

One week after Brian Hisey graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Agricultural Economics, he went to work serving others through the Farm Service Agency. Now 33-1/2 years later, Hisey is retiring from FSA. He was honored Friday, Dec. 18 during a reception at the Wagoner Service Center where he has served as Wagoner County FSA Executive Director since 2000. Wagoner Mayor Albert Jones proclaimed Friday as "Brian Hisey Day" in the community of Wagoner. He commended Hisey for "going above and beyond his job requirements and for the civic duties he has fulfilled." State Representative Wade Rousselot, D-Okay, presented the honoree with a citation of recognition from the State House of Representatives. The citation read in part, "Brian has always demonstrated personal integrity, dedication and genuine compassion for Oklahoma ranchers and farmers." "Thank you for the opportunity to serve the residents of Wagoner County for 15 years, which is almost half of my 33-1/2 year career," Hisey said. "I want to tell everyone thanks! I'm not going anywhere (in retirement), so I hope to see you down the road."

As Wagoner County FSA Executive Director, Hisey manages a staff of employees and works to administer various authorized federal farm programs. Among those many programs is the Farm Bill, which he calls a "pretty tough piece of legislation to get passed." Hisey has worked through seven of them, covering various commodity, conservation, disaster assistance and low interest loan programs for various farm storage facilities. The Farm Bill directs budget-driven food and nutrition program, including food stamps and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. "I've been working for an agency whose mission statement is to serve American agriculture" either through farm programs that I've worked under or our farm loan program," Hisey explained. "We are here to sustain the American family farmer." Hisey said his favorite aspect of his job is being able to help farmers and working with land owners and producers. He has worked in three different county offices including one in Arizona. "The farmers we deal with take on huge financial risks in their operations each and every day so that Americans have a safe and abundant food

supply," he explained. "Each one of us takes for granted where our food is produced and the effort it takes to get it to our tables." "They get lines of credit and borrow money for crops or to buy cattle," he continued. "When they can't quite make ends meet because of drought, ice storms or poor crop yields, we have programs that will help sustain them and keep them in business. That's the idea with our programs." Hisey reminded there are a number of reoccurring programs offered for farmers as well. These permanent programs do not require authorization by Congress and are there to help livestock producers. The FSA County Executive Director applauded what he calls his "great staff" over the years. "I've hired a lot of people and a couple of people have moved on and advanced their careers. I'm pretty proud about that," he admitted. Hisey said he has truly enjoyed his long career with Farm Service Agency. However, with computers and software programs constantly changing, "it's just time to move on." "I'm really going to retire, take it easy and see what happens," he said. Hisey said he hopes to get back into cycling and acquire a boat to do a little fishing. He also looks forward to having time to do some carving, yard work, landscaping and some travel with his wife, Earline.