



**Michael L. Wooden**

Deputy Administrator for Field Operations  
Farm Service Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

Michael L. Wooden is the Deputy Administrator for Field Operations at the USDA Farm Service Agency. In this capacity, Wooden is responsible for the overall communication and coordination between the USDA national office and the 2,244 county offices that support millions of farmers and ranchers nationwide.

Wooden has been a part of the Farm Service Agency for 28 years, serving in several leadership positions. Among most recent leadership duties, he worked as the District Director-at-Large for the FSA state office in Richmond, Va., where he managed outreach and communication efforts, handled debt management for the state and assisted other District Directors with problem cases.

In 2009, the Obama Administration appointed Wooden as Virginia State Executive Director. Understanding the challenges facing rural communities, Wooden supported and acted on the administration's efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural America. After serving in that capacity for a year, he was promoted to Deputy Administrator for Field Operations in Washington, D.C.

Before accepting the state leadership positions, Wooden worked as a USDA 1890 Agricultural Liaison at Virginia State University. The four-year assignment allowed him to serve as a link between Virginia State University and each of the USDA agencies. As a liaison, he helped students obtain scholarships and summer internship positions within USDA and established relationships with college officials, private industry and political officials.

A native of Surry County, Va., Wooden was raised on a family farm, growing and harvesting small grains and peanuts. He graduated cum laude from Virginia State College with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education and used his degree in the Southampton Public School System as a Vocational Agriculture Instructor before joining FSA as a County Office Trainee. He has held County Executive Director positions in Giles County, Va., and Loudon County, Va., and later became Southwest Virginia District Director where he supervised the administration of farm programs in 13 counties.

Wooden is married to Sharon Wooden who is the Career and Technical Director of the Surry County School System in Virginia. They have one adult daughter, Sharron K. Wooden, who is an IT Specialist with the Fairfax County School System.