Briefing for the
Office of Advocacy and Outreach
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Establishment of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO)

- The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) mandated the establishment of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach within the USDA.
Responsibilities of OAO

- Improve access to programs of the USDA.
- Improve the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
Programs for OAO

The Office is proposed to include programs and functional areas, including:

Programs

• Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program
• Farm Worker Coordinator Program
• Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program
• Higher Education Institutions Program
• Others to be determined
Programs for OAO

The Office is proposed to include programs and functional areas, including:

**Functional Areas**

- Community Engagement
- Accountability
Stakeholder Process to Establish Office  
(Achieving Support and Buy-In)

Conducted three (3) collaborative work sessions –

- External and internal USDA stakeholders
- Internal USDA stakeholders
- Final workgroup to review proposed structure, and
- USDA mission areas were consulted.
Stakeholder Process to Establish Office
(Achieving Support and Buy-In)

The stakeholders recommended:

• Office structure
• Outline of duties and functions of each component structure
• Requisite skills competencies and experience for all personnel
  who will work in the office, and
• Grade levels for the personnel
Staffing Plan for OAO

The following positions are posted for staffing on October 1:

- The Director
- Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program Director
- Farm worker Coordination Program Director
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program Director
Budget

OAO Budget
President’s Budget for FY10 $3 million
House $3 million
Senate O
Budget

- $3 million (New Positions)
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program ($15M 2008 Farm Bill)
- Visitor’s Center/People’s Garden, 1890, 1994, HSI (Existing are central charges)
The OAO Will Be Operational

October 2009