



"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: RE: USDA farm subsidy complaint
From: Johnson, John - Washington, DC
To: robertone@email.com
Date: 06/03/08 01:05 PM

Mr. Eichhorn,

First, I do not have the Secretary's e-mail address.

Second, if you will provide me specifics about your complaint (specific farming operations and what rules you believe are being violated) I will investigate to determine the facts. Thank you.

John A. Johnson
Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs
USDA Farm Service Agency
Phone: 202-720-3175
fax: 202-720-4726

From: robertone@email.com [mailto:robertone@email.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2008 4:01 PM
To: Johnson, John - Washington, DC
Subject: USDA farm subsidy complaint

6/3

Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for the e-mail information. I have a complaint to file with the USDA concerning over 100 Hutterite colonies in the USA who are receiving USDA farm subsidies. It has become necessary for me to make the case for the termination of their farm subsidies. My case will also be a public service to the US taxpayer. My complaint requires attention at the national level because it is national in scope. The Hutterite colonies are located in the states of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington.

I want to direct the complaint to a USDA farm subsidy program administrator who is knowledgeable of business law. I would like to know who you recommend to receive this kind of complaint.

I also want to send the complaint to Ed Schafer, USDA Secretary of Agriculture. I believe it is necessary to file the complaint with him. I believe he needs to make a decision about the case. I need Mr. Schafer's USDA mailing address.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

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**"Robert Eichhorn"** <robertone@email.com>

Subject: RE: Hutterite complaint update 2
From: Johnson, John - Washington, DC
To: robertone@email.com
Date: 06/23/08 02:28 PM

Mr. Eichhorn,

I have received your e-mail but it contains no specific allegation of violations of farm program rules or regulations. Please tell me what farm program regulation you believe is being violated and I will look into it. Thank you.

John A. Johnson
 Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs
 USDA Farm Service Agency
 Phone: 202-720-3175
 fax: 202-720-4726

From: robertone@email.com [mailto:robertone@email.com]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2008 5:15 PM
To: Johnson, John - Washington, DC
Subject: Hutterite complaint update 2

6/23

Mr. Johnson,

I am still trying to make contact with individuals in the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the Secretary. When I have made the right contacts I will provide you with contact information. I believe in preparing the way for Mr. Schafer. A decision to terminate the Hutterite's farm subsidies will affect about 10,000 people and will have serious consequences for the Hutterites for generations to come. I believe the Hutterites will try to legally challenge a USDA decision to terminate their farm subsidies. As a result, the case could attract media attention and could become a high-profile case. For all of the reasons mentioned, I believe it is necessary for Mr. Schafer to make a decision about my complaint.

I believe a legal foundation has been established to make the case to terminate the Hutterite's farm subsidies. I sent a letter of introduction to several Hutterite colonies in the Lewistown, Montana area in November 2007. I received a letter from Mr. Hofer of King colony in March 2008. The letter is signed and dated so I believe it is admissible as evidence in a court of law. In the letter Mr. Hofer establishes a closed admission policy for all Hutterite colonies. When you read the letter I believe you will realize why it is necessary for me to file a complaint with USDA.

I have decided to send my complaint to you at this point in time so the process of reviewing it can begin. Please confirm that you have received my complaint.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

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**"Robert Eichhorn"** <robertone@email.com>

Subject: Hutterite complaint update 3
From: Robert Eichhorn
To: john.johnson@usda.gov
Date: 06/26/08 11:27 AM

6/26

Mr. Johnson,

I need to inform you that Terry Jackson, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, from the Office of the General Counsel has contacted me. Mr. Jackson has offered to receive my complaint for OGC. I will send my complaint to Mr. Jackson so he has the information necessary to prepare for advisement. If you need legal advice for my complaint I believe Mr. Jackson can provide it. Contact information for Mr. Jackson is as follows:

a) e-mail: terry.jackson@ogc.usda.gov

b) mailing address:

*Terrence G. Jackson
Office of the General Counsel, USDA
Room 4311 South Building
14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250*

*Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com*

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**"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>****Subject:** Hutterite complaint update 5**From:** Robert Eichhorn**To:** john.johnson@usda.gov**Date:** 07/23/08 11:51 AM

7/23

Mr. Johnson,

I need to inform you that I have been able to find the IRS tax filing information for King colony in Lewistown, Montana. King colony has filed with the IRS as a 501 (d) religious and apostolic association. This information establishes King colony as a nonprofit religious organization. To find the tax filing information for King colony at the website [www.melissadata.com] make the following steps:

- 1) On the homepage, click on the topic 'Lookups'.*
- 2) On the 'Lookups' webpage, find the topic 'Federal Resources', and click on 'Nonprofit Organizations'.*
- 3) In the information box that appears, enter the name Peter Hofer.. Then click on the Submit character.*
- 4) A data box will appear with a link to Peter Hofer Etal Ptr. Click on the link.*

You may be interested to know that King colony has been involved in a court case concerning eligibility for Medicaid benefits. The court case is referred to as Hofer v. Montana Dep't of Public Health and Human Services, December 6, 2005. A trial judge ruled in favor of the Hutterites, but the Montana Supreme Court ruled in favor of the state Medicaid agency to deny Medicaid benefits to the Hutterites. Articles about the court case can be found at the following websites:

- a) [www.missoulain.com/articles/2005/03/01/mtracker/news/07hutts.txt]
(The article is entitled 'Hutterite colony in court over Medicaid coverage)*
- b) [www.elder-law.com/2005/issue1324.html]
(The article is entitled 'Members of religious colony may not qualify for Medicaid)*

This court case demonstrates the fact that the Hutterites at King colony are willing to set up a erroneous interpretation of their business position, in order to make a claim for Medicaid benefits. The colony claimed that their financial assets are shielded from their members being able to access the financial assets. The Montana State Department of Public Health and Human Services argued that King colony established a "trust relationship" through its founding documents, so colony members have access to the colony's financial assets.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

*Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com*

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**"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>****Subject:** Hutterite complaint update 7**From:** Robert Eichhorn**To:** john.johnson@usda.gov**Date:** 08/12/08 12:44 PM

8/12

Mr. Johnson,

I have found some more information relevant to my Hutterite complaint that I believe will be helpful to you in your investigation of my Hutterite complaint, and in making a determination about the Hutterite's eligibility for USDA farm subsidies.. I searched the website [www.melissadata.com] for tax filing information about Hutterite colonies by searching for the name Hutterian Brethren. I found a list of 85 nonprofit organizations that include the name Hutterian Brethren and are filing with the IRS as a nonprofit organization.

There are 55 names on the list that resemble or match names listed in the EWG Farm Subsidy Database at the website [www.ewg.org], and the names are in the same geographic location as the names listed in the EWG Farm Subsidy Database. The practice of a Hutterite colony when the colony reaches a certain population is to form a branch colony, so the 55 names are 55 Hutterite colonies that are receiving USDA farm subsidies.

The list is substantiating evidence for a profile of a Hutterite colony as a nonprofit religious organization, with a closed admission policy, that has incorporated as a business but cannot offer full-time permanent employment to the public because of their tax exempt status.

