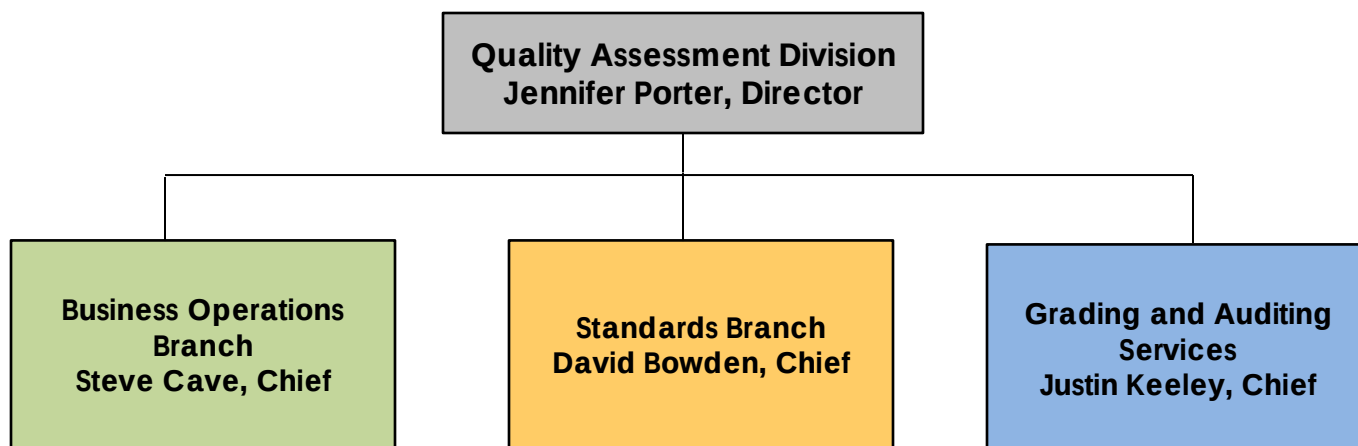




QAD's **Business Operations Branch** handles the administrative, personnel, budget, billing, and related operational duties for carrying out the Division's activities. BOB activities include hiring and managing staff issues for the entire QAD workforce, billing for QAD customers, budget and planning activities, managing training programs to ensure a well-skilled workforce, and maintaining cooperative agreements with State partners. BOB is headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas.

QAD's **Standards Branch** develops and maintains the Federal standards for egg, meat, and poultry quality and nomenclature. This branch also participates in the development of national and international standard-setting organizations with the objective of facilitating the marketing of U.S. agricultural products. QAD is staffed by experts in their respective fields and works collaboratively with other USDA and Federal agencies on domestic and international trade programs.

QAD's **Grading and Auditing Services Branch** houses the majority of QAD personnel (i.e., commodity graders and auditors). In large measure, commodity grading is managed as it was prior to the merger of the two grading divisions in July of 2013: Poultry and egg grading services are overseen by a regional structure (east, central, and west), each overseen by a director. Beef grading services are managed on a nationwide basis by one director. Each commodity section has a number of front-line supervisors located strategically near major service areas. Audit and verification programs (e.g., Process Verified Programs, Quality Systems Assessment) are managed by two supervisors with nationwide purview. Auditors are strategically located around the United States. *As QAD continues to find efficiencies, particularly in the areas of management and supervision of front-line graders, it is expected that some of these staff members will have evolving areas of responsibility and coverage. Changes will be communicated as they occur.*