



Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program
Quality Assessment Division
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3932-S, STOP 0258
Washington, DC 20250-0201

February 18, 2015

QAD Stakeholders:

The Agricultural Marketing Service's Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program is committed to providing high-quality grading, certification, auditing, and standardization support for the U.S. agricultural industry through the Quality Assessment Division (QAD). We continue to work to find ways to provide these services in as cost-effective a manner as possible, while remaining focused on the quality and integrity behind the USDA shield. As we continue to evolve in QAD after the merger of meat, poultry, egg grading and related functions in 2013, I wanted to share a few additional staffing changes.

First, our Meat Graders and Meat Grading Supervisors will move under the supervision of three Regional offices. QAD, which now encompasses grading activities for beef, veal, lamb, shell egg, rabbit, and poultry – in addition to commodity reprocessing and certification work – has nearly 570 Federal employees plus 350 State employees. Moving to a Regional office structure will allow us to better provide you with efficient service, as well as support our large workforce. Gerald Brockman serves as Western Regional Director, Don Dixon as Central Regional Director, and Ben Cockfield as Eastern Regional Director.

In addition, QAD has recently appointed several individuals to National Supervisor positions, responsible for ensuring nationwide uniformity and accuracy of our USDA standards. Joel Gottlieb will serve as the National Meat Supervisor for beef, lamb, and veal grading and Mark Perigen will serve as the National Shell Egg Supervisor. In these roles, Joel and Mark serve as senior technical experts in their respective fields. While you should direct any management issues with grading service to the appropriate Regional Director listed above, Joel and Mark are always available as resources for you, as well.

Short biographies for the individuals listed above and a map showing the breakdown of Regions are attached. A complete organizational chart and phone list are available on our website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/QAD>. Regional Directors will visit many of the red meat plants now under their purview so I hope you will have a chance to meet them personally.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (202) 690-3147.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Porter".

Jennifer Porter
Director

Attachments