

## Biographical Sketch of Brent Kisling State Director for USDA Rural Development

Brent Kisling is a husband, dad, deacon and public servant. Born and raised on a farm and ranch in rural Northwest Oklahoma, he graduated from Burlington High School and then attended college at Oklahoma State University where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Agribusiness. He was the Outstanding Graduate from the College of Agriculture and served as the State FFA President.

Following graduation, Brent went to work for U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe in Oklahoma City and soon moved to Enid to manage the Senator's Northwest Office. He worked as a District Field Representative until later becoming the Senator's Field Director for the entire state.

In March of 2001, Brent was appointed by the George W. Bush Administration to be the State Director for USDA Rural Development in Oklahoma. With an annual state budget of \$140 million, this agency oversees the Rural Housing, the Rural Utilities, and the Rural Business and Cooperative Programs in the state. Oklahoma Rural Development has fifteen offices and 97 employees to administer their programs.

In 1995, Brent married the girl of his dreams, Jennifer, and they have two wonderful children, Layne and Bree. In 1999, they opened a new family business in Enid called Maple Place Bed and Breakfast where they specialize in "Traditional Oklahoma Hospitality." Jennifer manages the day-to-day operations of the business.

Brent is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at the First Baptist Church of Enid and is an active member of the Enid Chamber of Commerce and the Enid Main Street Program. He is a graduate of the Oklahoma Agriculture Leadership Program and is also a member of the Sixteenth Class of Leadership Oklahoma.

Brent has a passion for Rural America and he believes the strength of "small town Oklahoma" is the people who live there.