To find the list at the website [www.melissadata.com] make the following steps:

- 1) On the homepage, click on the topic 'Lookups'.*
- 2) On the 'Lookups' webpage, find the topic 'Federal Resources', and click on 'Nonprofit Organizations'.*
- 3) In the information box that appears, enter the name hutterian brethren, then click on the Submit character.*

I will mail to you a copy of the list, and a copy of the tax filing information, a copy of a business profile, and a copy of the EWG USDA farm subsidy information for 3 Hutterite colonies on the list that I can exactly match the name on the list with the name in the EWG Farm Subsidy Database, as substantiating evidence for my Hutterite complaint.

With the addition of this information to my Hutterite complaint, I believe I can establish conclusive evidence to terminate the Hutterite's USDA farm subsidies. As a result of my Hutterite complaint, I believe it may be necessary to revise the USDA farm subsidy program eligibility requirements. To accomplish this step, it may be necessary to revise the Farm Act in the Commodity Programs section of the Farm Bill.

I have come to realize that a farm subsidy program revision can terminate the Hutterite's farm subsidies but the revision may not apply retroactively to the Hutterite colonies that are currently receiving USDA farm subsidies. So, to achieve termination of the USDA farm subsidies currently given to the Hutterite colonies, I believe I will need to establish the evidence for each Hutterite colony that is necessary to terminate the colony's USDA farm subsidies.

I am requesting information concerning the steps necessary to revise the USDA farm subsidy program eligibility requirements and the steps necessary to accomplish a retroactive termination of the USDA farm subsidies currently given to the Hutterite colonies.

I am bringing the new information relevant to my Hutterite complaint to the attention of Mr. Keppy and

Mr. Jackson.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Robert Eichhorn

robertone@email.com

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop 0501
Washington, DC
20250-0501

September 5, 2008

Mr. Robert Eichhorn
16th Street, Hotel Room 508
3161 16th Street
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Eichhorn:

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 2008, and your electronic mail message of July 14, 2008, to Secretary of Agriculture Edward T. Schafer, concerning your complaint about Hutterite colonies receiving payments under USDA programs.

You contend that what you term a "closed admission policy" should be a basis for determining Hutterite colonies ineligible for payments and benefits under USDA programs.

An "open admission policy" is not an eligibility requirement for participation in USDA programs. We consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John A. Johnson".

John A. Johnson
Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs



"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: your letter
From: Robert Eichhorn
To: john.johnson@usda.gov
Date: 09/22/08 10:21 AM

9/22

Mr. Johnson,

I have received your letter as a statement concerning the resolution of my Hutterite complaint. I have confirmed by my US Postal Service certified mail receipts that you received the new evidence I mailed to you. The new evidence establishes the fact that King colony is filing with the IRS as a 501(d) religious and apostolic association and has been tax-exempt since 10-1948. The new evidence establishes a profile of a Hutterite colony as a nonprofit religious organization. I believe I made it clear that as a result of the new evidence a determination to terminate the Hutterite's USDA farm subsidies did not have to be made based on a closed admission policy. I believe a determination can be made based on the fact that a Hutterite colony is a nonprofit religious organization with a tax-exempt status that cannot offer the same full-time permanent employment position to the public as a business can offer to the public. The public will not be able to receive a return of equal value to their investment in a Hutterite colony in the form of USDA farm subsidies. So, there is no reason for the public to support USDA farm subsidies for a Hutterite colony. I believe the scale is out of balance and it will be necessary to fix the problem.

It appears that you have chosen to ignore the new evidence and consider it irrelevant. I believe the new evidence is relevant to making a determination to terminate the Hutterite's USDA farm subsidies and should be considered in the resolution of my Hutterite complaint. I believe my case should remain open so the resolution of my Hutterite complaint can be made based on all of the evidence I have submitted to USDA.

For your information, I will be filing a objection concerning your closure of my case with Mr. Keppy and Mr. Jackson. I hope my objection will be accepted, or in legal terminology 'sustained'.

For your information, I will be filing my updated Hutterite complaint with the House Committee on Agriculture after the November Presidential election. It will be necessary for me to file my updated Hutterite complaint with Chuck Conner and Ed Schafer so they will have the same information as the House Committee on Agriculture.

I will mail a copy of your letter to Mr. Keppy and Mr. Jackson for their record.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop-0517
Washington, DC
20250-0517

Mr. Robert Eichorn
16th Street Hotel, Room 508
3161 16th Street
San Francisco, California 94103

OCT 14 2008

Dear Mr. Eichorn:

This is in further response to your complaint about Hutterite colonies receiving payments under USDA programs. It is your contention that what you term "new evidence" should be a basis for denying payment to a Hutterite colony. You also object to this matter being considered closed.

Again, an "open admissions policy" is not an eligibility requirement for participation in USDA programs. A nonprofit religious organization can, in fact, be eligible for the payments you seek to deny. There is no applicable statutory or regulatory requirement for an entity to offer employment positions to the public. Likewise, your characterization of USDA payments to an eligible program participant as an "investment" requiring the public to receive a return of equal value has no support in statute or regulation.

We fully understand that you have your opinions and believe there is a "problem" that needs to be fixed. You are entitled to your opinions. However, there is neither a statutory nor a regulatory basis for denying the payments for the reasons you suggest. As indicated in our prior response, we consider this matter closed. We will provide no further response.

Sincerely,

John A. Johnson
Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs



"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: Hutterite complaint update
From: Robert Eichhorn
To: john.johnson@usda.gov
Date: 11/17/08 01:28 PM

11/17

Mr. Johnson,

I received your letter, dated 10/14, as a statement concerning your consideration of the new evidence I submitted to you for my Hutterite complaint. I submitted the same new evidence to Mr. Keppy and Mr. Jackson. I will mail my letter of response to you for your record.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

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"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: RE: USDA farm subsidy complaint
From: Keppy, Glen - Washington, DC
To: robertone@email.com
Date: 06/03/08 01:19 PM

Robert: I received and read your email, I will try to get you an answer to the question you asked. However I will need you to give us more specifics about your complaint (exactly which farming operations, and what rule do you believe is being violated) I will try to get the right people in this department to take a look at your complaint. I do want you to know that I am not trained in business law, I was an Iowa farmer before I was asked to take this position. You can count on me getting you an answer from the right people, however. Thanks for you interest in programs Glen

From: robertone@email.com [<mailto:robertone@email.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2008 2:59 PM
To: Keppy, Glen - Washington, DC
Subject: USDA farm subsidy complaint

6/3

To: Glen Keppy - USDA/FSA Associate Administrator for Programs

Mr. Keppy,

I have a complaint to file with the USDA concerning over 100 Hutterite colonies in the USA who are receiving USDA farm subsidies. It has become necessary for me to make the case for the termination of their farm subsidies. My case will also be a public service to the US taxpayer. My complaint requires attention at the national level because it is national in scope. The Hutterite colonies are located in the states of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington.

I want to direct the complaint to a USDA farm subsidy program administrator who is knowledgeable of business law. I would like to know who you recommend to receive this kind of complaint.

