

## **OPEDA WORKING FOR YOU**

For several decades candidates for national office in our country have relied of a strategy of campaigning with a promise to weed out waste, fraud and abuse of power in the Federal Government. A sub-theme is that federal employees are therefore compliant in the causing this situation, and are incompetent, not worthy of their benefits and plush offices, and surely over-paid. This continuous drum beat puts OPEDA on the front line, in a continuing effort to point out that these accusations are far from the actual truth!

For over 85 years The Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of agriculture (OPEDA) has worked every day to point out the many specific accomplishments and hard work of USDA employees.

OPEDA is on the job to advance and protect the interests of USDA professional employees. In keeping with our policy of maintaining a good working relationship with USDA Secretary's Office, we have maintained offices in the Washington, D.C headquarters complex for many decades. As new administrations are elected, we have been able to establish cordial working relations with every succession of USDA personnel officers, and with key administrators in every USDA Agency. Our continuous emphasis is to point out the exceptional accomplishments of our many highly educated and trained professional employees—and the need to provide continued opportunities for more education and training that lead to career advancement.

For many decades, OPEDA had been the USDA employee representative member on the Federal –Postal Coalition. The Federal-Postal Coalition is made up of 31 national organizations that collectively represent five million federal and postal workers. Included in this Coalition are such organizations as: The National Association of Federal Veterinarians, The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, The Professional Managers Association, and the Senior Executives Association.

By means of OPEDA's membership in the Federal-Postal Coalition, you are represented on the many Congressional discussions-- and decisions-- related to federal employee work force issues such as: health and life insurance, retirement, and earned pay. Congressional hearings often include the Coalition staff, and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management—on the same side of the issues under consideration.