



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Media Advisory

Rural Development

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302 • <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>

Advisory No.: 05192011-1

Contact: Karen K. Lawson, (318) 473-7917

karen.lawson@la.usda.gov

**JOIN US IN VIDALIA ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011 AT 11:00 A.M.
USDA NATIONAL OFFICIALS TO VISIT LA
(Inviting Farmers From Surrounding Areas)**

WHO: **Dallas Tonsager**, Under Secretary USDA Rural Development
Michael Scuse, Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Clarence W. Hawkins, State Director, USDA Rural Development, Louisiana
Willie F. Cooper, State Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, Louisiana
Mike Strain, Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry, Louisiana
State and Local Officials

WHAT: **USDA National Officials** to visit Thursday, May 19 to meet with farmers, residents, and communities affected by the Mississippi River flooded parishes. They will also fly over Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to review the flood and tornado impacted areas. Dallas Tonsager is USDA Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development. Michael Scuse is USDA's Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS) which includes the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency.

WHEN: **Thursday, May 19, 2011/ 11:00 a.m.**

WHERE: **Vidalia Conference & Convention Center – at the main entrance
112 Front Street
Vidalia, Louisiana**

FSA and RMA help to keep America's Farmers and ranchers in business as they face the uncertainties of weather and markets. These 2 agencies deliver commodity, credit, conservation, disaster and emergency assistance, as well as crop insurance, programs that help improve the stability and strength of the domestic agricultural economy. FSA has 44 offices statewide to serve Louisiana producers. Visit our website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7920. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

USDA is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

Please join us for this very important news event in YOUR community!