I also want to send my complaint to Ed Schafer, the USDA Secretary of Agriculture. I believe it is necessary to file the complaint with him. I believe he needs to make a decision about the case. I need Mr. Schafer's USDA mailing address.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

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**"Robert Eichhorn"** <robertone@email.com>

Subject: RE: Hutterite complaint update 4
From: Keppy, Glen - Washington, DC
To: robertone@email.com
Cc: O'Flaherty, Elle (OGC--IACP)
Date: 07/21/08 01:13 PM

Robert: I am sorry that I was out of office two different times since you sent this email and I did not back to you like I should have. This confirms I did get your email. I regret to inform you that I feel it would be best that I not be the contact person for the USDA. Terry Jackson has asked that Elle O'Flaherty follow up and be the contact person and I agree, Elle will have the time and knowledge to make sure fairness happens in handling your concerns.

ELLE.O'FLAHERTY@OGC>USDA>GOV

Thanks for the interest in FSA programs. Glen

From: robertone@email.com [mailto:robertone@email.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 1:45 PM
To: Keppy, Glen - Washington, DC
Subject: Hutterite complaint update 4

7/10

Mr. Keppy,

I spoke to Cherri Carpenter, Executive Assistant to the Secretary, Secretary of Agriculture Office, on Tuesday July 8. She informed me that a staff person would not be able to make a special arrangement to receive my complaint, since there is a correct procedure for the office to receive mail. I will mail my complaint to the Secretary of Agriculture Office and I will send a e-mail to Chuck Conner, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Ed Schafer, Secretary of Agriculture, to inform them that my complaint will be available for them to review.

Since I will not be able to establish a contact person for my complaint in the Secretary of Agriculture Office at this time, I need to ask you if you are willing to act as a USDA/FSA contact person to handle inquiries concerning my complaint. The reason why I ask is because I will be sending my complaint to a number of people in positions of authority including Montana Representative Dennis Rehberg, South Dakota Representative Stephanie Sandlin, and the House Committee on Agriculture.

Since my complaint is a public service to the US taxpayer, I want to make sure that the public interest is fairly represented in a USDA decision concerning the Hutterite's USDA farm subsidies. I will be filing my complaint with public interest groups like Public Citizen, Environmental Working Group (EWG), and Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW). I believe these groups are in a better position than I am to keep track of the agriculture policy changes and farm subsidy program eligibility requirements changes that may be made by the US Government or USDA.

I believe these individuals and groups may want to contact USDA for information about a USDA solution to the Hutterite problem.

For my own information, I would like to know who would be in a position to make a change to the USDA farm subsidy program eligibility requirements. I believe the House Committee on Agriculture is responsible for agriculture policy and the Farm Bill, so the committee is in a position to make policy changes. I am wondering if USDA is able to make technical changes to the Farm Bill that would allow USDA to make eligibility requirements changes.

I sent my complaint to Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jackson so they should have received it by now. If you have any questions about Mr. Johnson's investigation of my complaint he should be able to answer them for you. If you have any legal questions or need legal advice Mr. Jackson should be able to advise you.

Thank you for confirming that you received my complaint.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

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"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: Your Emails Concerning Farm Benefits
From: JACKSON, TERRY
To: robertone@email.com
Cc: Keppy, Glen -FSA, Johnson, John - Washington, DC
Date: 06/24/08 01:38 PM

Mr. Eichhorn – I am a Deputy Assistant General Counsel in the Office of General Counsel, USDA, Washington, D.C. I have received copies of your emails concerning your intent to file a complaint with the Farm Service Agency about the availability of USDA benefits to a certain named organization and will be advising FSA, as needed and requested by the agency, with respect to that matter. You may, if you wish, copy me with any filings you make with FSA by addressing them to:

Terrence G. Jackson

Office of the General Counsel, USDA

Room 4311 SouthBuilding

14th St.
and
Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20250

I have copied Mr. Johnson and Mr. Keppy, both mentioned in your emails, with a copy of this email.

In short, to the extent needed, I will be the contact for this office. In addition, as needed and appropriate, FSA and our office will keep the Office of the Secretary informed of this matter.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Terry Jackson.



"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: Your latest email
From: JACKSON, TERRY
To: robertone@email.com
Date: 06/27/08 09:24 AM

Mr. Eichhorn – I got you latest email and am prepared to provide advice if requested by the FSA or the Secretary's office.

You can send in more material, as you have indicated you plan to do. Within reason, we are always willing to listen to arguments on all points so we get them right. However, subject to that, I want to tell you that I am not aware of any authority to deny payments based on a closed admission policy.

Closed corporations for example receive payments, partnerships do as well.

If you feel there is some authority to deny the payments you should indicate to FSA what you think it is.

You can of course email me whatever you send in rather than send to me a hard copy, or you can simply send the information and any request you may have to Mr. Johnson or Mr. Keppy, indicating to them that I am aware of the matter. I could then, as needed, get the info from them.

Terry Jackson

USDA\OGC



"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: 'Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint' update

From: Robert Eichhorn

To: terry.jackson@ogc.usda.gov

Date: 08/22/09 01:11 PM

8/22/09

To: Terry Jackson

Deputy Assistant General Counsel

OGC

Washington, DC

Mr. Jackson,

I want to inform you about a few developments concerning my 'Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint' at USDA.

In November 2008 I requested a statement concerning the resolution of my complaint from Teresa Lasseter, FSA/Administrator. Six months passed and I did not receive a statement from Teresa Lasseter, so I decided to make a inquiry. I discovered that Teresa Lasseter had been replaced by Dennis Taitano, as FSA/Acting Administrator (2009), so I sent a e-mail of inquiry to Mr. Taitano in May 2009. One month passed with no response from Mr. Taitano, so I decided to send a letter of inquiry to Phyllis Fong, USDA Inspector General. I can confirm that her office received my letter on 7/13/09. A OIG investigation should be under way.

I sent a updated version of my 'Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint' to Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture (2009), Ed Schafer, Secretary of Agriculture (2008), and Chuck Conner, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture (2008). I can confirm that the USDA Secretary of Agriculture Office received all 3 of the complaints on 3/2/09.

I will inform you of any relevant developments concerning my 'Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint' at USDA.

Robert Eichhorn

robertone@email.com

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"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint update

From: robertone@email.com

To: terry.jackson@ogc.usda.gov

Date: 06/05/10 07:26 PM

6/5

To: Terry Jackson
Deputy Assistant General Counsel
OGC
Washington, DC

Mr. Jackson,

I want to inform you about a few developments concerning my 'Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint' at USDA.

As I mentioned in my last e-mail dated 8/22/09 I sent a letter of inquiry to Phyllis Fong, OIG/Inspector General, concerning the reason why I did not receive a statement from Teresa Lasseter, FSA/Administrator, concerning the resolution of my complaint. To resolve the issue, I received a e-mail from USDA OIG Hotline dated 12/16/09 to inform me that my certified mail was not received by OIG so a investigation could not proceed. According to a FSA/The Fence Post article dated 1/16/09 Teresa Lasseter left FSA the week of 1/16/09 so she will not need your advisement for my complaint.

As I mentioned in my last e-mail dated 8/22/09 I sent a updated version of my 'Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint' to Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture. To resolve the issue of USDA's resolution of my complaint, I received a e-mail from Candace Thompson, FSA/Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, on behalf of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, dated 3/3/09 and sent on 3/4/09. Their resolution of my complaint is they consider the matter closed as indicated by a previous response dated 9/5/08, as a reference to John Johnson's statement dated 9/5/08. Candace Thompson's e-mail is USDA's resolution of my complaint so the Secretary of Agriculture will not need your advisement for my complaint.

