

John Smythe, California State Executive Director United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency

John Smythe has 17 years of dedicated service as USDA's Farm Service Agency State Executive Director of California. He is well-known and trusted by California agricultural leadership for his management experience and integrity.

In this most recent year (2007), John directed the delivery of a \$283 million portfolio of FSA programs for commodity support, disaster recovery, conservation and environmental resource protection. In addition, John managed FSA's agricultural lending team that provided \$102 million in credit resources to California farmers and ranchers.

John has served in this top capacity as State Executive during three consecutive Presidential Administrations and four Farm Bills, to consistently manage up to 200 full-time employees in 30 county FSA offices across the Golden State. He first accepted FSA's top state position in 1989 and served to 1999, returning in 2001 and remaining since then. John's longevity has insured the effective delivery of federal agricultural programs to farmers and ranchers throughout California, America's number one state in agricultural production.



Prior to his returning as FSA State Executive Director, John assisted Net Horsepower, Inc with their North American expansion, as the Vice President of Operations for this innovative online agricultural trading and information corporation. The Horsepower Trading Platform (HTP) is a proprietary on-line marketplace that enables farmers and other agribusiness companies to transact business with one another over the Internet on a global scale.

John started on the ground in FSA and worked his way up to the top management position in the State. He started with the agency in 1977 and in 1978 became the County Executive Director for Mendocino and Lake Counties in the northern part of the State. From there he went south to the San Joaquin Valley community of Hanford where he took charge of the Kings County Office as County Executive Director. Moving further up the management chain of command, John next became the District Director overseeing eight FSA offices from just north of Sacramento to the Oregon border.

John's knowledge of agriculture and more than 30 years of exemplary service to the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency has earned him the *Administrator's Award for Service to Agriculture* and the *USDA Honor Award* bestowed by USDA Secretary Ann Veneman, as well as other numerous honors and awards.

John is a proud graduate of the California State University system, receiving his Bachelor's of Science in Political Science and a minor in Business Management at CSU Chico in 1973. John is married with two children and resides in Woodland, California.