



## USDA Names Trump Administration Appointees to the North Carolina Farm Service Agency State Committee

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*City, State* - Jan. 13, 2026 - The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced the appointment of five leaders in agriculture to serve on the North Carolina USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) state committee.

Members of the FSA state committee are appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins and, in support of the Trump Administration's Farmers First commitment, members of the FSA state committee are responsible for the oversight of farm programs and county committee operations, resolving program delivery appeals from the agriculture community, maintaining cooperative relations with industry stakeholders and keeping producers informed about current FSA programs.

Each FSA state committee is comprised of three to five members including a designated chairperson. The individuals appointed to serve on this committee for North Carolina are:

- **Jeffrey Claybourne Lee, Chair** (Benson) - Lee is owner, president, and chief executive officer of his farm, where he manages tobacco, sweet potato, and cotton production. He implements conservation tillage, precision guidance, and nutrient banding practices to improve crop quality and land stewardship. Lee previously served as a member of the North Carolina FSA state committee.
- **Steve Leggett Griffin, Member** (Washington) - Griffin is president and owner of his farm where he manages a diversified crop and farming operation. He previously served on the Beaufort FSA county committee.
- **Joseph Brent Leggett, Member** (Nashville) - Leggett is owner and operator of his farm, where he manages a diversified row crop operation that produces tobacco, sweet potatoes, cotton, peanuts, and other crops. He's responsible for agronomic and strategic management, workforce oversight, and long-term sustainability.
- **Richard Paul Renegar, Member** (Harmony) - Renegar operates a diversified family farm in Iredell and Yadkin Counties, producing beef cattle, tobacco, row crops, and hay. He diversified into farm equipment sales and agritourism with hunting preserves and sporting clays. He is currently president of the Iredell County Farm Bureau Board and director of the North Carolina State Farm Bureau Board as well as a voting delegate to the American Farm Bureau Federation. He previously served on the North Carolina FSA state committee.
- **Faylene Whitehead Whitaker, Member** (Climax) - Whitaker is co-founder and operator of a diversified family enterprise that produces tobacco, corn, wheat, strawberries, vegetables, and greenhouse tomatoes. The operation expanded into agritourism, landscaping, two garden centers, a bakery, and equipment sales. She previously served on the North Carolina FSA state

committee for eight years and has also served on her FSA county committee.

"These individuals, selected by Secretary Rollins in partnership with key stakeholders in each state, are held in high regard in the agriculture industry and are entrusted to ensure FSA programs are delivered in a manner consistent with federal farm policy and in the best interest of all agricultural producers in their state," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "Their appointment to the FSA state committee is a testament to their standing in the industry and their dedication to the agriculture industry, rural America and President Trump's America First, Farmers First policies."

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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