

Obama Administration Names Final Appointee to USDA's Farm Service Agency State Committee in Michigan

WASHINGTON, October 25, 2010 - The Obama Administration today announced the fifth and final individual who will be joining the Michigan Farm Service Agency State Committee. The State Committee members 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. The following individuals were appointed earlier this year to serve on the Michigan FSA State Committee: Cheryl Kobernik as Chairperson, Art Lister Jr, Annette C. Magda, and Dr. Eddie A. Moore.

“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 individual appointed to join this committee is:

Robert Walther

Walther, from Clio, Mich., served as the former CEO of Walther Farms Inc. He brings greater than fifty years of farming experience encompassing from line labor in the potato growing industry to a guiding hand in his own family business. In representation of the potato industry, Bob has served more than 20 years both on the State and National level for one or more councils as a board member or vice president.

USDA’s Farm Services 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.

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