Thank you for acting as a legal counsel for my complaint to advise USDA.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

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**"Robert Eichhorn"** <robertone@email.com>**Subject:** Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint**From:** Robert Eichhorn**To:** agsec@usda.gov**Date:** 07/14/08 01:57 PM

7/14

To: Ed Schafer
 Secretary of Agriculture
 Office of the Secretary

Mr. Schafer,

I need to inform you that I am filing a complaint with USDA concerning the USDA farm subsidies given to the Hutterite colonies in the USA. My complaint requires attention at the national level because it is national in scope. The Hutterite colonies are located in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington. I have filed my complaint with the following individuals at USDA:

a) Glen Keppy - FSA/Associate Administrator of Programs

Mr. Keppy will be acting as a FSA coordinator for my complaint.

b) John Johnson - FSA/Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs

Mr. Johnson will be acting as a FSA investigator for my complaint.

c) Terry Jackson - OGC/Deputy Assistant General Counsel

Mr. Jackson will be acting as a legal counsel for my complaint.

I am mailing my complaint to you at the Secretary of Agriculture Office, so my complaint will be available for you to review. I will be making the case to terminate the Hutterite's farm subsidies. I believe a legal foundation has been established to make the case. I received a letter from Mr. Hofer of King colony in Lewistown, Montana in March 2008. In the letter Mr. Hofer establishes a closed admission policy for all Hutterite colonies. I have included a copy of Mr. Hofer's letter with my complaint. I believe the Hutterite's closed admission policy does not serve the public interest, so I believe the public will no longer support the Hutterite's farm subsidies.

From my research, I have become aware of the fact that over 100 Hutterite colonies in the USA are receiving USDA farm subsidies as of 2006. A decision to terminate the Hutterite's farm subsidies will affect about 10,000 people and will have serious consequences for the Hutterites for generations to come. I believe the Hutterites will try to legally challenge a USDA decision to terminate their farm subsidies. As a result, the case could attract media attention and could become a high-profile case. For all of the reasons mentioned, I believe it is necessary for you to make a decision about my complaint.

I am mailing my complaint to Chuck Conner, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, at the Secretary of Agriculture Office, so my complaint will be available for Mr. Conner to review. I will send a e-mail to Mr. Conner to inform him about my complaint.

If you have any questions about the progress of my complaint at USDA/FSA Mr. Keppy and Mr. Johnson can answer them for you. If you need legal advice for my complaint Mr. Jackson should be prepared to advise you.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

Contact information:

- a) Glen Keppy [e-mail: glen.keppy@usda.gov]*
- b) John Johnson [e-mail: john.johnson@usda.gov]*
- c) Terry Jackson [e-mail: terry.jackson@ogc.usda.gov]*

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**"Robert Eichhorn"** <robertone@email.com>

Subject: Re: Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint
From: Lasseter, Teresa - Washington, DC
To: robertone@email.com
Cc: Vaughan, Becky - Washington, DC, Meidinger, James - Washington, DC
Date: 10/01/08 05:19 AM

Robert,
 This is the correct address to send mail. My staff that I cc'd on this reply will watch for it and make me aware when it arrives.

From: robertone@email.com
To: Lasseter, Teresa - Washington, DC
Sent: Tue Sep 30 21:47:30 2008
Subject: Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint
 9/30

*To: Teresa Lasseter
 FSA Administrator
 USDA
 Washington, DC*

Teresa,

I need to file a complaint with you concerning the USDA farm subsidies given to over 100 Hutterite colonies in the USA. My complaint requires attention at the national level because it is national in scope. The Hutterite colonies are located in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington. I will be making the case to terminate the Hutterite's farm subsidies. I believe I can establish a legal foundation, based on evidence, to make the case.

I believe a USDA determination of the Hutterite's eligibility for USDA farm subsidies is a case of mistaken identity. USDA probably believed Hutterite colonies are operating as a business but Hutterite colonies are really operating as a nonprofit religious organization with a tax-exempt status.

As a result of my complaint, I believe it may be necessary to revise the USDA farm subsidy program eligibility requirements. I believe your review of my complaint will be needed to accomplish this step.

If you are available to receive my complaint I will mail my complaint to you at the following address:

*Teresa Lasseter
 FSA Administrator
 USDA
 SOAGRIBG Bldg
 STOP 0501 Rm 3086-S
 1400 Independence Ave SW
 Washington, DC 20250*

Are you available to receive my complaint?

*Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com*



"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: Hutterite complaint update
From: Robert Eichhorn
To: teresa.lasseter@usda.gov
Date: 11/17/08 01:47 PM

11/17

Teresa,

I need to inform you that I received a letter from Mr. Johnson, dated 10/14, as a statement concerning his consideration of the new evidence I submitted to him for my Hutterite complaint. I submitted the same new evidence to Mr. Keppy and Mr. Jackson. I submitted the same new evidence to you in my updated Hutterite complaint. I will mail a copy of Mr. Johnson's letter, and my letter of response, to you for your record.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

--

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**"Robert Eichhorn"** <robertone@email.com>**Subject:** Updated version of Hutterite complaint concerning USDA farm subsidies**From:** Robert Eichhorn**To:** agsec@usda.gov**Date:** 02/17/09 01:03 PM

2/17/09

*To: Tom Vilsack - Secretary of Agriculture (2009)**Ed Schafer - Secretary of Agriculture (2008)**USDA**Washington, DC**Secretary of Agriculture,*

I need to inform you that I am sending a updated version of my Hutterite complaint to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture office for you to review. I believe you may want to make a decision concerning the resolution of my complaint. My complaint concerns the USDA farm subsidies given to over 100 Hutterite colonies in the USA. I am making the case to terminate their farm subsidies. I believe I can establish a legal foundation, based on evidence, to make the case.

The updated version of my complaint includes new IRS tax filing information for Hutterite colonies. The information shows that Hutterite colonies are filing with the IRS as a 501(d) religious and apostolic association and are tax-exempt.

I can establish a profile of a Hutterite colony as a nonprofit religious organization that cannot offer the same standard full-time permanent public employment position as a business can offer because of their tax-exempt status. Based on this fact, I believe a determination to terminate the Hutterite's farm subsidies can be made.

I filed my original Hutterite complaint with USDA in 2008. I filed a updated version of my complaint, including the new IRS tax filing information, with Teresa Lasseter, FSA/Administrator, in 2008. For information concerning the status of the resolution of my complaint at USDA/FSA you can contact her.

As a result of my complaint, I believe it may be necessary to revise the USDA farm subsidy program eligibility requirements and the USA Farm Bill to accomplish the termination of the Hutterite's farm subsidies. I will be filing my complaint with the House Committee on Agriculture, US Congress, Washington, DC, in 2009. I will notify the committee that my complaint is available for the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to review.

*Robert Eichhorn**robertone@email.com**Contact information:**Teresa Lasseter - FSA/Administrator**e-mail: teresa.lasseter@usda.gov**ph: 202-720-3467*

--

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"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: E-MAIL REPLY (Please do not respond to this e-mail)
From: RA.DCWASHING2.RD-FSA-ECMM
To: robertone@email.com
Date: 03/04/09 12:57 PM

March 3, 2009

Mr. Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

Dear Mr. Eichhorn:

Thank you for your electronic mail message of February 17, 2009, to Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsak, concerning farm subsidies given to Hutterite colonies in the United States. The Secretary has asked that I respond to you on his behalf.

