AGENDA

8:50 am  Welcome/Opening Remarks
9:00 am  FSIS Priorities and Direction for 2021
9:30 am  What to Expect from a Biden Administration
10:00 am Foreign Material Detection: State of the Science
10:30 am The Future of Human Resources
11:15 am Rural Development Funding for Small Processors
11:45 am Department of Labor Wage and Hour Compliance Resources
12:15 pm Lunch Break
1:15 pm  Commodity Price Risk Management for Processors
1:45 pm  Appendix A&B Update
2:30 pm  FSIS Roundtable Discussion
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PAUL KIECKER

ACTING DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY
USDA/FSIS

Paul Kiecker was named as the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for the Office for Food Safety for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in January 2021. In this role, Kiecker will oversee the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which has regulatory oversight for ensuring that meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled. He will also serve as chair of the U.S. CODEX Policy Committee and will offer expert scientific guidance to the CODEX Program, an international food standards-setting body of 189 member countries that protects consumer health and sets international food standards.

Kiecker previously served as FSIS’ Administrator. In this capacity, he executed a budget of over $1 billion, advanced the Agency’s vision and goals, and led innovative solutions to challenges. He has spearheaded strategic planning and implemented FSIS’ Strategic Goals 1: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health; 2: Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches; and 3: Achieve Operational Excellence. His efforts are strategically moving the Agency forward.

Kiecker has been with FSIS for more than three decades, and throughout that time, he remained committed to ensuring the Agency meets its food safety public health goals.
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Phil helps clients navigate Capitol Hill and executive agencies on issues related to food and agriculture. He draws on more than 23 years of experience with congressional budgets and annual appropriations as well as four years leading an executive branch trade agency whose 1,300 employees spanned the globe.

Phil's practice areas include:
- Meat & Poultry
- Food Service, Restaurants, & Retailers
- Feed & Pet Food
- Trade Policy & Regulations
- Dietary Guidelines
- Farm Bill
- Public Policy
- Checkoff Programs
- Domestic Food Assistance Programs
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FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD SAFETY NET SERVICE’S PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AT FSNS.COM!
Olga Pawluczyk is the co-founder and CEO of P&P Optica (PPO), based in Waterloo, Ontario, part of Canada’s largest and fastest-growing tech community. Olga is an expert in medical imaging, with a technical background in systems engineering and deep knowledge of the science of spectroscopy. Under the leadership of Olga and her co-founder, her father Romek Pawluczyk, PPO launched in 2004 as a research company focused on developing high-end spectrometers. Olga assumed full leadership of the company in 2010 and has grown the company from a research-driven organization to focus on commercialization across different industries (oil and gas, space exploration, medical applications). Olga pivoted the company over the past 6 years to focus exclusively on building quality and safety solutions for the food processing industry. Olga is driven by the opportunity to combine emerging hardware and software technologies to significantly improve the nutritional quality, safety, and sustainability of our food.

Olga participates regularly as an advisory board member in both the meat industry and the Canadian tech sector, with organizations such as Communitech and Ontario Centres of Excellence. She is an active member of the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) Foreign Materials Committee. Olga has a BASc (Engineering) from the University of Waterloo; an MSc (Medical BioPhysics) from the University of Toronto, and an MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University.
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David Barron is a shareholder at the Houston office of Cozen O'Connor. David partners with clients to offer practical solutions to labor and employment problems of all sizes and shapes before they end up in litigation. That might mean helping a human resources professional with a complicated disciplinary action or helping a Fortune 500 CEO respond to a union campaign. David understands his clients' businesses and works tirelessly and creatively to make a client's goal his goal. Because of David's common-sense approach to labor and employment issues, he is often quoted in newspapers and magazines. He has also appeared as an employment law professional on talk radio and local CBS and Fox affiliates. David is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the state of Texas and has been named a Texas Super Lawyer Rising Star in Texas Monthly magazine. When not helping clients, David can be found leading his son's Boy Scout troop, running a marathon, or hiking on a mountain.
Quynh Gonzales is the Founder and Managing Partner at QMG Global, a Human Resources and Operations consulting firm specializing in people and process improvements. Since its inception, QMG has contributed to the success of various organizations in the areas of talent acquisition and retention, compliance, benefits/compensation, due diligence in M/A, and deployment of lean manufacturing and six sigma initiatives.

