



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

July 11, 2012

Dear Stakeholder:

Last month President Obama designated Dr. Parham to serve as USDA's Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration. Dr. Parham will be acting in this role until a permanent replacement is found for Mr. Pearlie S. Reed, who recently retired from the post. The trust and confidence Secretary Vilsack and President Obama have in Dr. Parham is a tribute to his leadership and a testament to APHIS' ability to effectively serve our employees and stakeholders in these challenging fiscal times.

Rest assured Dr. Parham has every intention of returning to the role of APHIS Administrator. In his absence, however, I want to provide a brief update on leadership changes here in the Office of the Administrator to ensure a seamless transition while Dr. Parham's away. Dr. Parham has asked me to serve as the Agency's Acting Administrator, and I've asked Dr. Peter Fernandez to act in my role as Associate Administrator.

Dr. Fernandez has been with APHIS since 1990 and some of you may recall that he served as the Agency's Associate Administrator from 2002-2005. The bulk of Dr. Fernandez' APHIS career has been spent with our International Services program helping to facilitate trade for producers here in the United States. Most recently, he was stationed in Bogota, Colombia as the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean region and prior to that he was in Brussels, Belgium for six years as the Minister Counselor at the U.S. Mission to the European Union. Dr. Fernandez' international expertise and perspective will be a valuable asset to our office at a time when demand for agricultural products abroad is boosting U.S. farm exports to record levels.

As far as day-to-day Agency operations, we're conducting business as usual, which means we're working on a diversity of issues representing all of our program areas with the goal of being responsive to the needs of our stakeholders. We'll continue to keep you updated on significant Agency announcements and I want to remind you we have an open door policy if you would like to share your perspective or engage us on any specific issues.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shea  
Acting Administrator



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