

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

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April 14, 2015

Re: inclusion and consultation with USDA Farm Service Agency concerning focus groups

To address the needs and preference of the USDA Farm Service Agency in each of the counties proposed for the focus groups, I completed telephone conferences with each of the FSA county executive directors during the weeks of March 30 and April 6, 2015. We discussed the proposed focus groups, their design and objectives. Each contact confirmed that a systematic evaluation of the delivery of the conservation programs provided under the Farm Bill have not been conducted in their counties or at a higher level. All agreed that the information would be useful to them and expressed support for the focus groups. None wanted to be directly involved in conducting the focus groups. Within 90 days after completion of the focus groups I will provide each of the three county FSA offices report summarizing the findings of the focus groups, I will also arrange a time to meet and present the findings in person with each of the county offices.

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Regards,

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