Quynh has over 20 years of experience working in midsize and fortune 500 companies successfully transforming organizational culture, executing, and driving strategic and tactical HR programs and practices for multi-site manufacturing organizations in oil/gas, retail, food, and healthcare. Prior to starting her own company, Quynh has held leadership roles at Halliburton, Harbor Freight Tools, Trinity Industries and Danaher Tools. She is a consummate HR professional with an entrepreneurial spirit.

Quynh earned her BA from the University of Rochester and MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three growing children. If not travelling, you can often find her on weekends at one of the many soccer complexes in Collin County as a cheering spectator for each of her children or an avid participant at a game.
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BILLY CURB

COOPERATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY SPECIALIST
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In 1990, Billy Curb was selected as the Texas Commercial Loan Specialist of Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As state specialist, Billy leads the agency’s efforts to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural Texans. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

Billy has dedicated his professional career to working for agricultural and rural interests. He currently serves as the Texas Renewable Energy Coordinator with USDA Rural Development.

He has gained familiarity with Texas electric and agriculture cooperatives while serving as a Texas Cooperative Specialist since 1995. For 38 years, he has worked with USDA in various capacities, including the Texas Environmental and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator.

During the period of 1986-1990, Curb was County Supervisor for the USDA Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) in Paris, Texas. Prior to that position, he served as Assistant County Supervisor in Mount Pleasant, Texas for FmHA.

Curb holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Tarleton State University.
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Jose began his Wage and Hour career as an investigator in the Houston District Office in January 2009. During his tenure with the Wage and Hour Division Jose has served as an instructor for various National office courses offered for newly hired investigators, as well as providing training to delegates of the countries of Paraguay and Qatar. Jose has also mentored several new investigators. Lastly, Jose has received various Secretary’s Exceptional Achievement Awards, a Regional Administrator Award, and several other awards for the work he has done.

Jose was born and raised in Puerto Rico, but has lived in Texas since 1996. Jose served in the U.S. Air Force, in active duty, being stationed in Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Jose earned a Bachelor of Science in Technology degree in Civil Technology/Construction Management from the University of Houston – Main campus. After completing his undergraduate degree, Jose went on to work in the private sector as a Field Engineer for a major general contracting firm from Colorado. Eventually, Jose would decide to go into public service, and was hired by the Social Security Administration in 2002, as a Service Representative. Later, while continuing to work full time, Jose earned a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.
ADAM STOUT
RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
STONEX FINANCIAL

Mr. Stout is a Risk Management Consultant for StoneX Financial, Inc., where he specializes in offering risk management services to the livestock and meat industry. He joined the company back in 2005 and today helps his customer base of livestock producers, meat processors, and end users such as retail outlets and restaurant chains by providing consulting and advisory services as well as the execution of hedge strategies using exchange-traded futures and options and over the counter (OTC) instruments. He received both his Bachelor of Business Administration and Mathematics degrees from William Jewell College in Liberty, MO.
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Dr. KatieRose McCullough serves as a director of regulatory and scientific affairs at the North American Meat Institute, where she provides expertise on various topics, including meat science, food safety, and public health. At NAMI, McCullough works to ensure policies are created on a sound science-based foundation. McCullough also serves as the Senior Science Advisor to the Foundation for Meat and Poultry Research and Education, working with industry to fund projects and develop research priorities related to food safety.

McCullough received her Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Texas Tech University, her Master of Science in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University with research focusing on meat quality and her Doctorate of Philosophy in Animal Science from Colorado State University with her research focusing on food safety. McCullough also holds a Master’s in Public Health from the Colorado School of Public Health focusing on Animals, People, and the Environment.
Dr. Jennifer Beasley-McKean is currently the District Manager of the USDA FSIS OFO Dallas District Office, which oversees plants in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. She has worked in the Dallas District Office for the past ten years. After graduating from LSU’s School of Veterinary Medicine in 1993, she worked for five years in mixed animal private practice before joining FSIS. Her FSIS career began in poultry slaughter plants, and after five years she was promoted to Staff Officer with the former Technical Service Center, now the Policy Development Division, where she gained experience in a wide range of regulatory issues and policy. She was promoted to the Dallas District as a Deputy District Manager in 2005 and became District Manager in 2007. Her in-plant experience was primarily poultry slaughter and raw processing, but she also spent time working with Labor and Employee Relations Division (LERD) staff on personnel issues, and has extensive background in export issues, labeling, and various types of processing. She received her undergraduate degree at Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

Dr. JENNIFER BEASLEY-McKEAN

DISTRICT MANAGER
USDA/FSIS DALLAS DISTRICT