



For Immediate Release

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Farm Credit Administration announces key staff selections

McLEAN, Va., Sept. 22, 2021 — The Farm Credit Administration recently made four key staff selections:

- Sara Lynn Major as FCA chief diversity officer in the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion
- Autumn Agans as deputy director for the Office of Regulatory Policy
- Dan Fennewald as deputy director for the Office of the Director and Chief Examiner in the Office of Examination
- Ward Griffin as deputy general counsel in the Office of the General Counsel

“I am excited to welcome these individuals to their new roles,” said FCA Board Chairman and CEO Glen Smith. “I look forward to working with each of them as they help strengthen our efforts to ensure a safe and sound source of credit for our farmers and rural communities.”

“The individuals that FCA has selected for these positions are exceptionally well qualified to take on the responsibilities of these roles,” said FCA Board Member Jeff Hall. “Their leadership experience and commitment to our mission will keep the agency in good stead.”

Sara Lynn Major

Based in the FCA headquarters office in McLean, Ms. Major has long served a dual role in the Office of Examination as a senior examiner and as the recruitment coordinator. For the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, she also served as coordinator for the Special Emphasis Programs, which were created to improve the workplace environment by promoting and fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

In her new role, Ms. Major will serve as the chief diversity officer, a new position created in response to an [executive order](#) President Joe Biden issued on June 25. She will also continue to perform certain functions in the Office of Examination. Ms. Major joined FCA in 1989 after receiving a Bachelor of Science in finance, and personnel and industrial relations from the University of South Carolina.

Autumn Agans

Also based in McLean, Ms. Agans has worked in the Office of General Counsel for the past six years. In addition to serving as alternate designated agency ethics official, Freedom of Information Act officer, and Privacy Act officer, she has worked on a variety of important regulatory and policy projects since coming to FCA. In her new role, she will serve as deputy director of the Office of Regulatory Policy, which manages the agency's policy and regulation development activities.

Ms. Agans joined FCA in 2015. After earning a Bachelor of Science in business management from North Carolina State University, she went on to earn her master's degree in trust and wealth management from Campbell University School of Business and her Juris Doctor from Campbell University School of Law. Ms. Agans came to FCA after working in private practice litigation.

Dan Fennewald

Based in FCA's Bloomington, Minnesota, field office, Mr. Fennewald has served as director of the Office of Examination's Examination Guidance Division since 2012. In his new role as deputy director of the Office of Examination, he will assume several new responsibilities and continue to oversee the functions of the Examination Guidance Division.

Mr. Fennewald joined FCA in 1987 after receiving a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri – Columbia. He was commissioned as an FCA examiner in 1991 and became a capital markets specialist in 2000. He was the associate director of examination and supervision of the Office of Secondary Market Oversight from 2007 to 2012.

Ward Griffin

Based in McLean, Mr. Griffin joined FCA in July as deputy general counsel for the Office of General Counsel. His responsibilities include assisting the general counsel in providing legal services to the FCA board and the agency. He will also manage the Office of General Counsel's team of attorneys on all legal issues that FCA faces.

Mr. Griffin earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Florida, where he majored in finance. He simultaneously earned a second bachelor's degree in history. He also holds a law degree from William & Mary.

Mr. Griffin came to FCA from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, where he had worked in a variety of legal positions since 2008. During that time, he also served a detail with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Earlier in his career, he was an attorney with the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board in Washington.

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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.