

MEDIA ADVISORY:

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**AGRICULTURE DEPUTY SECRETARY MERRIGAN TO VISIT OHIO ON  
MONDAY**

*Merrigan to Highlight President Obama's "United We Serve" Summer Service Initiative  
at Cleveland Foodbank*

**WASHINGTON**, July 17, 2009 – On Monday, July 20, Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will take part in the Obama Administration's 'United We Serve' initiative by visiting and touring the Cleveland Foodbank. Merrigan will also highlight that as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Ohio food banks will be able to purchase about 2.8 million additional pounds of food to feed hungry families.

The purpose of the 'United We Serve' initiative is to incorporate volunteerism and community service activities into the daily lives of all Americans in order to strengthen the nation's foundation of service, one community at a time. The 'United We Serve' summer initiative began on June 22 and runs through the National Day of Service and remembrance on September 11.

The President's call to participate in this program focuses on four key areas where everyone can have a continuing impact in their community: education, health, energy and the environment and community renewal. All Americans can create news service projects, find service projects in their communities and to share stories about projects that are making a difference, by visiting [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov).

The Cleveland Foodbank Inc. was founded in 1979 and provides food and critical nonfood products to local nonprofit agencies which serve hungry individuals across northeast Ohio. In 2008, it distributed 21.7 million pounds of food to 451 local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other agencies such as child-care centers and homes for the elderly in the counties of Cuyahoga, Ashland, Richland, Lake Geauga, and Ashtabula. The foodbank also administers the Ohio Benefit Bank to assist families in need access USDA's assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

**WHAT:** Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will visit the Cleveland Foodbank as a part of the Obama Administration's 'United We Serve' initiative.

**WHEN:** Monday, July 20, 2009  
9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** Cleveland Foodbank Inc.

**15500 South Waterloo Road  
Cleveland, OH 44110**

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