

**Opening Statement of Richard Fordyce**  
**Nominee for Under Secretary of Farm, Production and Conservation**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
**Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**

**July 23, 2025**

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and distinguished members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Production and Conservation mission area. I want to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve in this role, and I want to thank Secretary Rollins for her trust and confidence in supporting my nomination.

Since I was five years old, I knew I wanted to be a farmer. That early passion for agriculture has been the driving force throughout my life, shaping my decisions and inspiring my commitment to learning, growing, and giving back to the agricultural community. Every step of my career in agriculture has been marked by a willingness to raise my hand, take on challenges, and contribute to the strength and resilience of our farming systems.

My farmer volunteer journey began on my local county Farm Bureau board and led to leading the Young Farmer programs in both Missouri and the American Farm Bureau. I have served the soybean checkoff for a total of over 25 years, both on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and the United Soybean Board. My passion for soil conservation led to an appointment to the Missouri Soil & Water Districts Commission, where I ultimately served as Chair. Some of this volunteer work caught the eye of Governor Jay Nixon and he asked me to join his administration as Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Following the Nixon administration, I was appointed as the Missouri State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency, serving in that role for 6 months. I was then appointed as the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency.

This personal journey guides my vision for the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area: to deliver an effective, efficient, predictable, and transparent service to farmers across the nation. At FPAC, we have a duty to serve as a steadfast ally to those who work tirelessly to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. This means not only providing consistent support for our producers, but also modernizing the tools used for delivering these programs across the mission area by our amazing and dedicated staff.

Disaster payments are one such critical tool, and my commitment is to align them with the goals set forth by President Trump and Congress—making them more timely, fair, and impactful. Our farmers deserve nothing less than a system that supports recovery and resilience in the face of adversity.

Additionally, I believe in the incredible potential of private and public partnerships to drive innovation and success in agriculture. By fostering collaboration between government, private industry, and communities, we can unlock new opportunities and create solutions that benefit both producers and consumers alike.

Together, with a shared commitment to the values of integrity, transparency, and service, we can ensure that FPAC continues to be a beacon of support and progress for America's farmers and ranchers. This covers all aspects of FPAC, including programs that support conservation of our vital natural resources, programs designed to respond to disasters, and tools to help manage risk and access to credit, all of which are so vitally important to agriculture. This vision is not just about today—it's about building a sustainable, thriving future for the next generation of agricultural leaders.

To the members of the Committee, I appreciated the time to have met with many of you and your respective staff before today's hearing. The opportunity to learn about what is important to you and the people of your state was invaluable. My commitment would be to continue those conversations, so we are as well informed on all the various issues across these great United States.

I am truly humbled to be considered for this position. If confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership, and using the experience gained through my years of varied agriculture leadership, to support the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency, all of which make up the FPAC mission area.

I have always raised my hand, dedicating my life to the service of improving our industry. I look forward to working with this committee in the future and I thank each and every one of you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.