



STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Rural Development Announces Administrator for Rural Business-Cooperative Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 2017 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced the appointment of Bette Brand as the Administrator of Rural Development’s Rural Business-Cooperative Service, effective January 8.

Bette Brand comes to Rural Development with more than 35 years of experience at Farm Credit, a major financial partner to America’s rural communities. Most recently, Brand served as a chief advocate for the agricultural industry by overseeing the Farm Credit Knowledge Center. Prior to this, Brand oversaw the business development of a \$1.6 billion credit portfolio. Brand is a longtime member of the Virginia Agribusiness Council, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Horse Council. Previously, Brand served on the boards for the Virginia Cooperative Council and the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Gov. Mark Warner appointed her to serve on the public board at the Virginia Horse Center. Brand holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

As Administrator of Rural Development’s Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Brand will manage a portfolio of more than \$6 billion in loan, grant and loan guarantee programs that help rural Americans start and grow businesses, creating jobs and helping ensure rural prosperity.

USDA Rural Development encourages partners and stakeholder groups to reach out to Brand in her new role to build on existing partnerships and facilitate new relationships.

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