



OASCOE

Ohio Association of FSA County Office Employees

August 26, 2008

Mr. John Stevenson
State Executive Director
Ohio Farm Service Agency
200 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

On behalf of our OASCOE membership, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sharing information concerning the distribution of the newly received 16 FTE's for Ohio. Our members are encouraged and energized by this welcome news as we begin the process of administering another New Farm Bill in Ohio. As we indicated in our meeting with you today, our association cannot participate in the development of a plan to distribute these positions to Ohio County Offices. However, OASCOE does support the following:

- ✓ An "Open and Transparent" Process For Distributing the 16 FTE's
- ✓ An Ohio Administrative Notice to Fully Explain the Formula Used and COF Priority List For Distributing the FTE's
- ✓ Expedited Distribution and Advertisement of the New COF Positions
- ✓ If any Part-Time positions are authorized with the new FTE's, an explanation in an Ohio Notice to summarize the difference in benefits between a part-time position and a full-time position (i.e., Earning Leave, Health Insurance Premiums, etc.)

Again, we thank you for the opportunity for our association to receive an update from FSA management on the distribution of these new positions. We believe the addition of these 16 FTE positions will ultimately improve the service Ohio producers will receive as we implement another New Farm Bill. If you have any other information to share with our association concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

For A Better OASCOE,

John P. Gaynor
OASCOE, President

cc: Mimi Garringer, AO