We are aware of the information provided in your letter. We understand you do not agree with our response on this matter. However, as indicated in our previous response dated September 5, 2008, we consider this matter closed.

Again, thank you for your mail message.

Sincerely,

/s/Candace Thompson

Candace Thompson
Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs



"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: complaint concerning Hutterite colonies receiving USDA farm subsidies
From: Robert Eichhorn
To: dennis.taitano@usda.gov
Date: 05/13/09 01:39 PM

5/13/09

To: Dennis Taitano
FSA Administrator
USDA
Washington, DC

Mr. Taitano,

I filed a complaint concerning USDA farm subsidies given to over 100 Hutterite colonies in the USA with Teresa Lasseter, 2008 FSA Administrator, in October 2008. I requested a statement from Teresa concerning the resolution of my complaint. It has been over 6 months and at this point in time I have not received a statement from Teresa.

I would like to know if Teresa and/or her staff are still working on my complaint or has Teresa given my complaint to you to work on. Teresa Lasseter's e-mail address is [teresa.lasseter@wdc.usda.gov].

Teresa's staff included the following people:

- a) James Meidinger
e-mail: james.meidinger@wdc.usda.gov
- b) Becky Vaughan
e-mail: becky.vaughan@wdc.usda.gov

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

--

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"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: inquiry
From: Robert Eichhorn
To: Jonathan.Coppess@usda.gov
Date: 09/07/09 11:59 AM

9/7/09

To: Jonathan Coppess
 FSA/Administrator
 USDA
 Washington, DC

Mr. Coppess,

I filed a complaint concerning USDA farm subsidies given to Hutterite colonies in the USA with Teresa Lasseter, FSA/Administrator, in October 2008. I requested a statement from Teresa Lasseter concerning her resolution of my complaint. At this point in time, I have not received a statement from the FSA/Office of the Administrator concerning the resolution of my complaint.

According to a FSA/The Fence Post article, dated 1/16/09, entitled 'Agency Leaders Prepare to Depart, Administrator Lasseter Bids Final Farewell', Teresa Lasseter left FSA on 1/20/09. You can find the article at the following webpage:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fp_0109_article_02.html].

I sent a e-mail to Dennis Taitano, FSA/Acting Administrator (2009), on 5/13/09 to inquire about my complaint. At this point in time, I have not received a response from Mr. Taitano.

I would like to know if the FSA/Office of the Administrator has a record on file of receiving my 'Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint' in October 2008, and a record on file of Teresa Lasseter issuing a statement concerning her resolution of my complaint. For reference, Teresa Lasseter's office received my complaint by US mail on 10/14/08.

If Teresa Lasseter did not issue a statement then I would like to know if she gave my complaint to Dennis Taitano to work on. I would like to know if there is a record on file of Dennis Taitano issuing a statement concerning the resolution of my complaint. If there is no record on file of Dennis Taitano issuing a statement then I would like to know if Mr. Taitano gave my complaint to you to work on.

Teresa Lasseter's staffmembers may be able to provide you with information concerning my complaint. I know of 2 of her staffmembers who are aware of my complaint as follows:

- a) James Meidinger, [James.Meidinger@wdc.usda.gov]*
- b) Becky Vaughan, [Becky.Vaughan@wdc.usda.gov]*

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

--

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"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: letter of inquiry
From: Robert Eichhorn
To: Phyllis.Fong@oig.usda.gov
Date: 07/27/09 12:50 PM

7/27/09

To: Phyllis Fong
Inspector General
USDA
Washington, DC

Phyllis,

I want to inform you that I sent a letter of inquiry to your office. I sent the letter by certified mail so I can confirm that the letter was delivered to your office on July 13. I realize you have been out of your office for several weeks, so the letter may have been given to one of your staffmembers for investigation.. If you receive my letter please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com

--

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"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: letter of inquiry
From: robertone@email.com
To: Phyllis.Fong@oig.usda.gov
Date: 12/06/09 03:51 PM

12/6/09

To: Phyllis Fong
Inspector General
OIG/USDA
Washington, DC

Phyllis,

I sent a letter of inquiry to OIG last July and I requested information concerning what has happened to a USDA farm subsidy complaint I sent to Teresa Lasseter, FSA/Administrator, in October 2008. I requested a statement concerning the resolution of my complaint from Teresa Lasseter. It has been over one year now and I have not received a statement from her.

Four months have passed since OIG received my letter of inquiry and I have not received any correspondence from OIG. Also, I sent a e-mail to you dated 7/27/09 to inform you about my letter of inquiry.

I have some information for you that may help OIG's investigation. According to a FSA/The Fence Post article entitled 'Agency Leaders Prepare to Depart, Administrator Lasseter Bids Final Farewell', and dated January 16, 2009, Teresa Lasseter left FSA on January 20, 2009.

I sent a e-mail to the following FSA Administrators to inquire about my complaint:

- 1) Dennis Taitano [e-mail sent May 13, 2009]
- 2) Jonathan Coppess [e-mail sent September 7, 2009]

At this point in time, I have not received a response from either of these individuals.

My question is what has happened to my USDA farm subsidy complaint at the FSA/Office of the Administrator, and why have I not received a statement concerning the resolution of my complaint.

For reference, my complaint concerns USDA farm subsidies given to Hutterite colonies in the USA, and you can refer to my complaint as 'Hutterite USDA farm subsidy complaint'.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Robert Eichhorn
robertone@email.com



"Robert Eichhorn" <robertone@email.com>

Subject: your email
From: USDA HOTLINE
To: 'robertone@email.com'
Date: 12/16/09 01:59 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Eichhorn,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence with the Inspector General, Phyllis Fong. This email, dated 12/6/09, refers to previous emails and a letter. Your prior email of July 27, 2009, was received by the Inspector General's office. However, to date your certified mail which is referenced in the July 27, 2009, e-mail has not been received.

Please resubmit your complaint by responding to this e-mail or by sending your complaint to:

USDA – OIG

Hotline

PO Box 23399

Washington, DC 20026-3399

To date, your complaint has not been acted upon as we do not have enough information to proceed.

Sincerely,

The USDA OIG Hotline

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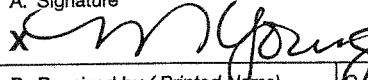
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☐ Addressee

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C. Date of Delivery

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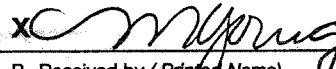
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M. Young

C. Date of Delivery

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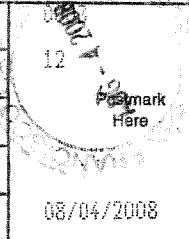
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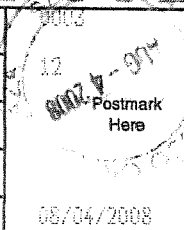
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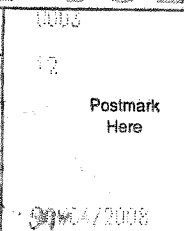
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Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$4.04

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Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$4.04

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Your item was delivered at 7:40 AM on August 25, 2008 in
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Label/Receipt Number: **7008 1140 0000 8952 0937**
Status: **Delivered**

Your item was delivered at 11:48 AM on August 22, 2008 in
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Label/Receipt Number: **7008 1140 0000 8952 0920**
Status: **Delivered**

