



Contact:  
USDA Office of Communications  
202-720-4623

## **Obama Administration Names Appointees to USDA's Farm Service Agency State Committee in Oregon**

WASHINGTON, April 2, 2010 - The Obama Administration today announced the individuals who will serve on the Oregon Farm Service Agency State Committee. The State Committee members will 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.

“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:

### **Peggy Browne**

Browne is the owner of Browne Consulting, LLC, in Baker City, Oregon where she oversees project consulting of natural resources, agriculture, and land use. She specializes in range condition analysis, stream restoration, and wetland enhancement. Browne is a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, OSU Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management Advisory Committee, Baker County Bull Trout Advisory Committee and the Baker County Farm Bureau.

### **Vernon Frederickson**

Frederickson, of Boardman, Ore., owns and operates Frederickson Farming-Oregon Hay Products with his wife and brother. He has served on the Board of Directors for Morrow County Grain, Oregon Washington Pea Growers, Morrow County Soil and Water, Morrow County FSA Committee, Blue Mountain Potato Growers, and the Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Taskforce.

### **Robert VanderZanden**

VanderZanden is a full-time farmer whose farm produces grass seed, clover seed and grain. His farm also operates a processing plant and a direct venue for selling cut flowers to the public. He was the chairman for the Oregon ABT growers Association and lead negotiator for the Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association.

*(More)*

## **Jason Smith**

Smith has been a rancher and livestock owner his whole life and is the Range and Agriculture manager for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. He owned and managed the Deschutes Crossing Restaurant and was President of the Warm Spring Rodeo Association for 2 years. Smith has been an Inter-Tribal Ag Council board member for 4 years and Soil and Water Conservation District board member for 6 years.

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, to conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment, and promote a sustainable, safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply.

#

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272(voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).*