

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250**

**SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1076-010
January 21, 2015**

**Delegation of Authority
Cooperative Agreements Related to Outreach and Technical Assistance for
Farm Service Agency Programs**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to delegate authority within the Department to enter into cooperative agreements with nongovernmental organizations or educational institutions related to outreach and technical assistance for Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs.

2. DELEGATIONS

The Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services (FFAS) is hereby delegated the authority vested in the Secretary under section 607(b)(4) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4)) to enter into cooperative agreements with nongovernmental organizations or educational institutions related to outreach and technical assistance for FSA programs. This authority is further delegated to the Administrator, FSA.

This delegation allows the Under Secretary for FFAS and the Administrator, FSA to enter into cooperative agreements to reach beginning, underserved and veteran producers through targeted outreach activities and technical assistance. This will improve the effectiveness and coordination of FSA programs that affect rural areas. This authority is limited to cooperative agreements of less than \$100,000. In addition, any such agreements that focus on outreach activities to beginning, underserved or veteran producers should be coordinated with the Office of Advocacy and Outreach to reduce potential duplication.

3. EXISTING DELEGATIONS

The existing delegations to the Under Secretary for FFAS in 7 C.F.R. § 2.16(a)(1)(xxviii) and the Administrator, FSA in 7 C.F.R. § 2.42(a)(50), concerning the authority to administer cooperative agreements under 7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4) with respect to conservation programs, are revised to broaden the scope of the delegations beyond conservation programs in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum.

All other prior delegations of authority, administrative regulations, and other directives not inconsistent with the provisions of this Memorandum shall remain in full force and effect.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

This delegation is effective immediately and will remain in effect for one year from the effective date, or until such earlier time as the Department's published delegations of authority have been revised to incorporate the provisions of this memorandum.

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/s/Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary