and continues to sit on the FB Water Committee. He served three terms on the Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife Fish Screening and Passage Task Force. The family farm has received several recognitions in the area of conservation while engaged in Farm Service Agency administrated conservation programs.

**Sam Asai, Member**

Sam Asai is a third-generation family farmer from Hood River, Oregon, and has been an orchardist for over 35 years. Sam received his Masters Degree in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Finance from Oregon State University.

Sam is president and CEO of Ace-High Orchards, Inc., a 45-acre family orchard in Hood River, Oregon. In this position he manages his family owned farm and food service business that provides specialty fruits to many organizations throughout the greater Portland metropolitan area.

Sam served as a member of the Wasco/Hood River FSA County Committee for nine years and served as County Committee Chair for four of those years. Sam has been serving as an Oregon FSA State Committee member for twenty-two years, eight of those year he served as vice-chair; nine of those years he served as Chair. He has also served on the Board of Directors for fruit growers and shippers associations, as well as serving as one of the original members of the Hood River County “Fruit Loop” association, a collaborative effort among business owners to promote agri-tourism throughout the county. Sam is also a certified public accountant, member of the Japanese American Citizens League, and president of District 20 of the American Contract Bridge League.

**Tyler J. Hansell (TJ), Member**

TJ Hansell is a farmer from Hermiston, Oregon, who farms with his two brothers on their fifth-generation farm. Their farms in Morrow and Umatilla Counties include irrigated, dry land, and mountain property. The mountain property is a combination of farm, forested (timber), range land and CRP. They farm diverse crops such as alfalfa, field corn, sweet corn, seed corn, grass seed, lima beans, garbanzo beans, timothy hay, peas, potatoes and wheat. They also lease out ground for rotational crops such as onions, potatoes, watermelon and peppers, and they manage reuse water from a local frozen food plant for irrigation and nitrogen.

TJ has served on the County Line Water Improvement District since 2006 (President since 2014), the Oregon Wheat Growers League (state president in 2016). He has held various appointed positions, such as a member of the 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy Policy Advisory Group (appointed by the Director of the Oregon Water Resources Department), the Umatilla Basin Watershed Counsel (appointed by the Umatilla County Commissioners), and the Government Affairs Team (appointed by Hermiston Chamber of Commerce). TJ earned his Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University in 2000.

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