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NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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SCHNEIDER TO CHAIR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

BISMARCK, January 11, 2011 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider will Chair the Food and Agriculture Council (FAC) in North Dakota for the 2011 calendar year. The council is made up of federal, state and local agriculture entities. Meetings will be held quarterly in communities throughout North Dakota to identify, assess and address needs and problems in agriculture and rural issues. Schneider will address energy issues as well and the impact on rural communities.

“The FAC is a great vehicle for federal, state and local agencies to share information and work together to address the needs of North Dakota.” Schneider said. “The needs of agriculture, energy production and infrastructure go hand-in-hand with the development of North Dakota and we’ll be focusing on the surrounding issues as a council.”

The Food and Agriculture Council was established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in each state to coordinate interagency activities and to promote the goals and objectives of agriculture related industries. The state councils may be utilized for public feedback on procedural issues, to receive recommendations on policies under consideration and to keep informed on agriculture and rural development concerns.

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