USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

May 20, 2014

RE: State Strikeforce Outreach Meetings

In 2010, the United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack launched the *StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity*. This initiative aims to provide intensive care for rural areas with persistent, concentrated poverty across the USA. Based on census data, these areas are identified as having over 20% persistent pockets of poverty. Over 85% of America's persistent poverty counties are in rural America.

Spearheading a collaborative leadership approach, USDA agencies including Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency as well as over 400 key partners at the Federal, State and Local levels, are all actively involved with this initiative.

We wish to cordially invite you to a series of outreach meetings to learn and share information about StrikeForce and what USDA has to offer the citizens of North Carolina. An agency overview will be given by each agency Director. **Please join us at one of the below listed meetings in your area.**

Date: June 4, 2014 Location: *Cornerstone Baptist Church* 1095 Allen Road Greenville, NC 27834 Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Date: June 25, 2014 Location: *Vance-Granville Community College* 200 Community College Road Henderson, NC 27536 Interstate 85; Exit 209; Poplar Creek Road Exit Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Date: June 5, 2014 Location: *Elizabeth City State University* KE White Graduate and Continuing Education Center 1862 Edgewood Drive Elizabeth City, NC 27909 Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon	Robeson County, NC *Location, date and time will be announced later.*

Please RSVP with the location you will attend in the email subject line to alicia.bridges@nc.usda.gov by Monday, June 2, 2014.

Visit www.usda.gov/strikeforce for additional information on USDA StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity. You may also visit www.usda.gov for an overview of agency programs and services.

We look forward to your participation!

Sincerely,

Bob Etheridge
North Carolina Farm Service Agency
State Executive Director

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