



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Obama Administration Names Ronald Davis to Serve as State Director for Rural Development in Alabama**

WASHINGTON, October 30, 2009 – The Obama Administration today announced that Ronald Davis will serve as Alabama State Director for Rural Development at the USDA.

“Ronald Davis will be an important advocate on behalf of rural communities throughout the state and help administer the valuable programs and services provided by the USDA that can enhance their economic success,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Davis served as the Chief Program Specialist for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Alabama before Secretary Vilsack appointed him to serve as State Director. As Program Specialist, Mr. Davis advised the State FSA Committee about compliance with national regulations and policies. From 1995 to 2003, Davis served as County Executive Director for several FSA Service Centers in Alabama, where his duties administrative management of Service Centers to chattel inspections in multiple counties. Previously, Davis served as a Conservation Technician for the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), where he played a key role on implementing major reforms and developed conservation systems to control erosion and conserve soil. He also educated local farmers about the benefits of double cropping and conservation tillage.

Rural Development administers and manages over 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs as laid out by Congress through a network of 6,100 employees located in 500 national, state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of over \$114 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

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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