



*of the*

*The Organization of Professional Employees*

*U.S. Department of*

*Agriculture(OPEDA)*

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**Subject: The 2020 Unsung Hero Award Program**

**TO: Undersecretaries Agency Heads**

**FROM: Ali Muhammad, President, OPEDA**

**DATE: February, 2020**

Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated since 1985, the first Monday through Sunday in May, is a time set aside to better inform the American public about the broad variety of important services provided by our government. Each year the President of the United States issues a proclamation extolling the value of public service and thanking the many talented and dedicated employees who serve our country.

In keeping with this spirit, the Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA), partnering with USDA Offices and Agencies and Departmental Administration, has established a tradition of hosting a special celebration to honor and recognize the many public service contributions of our USDA employees in execution of our programs.

USDA employees (managers, supervisors, and peers) are requested to submit nominations for the Unsung Hero Award no later **than March 31, 2020**, for individuals who have demonstrated a high level of service to the public directly related to the employee's duties. The nominations will be reviewed by a group of expert panelists established by OPEDA, and outstanding USDA employees will be selected for recognition.

This year's program observation is tentatively planned for **May 7, 2020** on the Patio of the Whitten Building

Attached is the award nomination form. Please distribute these forms as widely as possible within your organization. Thank you for your continued support in helping us to recognize the

valuable public service contributions made by USDA employees.

Cc: Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Don Bice