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## **Obama Administration Names Appointees to USDA's Farm Service Agency State Committee in Tennessee**

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19, 2010 - The Obama Administration today announced the individuals who will serve on the Tennessee 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:

Eddie E. Anderson (Chairperson)

Anderson, from Dyersburg, Tenn., has been a farmer and businessman in Dyer County since 1967. From 1967 to 1972, he served in the Tennessee National Guard. Anderson's agricultural experience includes serving as Vice President of the Dyersburg Future Farmers of America and winning the Young Farmer of the Year Award in 2001. Mr. Anderson recently served on the Dyer County FSA Committee.

Robert Collier

Collier has owned and operated a tree nursery for nearly four decades. He is a member of the Warren County Planning Commission and is an active member of Northside Baptist Church. Collier is from McMinnville, Tenn., and graduated from Warren County Central High School.

Patricia A. Hutchinson

Hutchinson, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., has co-managed Hutchinson Farms, a 3,500 acre farm growing wheat, soybeans, corn, and cotton, since 1983. Hutchinson also taught elementary school students during the 1980s in Murfreesboro city schools. She is an active member of her community and currently serves on the Executive Board of Charity Circle of Murfreesboro.

#### Milford Snodgrass

Snodgrass, from Tazewell, Tenn., has owned and operated a 250 acre farm for nearly his entire life. He grows corn, hay, and raises cattle in his hometown. In his spare time Snodgrass repairs and refurbishes tractors for his community.

#### Jack Whittenburg

Whittenburg, from Byrdstown, Tenn., currently operates a 300 acre beef and cattle operation. Whittenburg has been farming for 40 years. He recently retired from his position as the Pickett County Executive. He has served on the Soil Conservation Board on both the local and state level for 26 years. Whittenburg is also a member of the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

USDA's Farm Service 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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