



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Biden Administration Appoints Whitney Place to Serve as State Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Minnesota

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 19, 2022— The Biden Administration recently appointed Whitney Place as the new State Executive Director (SED) for the USDA Minnesota Farm Service Agency (FSA). Place joined the Minnesota FSA team on Jan. 18, 2022.

“Individuals selected to serve as FSA State Executive Directors are incredible public servants who have a proven track record when it comes to their commitment to advance their states and communities,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “Each will serve on the frontlines, carrying out USDA’s mission at the state level and ensuring the voice of each and every USDA customer is heard. We are fortunate to have each of these talented individuals at this critical time for farmers and producers and rural communities across America.”

Place has extensive experience in state government. She has served in various roles at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, most recently as Assistant Commissioner. As Assistant Commissioner, Place led state efforts around water quality, pesticides, industrial hemp, dairy assistance, and rural mental health. Place earned a B.S. in Applied Plant Science and an M.S. in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy from the University of Minnesota. She grew up in Okabena, Minnesota where she learned about agriculture in her high school FFA program and on her family’s farms.

As SED, Place will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of FSA programs to agricultural producers in Minnesota. These commodity, conservation, credit, and disaster assistance programs ensure a safe, affordable, abundant, and nutritious food, fiber, and fuel supply for consumers.

“The State Executive Director is a pivotal leadership position for the Agency and for the agricultural producers we serve,” said Marcus Graham, FSA Deputy Administrator for Field Operations. “These leaders, appointed by the Biden-Harris Administration, bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their respective states. We are happy to have them on board and wish them much success.”

Farm Service Agency serves farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural partners through the effective, efficient, and equitable delivery of federal agricultural programs. The Agency offers producers a strong safety net through the administration of farm commodity and disaster programs. Additionally, through conservation programs, FSA continues to preserve and protect natural resources and provides credit to agricultural producers who are unable to receive private, commercial credit, including targeted loan funds for beginning, underserved, women and military veterans involved in production agriculture.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

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