



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
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Obama Administration Names Appointees to USDA’s Farm Service Agency State Committee in Mississippi

Washington, DC- February 5, 2010 - The Obama Administration has announced the individuals who will serve on the Mississippi 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:

Orlando C. Kilcrease (Chairperson)

Kilcrease has 17 years of professional federal work experience with the Farm Service Agency where he served as an Agricultural Management Specialist and a Senior Agriculture Loan Specialist. A graduate of Alcorn State University, Kilcrease is currently working on his Ph.D. in Philosophy at Jackson State University.

Paul Myrick

Myrick is active in cattle farming, maintaining approximately 150 steer each year on rye grass and clover. He currently serves as the Assistant General Manager with Southern Pine Electric Association.

Kenneth Oswalt

Oswalt has been a full time farmer for 50 years. He farms approximately 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans with his son. He is an active member on a variety of local and national boards/committees.

Levon Owens

Owens is currently the owner of S. Levon Owens Cattle and Land Developer, LLC. He has more than 28 years in the farm and cattle business experience. He is also co-owner of Chapman & Owens Investment, LLC.

Sterling Withers

Withers has more than 30 years of farming experience. Currently, he is a producer for Outside Fish, Pride of the Pond. Prior to this, he was a founder of Withers Catfish Co. and President of Catfish Farmers of Mississippi.

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