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## **Obama Administration Names Michael Sullivan as State Executive Director for the USDA's Farm Service Agency in Mississippi**

WASHINGTON, DC- June 29, 2009- The Obama Administration today announced that Michael Sullivan will serve as Mississippi State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency at the USDA.

"Michael Sullivan has a solid understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our rural communities and will help build on the Obama Administration's efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural America," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Sullivan has been a full time farmer since 1970. He operates a 2,000-acre row crop, poultry and cattle business with his brother. From 1990-1996, he worked in a variety of senior management roles at the National Furniture Market in Tupelo, Mississippi, where was responsible for the daily management and market development of the nations second largest furniture showplace. He rejoined the group in 2000 as Executive Director and managed the growth of the company's market share into multiple states. Sullivan has agricultural real estate experience and is currently a member of the Mississippi Farm Bureau, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. He has dedicated many years of service to civic and charitable activities and was honored in 2005 for his efforts in raising over \$2 million for the City of Hope Cancer Research Hospital in Los Angeles. Sullivan holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University.

The Farm Service Agency administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster and loan programs as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state and county offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry and to help farmers adjust production to meet demand. Economically, the desired result of these programs is a steady price range for agricultural commodities for both farmers and consumers. State and county offices directly administer FSA programs. These offices certify farmers for farm programs and pay out farm subsidies and disaster payments. Currently, there are 71 FSA county offices in Mississippi.

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.