



**For Immediate Release**  
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### **FCA board receives update on operations of the recently elevated Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion**

McLEAN, Va., May 11, 2023 — At its monthly meeting today, the FCA board received a report from the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion (OEEOI).

On Jan. 31, 2023, the FCA board voted unanimously to approve the reorganization of OEEOI and appointed Thais Burlew as office director. The reorganization elevates OEEOI to a level equal to that of other FCA offices and provides additional resources and staff to carry out its mission. It is a priority of the Biden-Harris administration to take a whole-of-government approach to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

"I was impressed with the accomplishments and direction I heard today from OEEOI to help the agency maximize opportunities to reach out to underserved groups when recruiting for agency positions and to best fulfill our mission of serving all of agriculture," said FCA Board Chairman and CEO Vincent Logan. "I thank FCA Board Members Jeff Hall and Glen Smith for their support to elevate the office. I'm excited to work with Thais and her team to build and cultivate a strong, diverse workforce focused on supporting the agency's vital mission of ensuring a safe, sound, and dependable source of credit for the nation's farmers and ranchers."

In her presentation to the board, Ms. Burlew noted that the reorganization also made other key staffing changes, including creating a new position with a special focus on outreach and employment. This position will support internal and external efforts related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. FCA recently appointed Tyler Fish to fill that position. Mr. Fish serves as senior advisor and assistant to the OEEOI director. He comes to FCA with an extensive background in federal government, including service in the White House and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Rounding out the OEEOI leadership team is Sara Lynn Major, who was appointed FCA's chief diversity officer in 2021. In this position she serves as coordinator for the Special Emphasis Programs, which were created to promote and foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in FCA's workforce.

#### **Notational votes**

Since the April 13 FCA board meeting, one notational vote has occurred. Notational votes are actions the FCA board takes between board meetings.

On April 24, the board approved the extension of the temporary appointment of Joseph Connor as acting director of the Office of Secondary Market Oversight. Mr. Connor will serve for an additional period of time not to exceed six months or until the board appoints a permanent director.

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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), which 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. FCA news releases are available on the web at [www.fca.gov](http://www.fca.gov).