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News Release

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Jessica Brough and Leanne Helmke Selected as FSA Key Program Technicians

COLUMBUS, Ohio – December 18, 2015 -- State Executive Director for the Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA), Steve Maurer, announced that Jessica Brough and Leanne Helmke were selected as Key Program Technicians (PT), effective Dec. 14, 2015.

Brough will serve as an initial point of contact for PTs to resolve FSA disaster program questions and software problems for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Helmke will be the primary point of contact for PTs to resolve FSA price support, facility loans and receivables software questions and problems. Both will collaborate with PTs, County Executive Directors (CEDs) and State Office staff to ensure consistency within the program areas.

Brough earned an Associate of Science degree in accounting and finance from Terra State Community College in 1999. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration at Tiffin University with a spring 2016 graduation. She began her career with the Ottawa/Lucas East County FSA office in 1999 as a PT and is responsible for administering the disaster programs, compliance, common programs, administrative functions and ArcGIS for the office.

Brough and her husband, Dan, reside on their family farm in Oak Harbor along with their three children Cobi, Gage and Emma. Their farming operation consists of corn, wheat, soybeans, hay and raising cattle. Brough is an active volunteer in her county's 4-H program, Pheasants Forever organization and local FFA chapter. Outside of work, she enjoys sporting events and spending time with her family at cattle and livestock shows.

Helmke earned an Associate of Science degree in agronomic business from the Ohio State University, Agricultural Technical Institute in 1988. Helmke began her career with the Tuscarawas County FSA office in 1988 as a part-time PT. She was then selected as a Program Assistant for the Stark County FSA office in 1988 before becoming a PT for the Stark County FSA office. She is responsible for administering the price support programs, GIS, compliance and disaster programs for the county office.

Helmke stays busy with her husband Mike and two children Landon and McKalynne. The Helmke family raises and shows beef cattle and the kids are very active in 4-H and the Ohio Shorthorn Junior Association.

Brough and Helmke look forward to serving the producers and Ohio FSA employees in their new role.

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