

**Statement of FCA Board Member Jill Long Thompson
at the FCA Board Meeting
December 9, 2010**

The Farm Credit System has a proud history of serving agriculture in the United States and has played no small part in strengthening our rural communities. As the oldest Government sponsored enterprise (GSE), it has long been a model for partnering modest incentives with private enterprise. It is a privilege to serve on the Board of the Farm Credit Administration and to have the opportunity to advance policy that ensures the safety and soundness of the System and that also more completely fulfills the obligations of a GSE.

There are real and tangible benefits associated with GSEs. With those benefits come responsibilities, one of which is to ensure outreach and service to a diverse constituency that is reflective of the diversity among our citizenry. Quite simply, there is not enough diversity in the Farm Credit System and the Farm Credit Administration. We can do better.

It is the responsibility of the Farm Credit Administration to set the direction and to provide the supervision that is necessary to make certain the System is appropriately and effectively reaching a diverse base of creditworthy borrowers. I am pleased that we have placed on the Unified Agenda a review of potential policies that would ensure Farm Credit System banks and associations are, in fact, reaching such a diverse base. Our review is a positive move to addressing the issue. I would like to see our work on this issue progress more quickly and believe we must make every effort to make the necessary resources available to staff.