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Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$3.87

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Postage	\$	\$0.72
Certified Fee		\$2.70
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$3.42

Sent To **JOHN JOHNSON - USDA**
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Postage	\$	\$1.17
Certified Fee		\$2.70
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$3.87

Sent To **TERRY JACKSON - USDA/OGC**
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Postage	\$	\$2.38
Certified Fee		\$2.70
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$5.06

10/06/2008

Sent To **TERESA LASSETER-USDA**
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7008 1500 0001 8143
T905 T000 0001 9002

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Label/Receipt Number: **7008 1300 0001 5061 8143**
Status: **Delivered**

Your item was delivered at 9:02 AM on October 14, 2008 in
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WASHINGTON DC 20250

Postage	\$	\$1.68	0003
Certified Fee		\$2.70	12
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00	
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$4.38	11/17/2008

Sent To **TERESA LASSETER - USDA**
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Postage	\$	\$0.42	0003
Certified Fee		\$2.70	12
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00	
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$3.12	11/17/2008

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Postage	\$	\$1.68	0003
Certified Fee		\$2.70	12
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00	
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$4.38	11/17/2008

Sent To **GLEN KEPPY - USDA**
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Postage	\$	\$1.68	0003
Certified Fee		\$2.70	12
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00	
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$4.38	11/17/2008

Sent To **TERRY JACKSON - USDA**
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Label/Receipt Number: 7008 1140 0002 0192 1529
Status: **Delivered**

Your item was delivered at 8:12 AM on November 24, 2008 in
WASHINGTON, DC 20250.

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Label/Receipt Number: **7008 1140 0002 0192 1505**
Status: **Delivered**

Your item was delivered at 11:56 AM on November 24, 2008 in
WASHINGTON, DC 20250.

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Label/Receipt Number: **7008 1140 0002 0192 1512**
Status: **Delivered**

Your item was delivered at 11:21 AM on November 21, 2008 in
WASHINGTON, DC 20250.

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Label/Receipt Number: **7008 1140 0002 0192 1499**
Status: **Delivered**

Your item was delivered at 9:58 AM on November 21, 2008 in
WASHINGTON, DC 20250.

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Equal Housing Opportunity

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

TOM VILSACK
AG SEC (2009)
USDA
WHITEN BLDG
STOP 0101 RM 200-A
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20250

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

7008 1140 0002 0196 9767

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

x B A Jenkins

☒ Agent☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

B A Jenkins

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ YesIf YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

☒ Certified Mail☐ Express Mail☐ Registered☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise☐ Insured Mail☐ C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)

☐ Yes

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

ED SCHAFER
AG SEC (2008)
USDA
WHITEN BLDG
STOP 0101 RM 200-A
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20250

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

7008 1830 0004 9634 4443

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

x B A Jenkins

☒ Agent☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

B A Jenkins

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ YesIf YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

☒ Certified Mail☐ Express Mail☐ Registered☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise☐ Insured Mail☐ C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)

☐ Yes

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

CHUCK CONNER
DEPUTY AG SEC (2008)
USDA
WHITEN BLDG
STOP 0101 RM 200-A
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20250

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

7008 1140 0002 0196 9750

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

x B A Jenkins

☒ Agent☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

B A Jenkins

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ YesIf YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

☒ Certified Mail☐ Express Mail☐ Registered☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise☐ Insured Mail☐ C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)

☐ Yes

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Postage	\$	\$2.36
Certified Fee		\$2.70
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$2.20
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$7.26

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Sent To **TOM VILSACK - USDA**
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 City, State, ZIP+4 **WASHINGTON, DC 20250**

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Postage	\$	\$2.36
Certified Fee		\$2.70
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$2.20
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$7.26

Postmark Here
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Certified Fee		\$2.70
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$2.20
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		\$0.00
Total Postage & Fees	\$	\$7.26

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Postage	\$ 1.39	0003
Certified Fee	\$ 2.80	Postmark Here
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	\$ 0.00	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	\$ 0.00	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 4.19	07/07/2009

Sent To	PHYLLIS FONG - USDA INSPECTOR GENERAL
Street, Apt. No.; or PO Box No.	1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE SW
City, State, ZIP+4	WASHINGTON, DC 20250

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Label/Receipt Number: 7008 1830 0001 9646 1891

Class: **First-Class Mail®**Service(s): **Certified Mail™**Status: **Delivered**

Your item was delivered at 8:27 AM on July 13, 2009 in WASHINGTON, DC 20250.

Detailed Results:

- **Delivered, July 13, 2009, 8:27 am, WASHINGTON, DC 20250**
- **Arrival at Unit, July 13, 2009, 6:40 am, WASHINGTON, DC 20022**
- **Acceptance, July 07, 2009, 11:22 am, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102**

