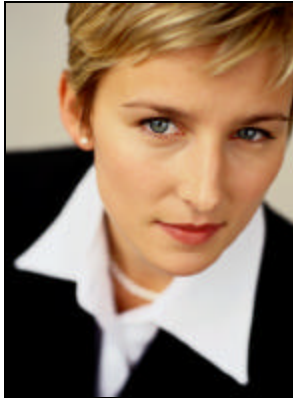


POLICY / LEGISLATIVE GATEKEEPERS



Paula Grey

Professional Staff Member, Senate Agriculture Committee

- 42-years-old
- Divorced, 1 child
- Law degree
- Very comfortable using a computer, intermediate Internet user, with high-speed connection at work and DSL at home for daughter
- Uses email extensively; accesses web about 2 hours a day for work

"Is this information right?"

Paula gathers information that will help her prepare economic analysis for the Senate Agriculture Committee and its staff. She is interested in the economic impacts and cost estimates of legislation.

She obtains a great deal of her information from the Internet, now that increasingly most of the data, articles, and reports she regularly uses are available online. Some of the sites she uses are: AgWeb.com for timely news, NASS for raw data, and ERS for in-depth reports. She also obtains information from FAPRI, THOMAS, the Congressional Research Service, Mann Library, and the Farm Service Agency.

For her, accuracy and credibility of the information she uses is key, but keeping abreast of the latest issues on a timely basis is also very important.

She values ERS for its unbiased research and regularly refers to ERS' *Agricultural Outlook*, especially the Statistical Indicators section. She also uses the staff directory to find subject experts.

Paula maintains a deep passion for jazz and plays the piano. She plays regularly with a friend's band.

Key Attributes

- Concerned about providing valued information for policy and legislation decisionmaking process
- Focused and fact and detail-oriented
- Broad knowledge of agricultural legislation and issues

Tasks

- Researches information pertinent to current legislation
- Prepares economic analysis for committee members and staff
- Attends and performs briefings
- Keeps abreast of current issues that may impact or have been impacted by policy and legislation

Informational Goals

- Broad subject focus
 - Looks for background information related to policy and legislative issues
 - Seeks expert analysis and direct access to subject matter experts for quick answers
 - Seeks information on a need-to-know basis
 - Keeps very up to date on current issues
 - Needs accurate and credible information (absolutely critical)
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