



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Washington, DC
20250

May 7, 2012

Dear Stakeholder:

I am pleased to announce the recent selection of Dr. Terry W. Clark as APHIS' National Tribal Liaison. You may already have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Clark in the past, as he has been with APHIS since 1991. Dr. Clark started his APHIS career as a Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) in the Veterinary Services (VS) program. Since then, he's held numerous positions in VS, most recently serving as the program's Tribal Liaison. In this role, Dr. Clark, a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, built many partnerships and became well known in Indian Country as a trusted partner. In his new leadership role, he will continue to build upon and expand these relationships while also providing strong internal communication and coordination on Tribal issues.

Dr. Clark's promotion comes at a time when APHIS is implementing a number of positive changes to enhance our communication and collaboration with Tribal Nations. Back in November, you may recall, APHIS announced a number of business process improvements, including one effort specific to Tribal Consultation with the goal of establishing consistent and methodical processes. That effort is underway now, and Dr. Clark will be instrumental in continuing to:

- Establish communication networks and reporting protocols for Tribal consultation.
- Assess, develop, and implement Tribal consultation training for APHIS State level managers to support their role as consulting officials.
- Restructure the APHIS Native American Working Group (ANAWG) to better serve the Tribes and APHIS.
- Expand partnerships with Tribal nations, Tribal organizations, and other Tribal entities.
- Educate APHIS and the Tribes on the importance of Tribal relationships and the importance of taking Tribes into consideration in policy/program development and changes.
- Continue to coordinate external outreach to our State partners to inform them about APHIS' Tribal consultation focus and efforts.

In keeping with our commitment to strengthen Tribal partnerships, APHIS issued a new Directive in January 2012 outlining our policy concerning consultation with Native American Tribal Governments. APHIS' Policy implements President Obama's Executive Order (EO) 13175. The EO directs agencies to ensure that Tribal perspectives on the social, cultural, economic, and ecological aspects of agriculture, as well as Tribal food and natural-resource priorities and goals are



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heard and fully considered in the decision-making processes of all parts of the Federal Government.

Dr. Clark will play an integral role in ensuring our Agency adheres to the EO and APHIS' policy. The result will be more informed decision-making by Agency leaders based on the perspectives of not just States and stakeholders but Tribal partners as well.

In the months ahead, Tribal Nations can expect more communication and outreach from Dr. Clark as well as Agency program managers and field staff. While this effort is focused on Tribal Nations, we want all of APHIS' many stakeholders to be aware of our commitment to strengthening this vital relationship.

I look forward to working closely with Dr. Clark in his new position and I hope many of you will have the opportunity to do so as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gregory L. Parham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gregory L. Parham
APHIS Administrator