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Todd Batta Named Executive Assistant to Farm Credit Administration Chairman and CEO

McLEAN, Va., Oct. 19, 2017—Todd Batta has been named executive assistant to FCA board chairman and CEO Dallas P. Tonsager. The appointment was effective Oct. 18. He replaces Wendy R. Laguarda, who was recently named FCA inspector general.

"Todd's years of experience both on Capitol Hill and at USDA make him particularly well suited for this position," said Chairman Tonsager. "Already, his understanding of congressional affairs and his considerable knowledge about agricultural policy issues have served this agency well. This new position will allow him to bring even more value to the agency."

Mr. Batta joined the Farm Credit Administration in January 2017 as deputy director for congressional affairs. In this position, he supported FCA's congressional liaison activities.

Prior to joining FCA, Mr. Batta was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as the assistant secretary for congressional relations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In that role, he served as the principal political adviser to the secretary and subcabinet on legislative, budget, and regulatory issues.

From April 2012 to June 2014, Mr. Batta was a senior adviser in the Office of the Secretary where he provided strategic political and policy advice to the secretary and deputy secretary. He worked specifically on the USDA's annual budget and legislative and regulatory issues facing the Rural Development, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Food Safety and Inspection Service mission areas.

From September 2011 to April 2012, he served as legislative director of USDA's Office of Congressional Affairs where he coordinated the office's work to communicate USDA's legislative agenda and budget proposals with members of Congress, congressional staff, and stakeholders.

Before joining USDA, Mr. Batta was a legislative assistant in the office of U.S. Senator Herb Kohl from November 2009 to August 2011. From November 2005 to November 2009, he served as a member of the Democratic professional staff on the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. He began his career on Capitol Hill in the office of U.S. Senator Tom Harkin in August 2001, advancing to the position of director of scheduling.

Mr. Batta is a graduate of Winona State University in Winona, Minn., where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

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The Farm Credit Administration is the safety and soundness regulator of the Farm Credit System. The System consists of two government-sponsored enterprises—a nationwide network of cooperative banks and associations established in 1916, and a secondary market entity known as the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac) that was established in 1988. The System's borrower-owned banks and associations provide credit to farmers, ranchers, residents of rural communities, agricultural and rural utility cooperatives, and other eligible and creditworthy borrowers. Farmer Mac provides a secondary market for agricultural real estate loans, rural housing mortgage loans, and certain rural utility loans. Members of the FCA board are Dallas P. Tonsager, board chairman and CEO, and Jeffery S. Hall.

Note: FCA news releases are available on the web at <u>www.fca.gov</u>.