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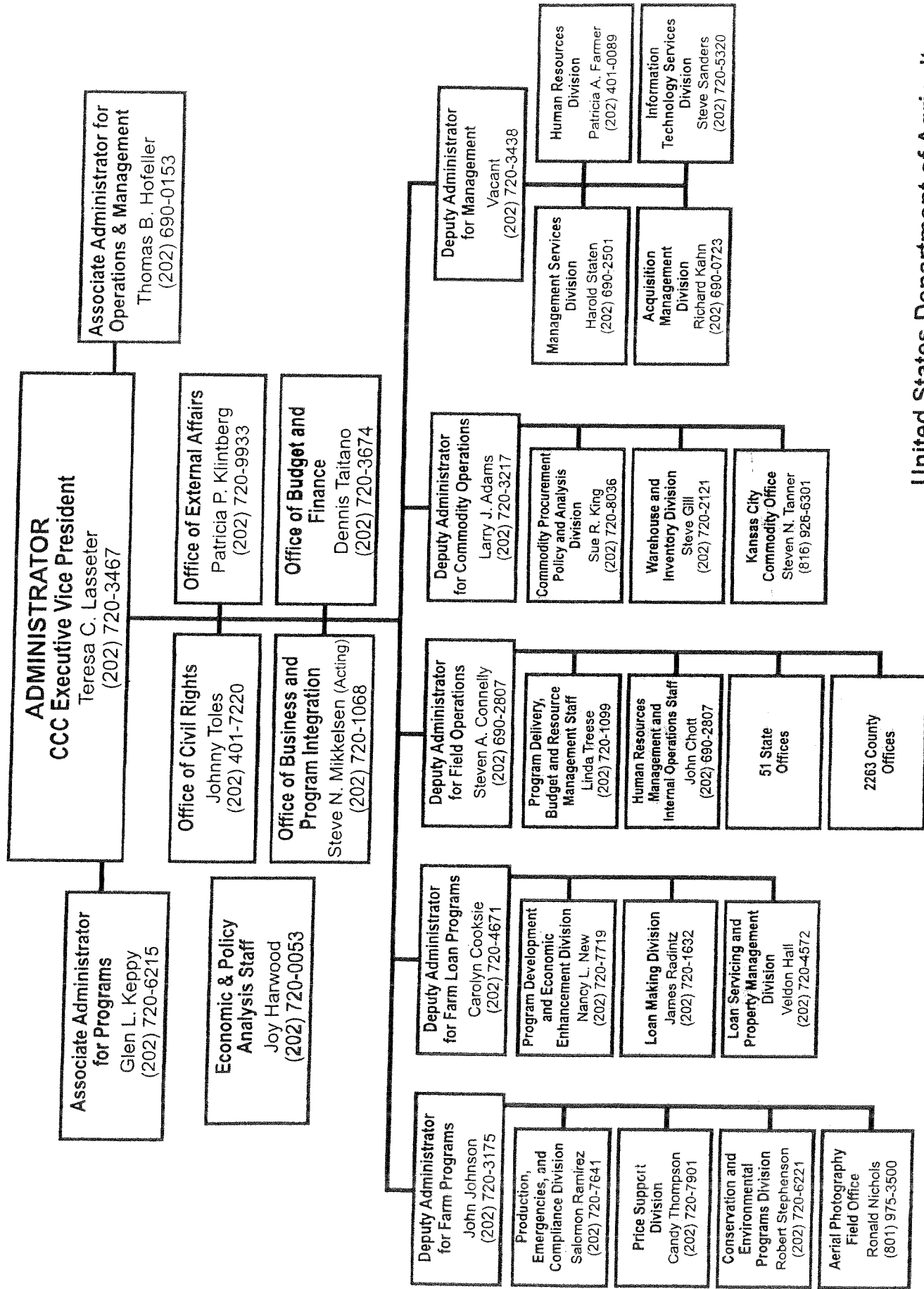
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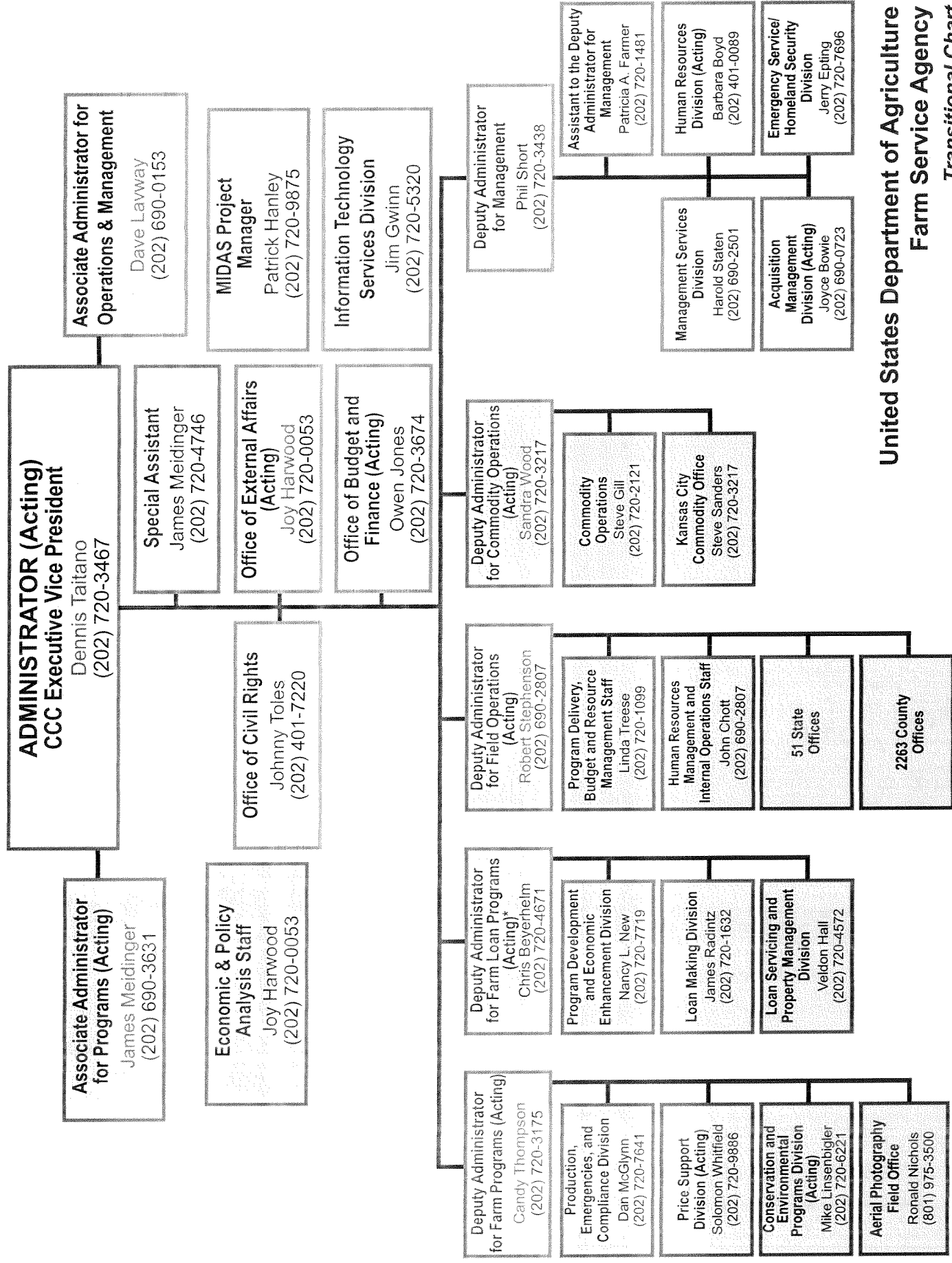
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**United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency**
*Transitional Chart
Updated March 16, 2009*

Political Appointments to be made

*Carolyn Cooksie is acting Deputy Under Secretary, FFAS



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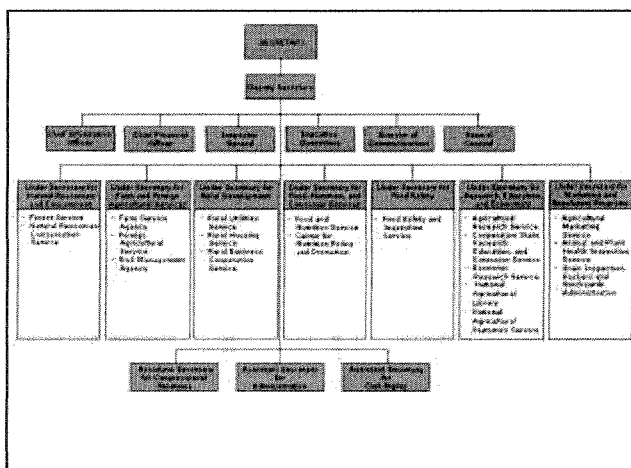
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USDA Organization Chart

USDA Organization Chart

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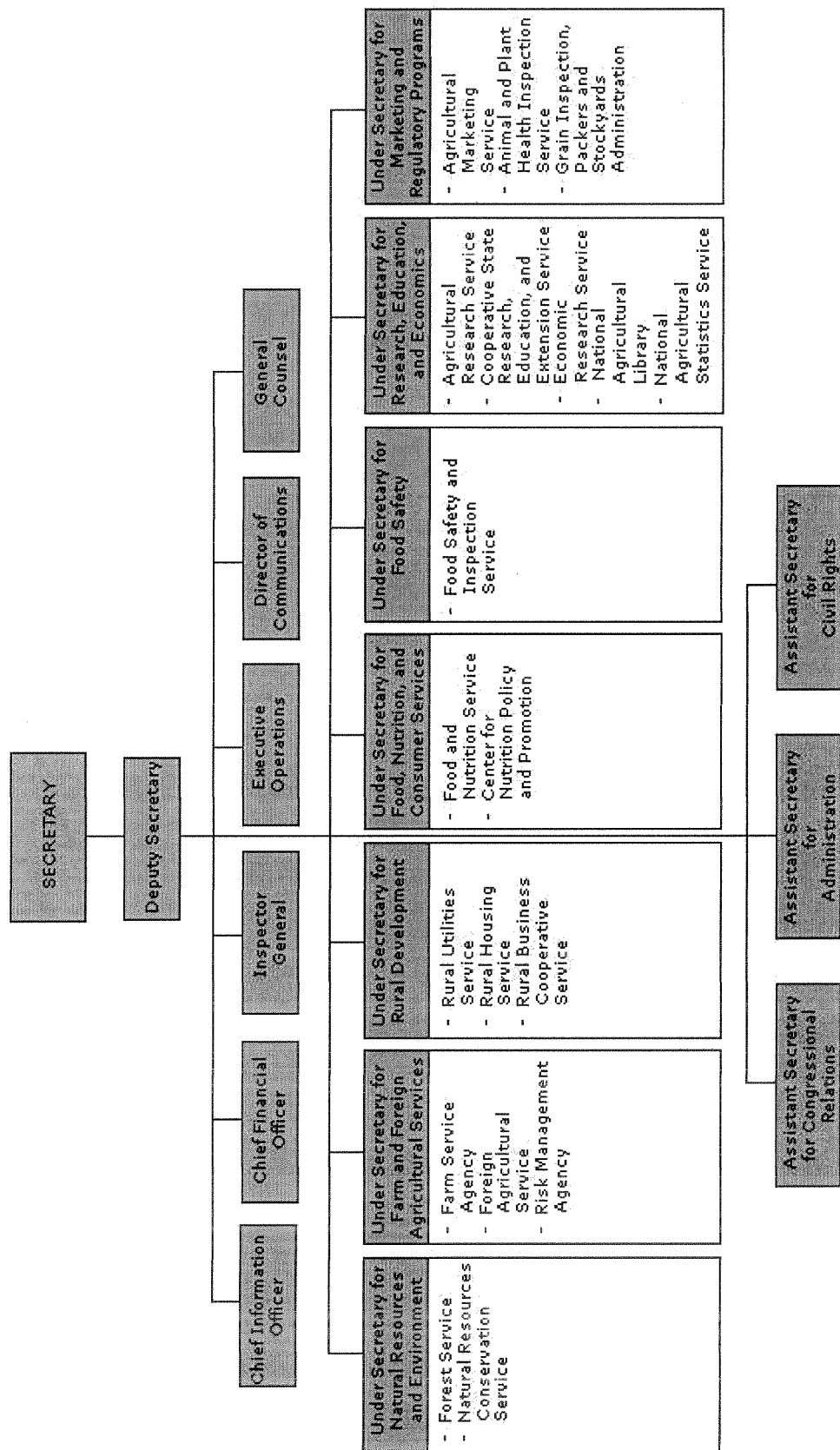
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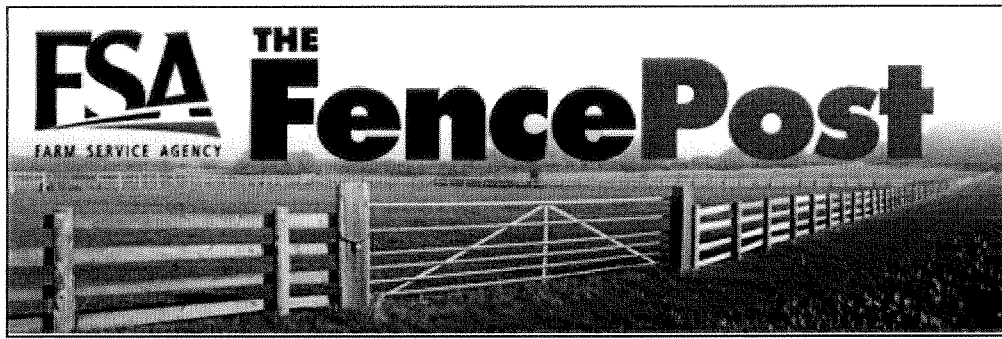
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**January 16, 2009****Issue 1****Agency Leaders Prepare to Depart, Administrator Lasseter Bids Final Farewell**

The daily 8 a.m. meetings in the FSA administrator's office have been peaceful and a bit reflective for the past two weeks. Nevertheless, business has not stopped.

Progress reports on the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill still lead most conversations, followed by updates on the MIDAS project and, of course, budget matters. Still, the aura is one of completion and the passing of the baton. But for now, the baton is being handed off to a team of career employees, very busy place keepers until a fresh group comes in carrying a new torch.

On Jan. 21, Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs Carolyn Cooksie will become the acting administrator for FSA. She has implied that the shorter her "acting" career, the more tolerable is the stage. Already she has said that she is eager to have just the one title that she has borne for several years. However, that will be up to a new president and secretary of agriculture, one to take office next Tuesday and the other already in the sidelines awaiting his orders to begin.

For those leaving FSA – Administrator Teresa Lasseter; Associate Administrators Tom Hofeller and Glen Keppy; Deputy Administrators John Johnson, Steve Connelly and Larry Adams; Office of External Affairs Director Patricia Klintberg; and Assistants to the Administrator John "Moot" Truluck, Mike Wild and Adam Guzzo – this week completes their assignments to FSA, which extended through several years of dramatic change.

In the states, it means most executive directors will be leaving, but a few have been asked to stay in place to work with the new political leadership.

On Thursday, Administrator Lasseter sent all employees an email:

Today will be my last day in the office and I will be officially gone from FSA as of noon, Tuesday, January 20. I want to express to each of you my sincere thanks for all the support and cooperation you have given me as your FSA Administrator.

We have accomplished much the past three years, often with limited resources and tight timelines. Many times I felt I was asking the impossible but you always came through! The best example I can give you is the Improper Payment situation we found ourselves in and how we made vast improvements – by working together and working diligently!

I have many fond memories from my 31 years around the agency, but serving as your Administrator has been the most rewarding as I had the pleasure of getting

to know many of you, visiting your offices, learning more about agriculture in your states and helping solve various challenges you faced. As I have said to you many times before, you should feel good about yourselves because of the contribution you make to our great country, our farmers and ranchers. The mission of FSA is important to the well being of our country!

My USDA email will be disconnected after 10:00 am today and I want each of you to have my personal contact info. Please feel free to contact me at Teresa.....@ (omitted).

No one knows for certain how long the transition will take, but many at headquarters have recalled what occurred in 2001, when the agency operated for a year or longer without associate and deputy administrators. It took until November 2001 for all 50 states to have their state executive directors in place.



Administrator Teresa Lasseter (back to camera) meets with her staff of associate and deputy administrators in her office for one of her last morning briefings. Lasseter became FSA Administrator in October 2005.



Following a recent staff meeting, FSA Administrator Teresa Lasseter (left) briefs Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs Carolyn Cooksie. Lasseter is passing responsibility for the agency to Cooksie who will be acting administrator until the Obama Administration names its appointee to the position.