



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

March 2011



Richard J. Burke

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Richard Burke was born and raised in Newton, MA. Dick graduated from Newton High School in 1969. He studied at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and graduated in 1974 with B.S. degree in Natural Resources and Forestry. Following graduation, he worked for the Boston and Maine Railroad where he was elected union steward of the local International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers.

Dick began his federal service in March, 1976 with the USDA, Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) as an Agricultural Loan Officer in Raynham, MA. He was later promoted to county supervisor in the Berkshire County FmHA Field Office. Since 1981 he has worked in the Southern New England State Office for FmHA as Farm Program Specialist/Chief, for Rural Development(RD) as Rural Development Coordinator, Director of Program Support, and most recently as the RD Business Programs Director.

Richard received a National Secretary of Agriculture award in 2000 and 2003 for his economic and community development work with the Native American Tribes in southern New England. His affiliations include the Massachusetts Agricultural Club, The American Society of Farm Mangers and Rural Appraisers, Inc., and the Lee Sportsmen's Association.

Richard accepted the appointment as the Massachusetts Farm Service Agency State Executive Director from President Obama in July, 2009.

Dick has been married to his wife Debbi for 30 years and they have four children and two delightful grandchildren. Dick and Debbi reside in the beautiful Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts.