

CRAIG A. MORRIS, PH.D.
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
LIVESTOCK AND SEED PROGRAM
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. Craig A. Morris serves as the Deputy Administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Livestock and Seed Program. One of five commodity programs in AMS, the AMS Livestock and Seed Program is headquartered in Washington, DC, and maintains offices throughout the United States to serve the agricultural community and industry. The major functions performed by the Livestock and Seed Program are:

- Meat grading and certification services, including application of the USDA beef grades;
- Livestock, meat, and grain market news services, including oversight of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program;
- Audit-based marketing programs that are available to suppliers of agricultural products and services, including the USDA Process Verified Programs and Beef Export Verification Programs;
- Oversight of research and promotion programs, including the beef, pork, lamb, sorghum, and soybean “checkoff” programs;
- Development and maintenance of standards and purchase specifications for livestock and meat products, including the Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications;
- Seed regulatory and testing activities, including oversight of the Federal Seed Act; and
- Oversight of the mandatory Country of Origin Labeling program for muscle cuts and ground beef (including veal), lamb, chicken, goat, and pork; perishable agricultural commodities (fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables); macadamia nuts; pecans; ginseng; and peanuts.

Dr. Morris has spent his entire professional career as a part of the meat and poultry industry. Prior to joining the AMS Livestock and Seed Program as their Deputy Administrator, Dr. Morris served as the Deputy Administrator and, before that, Associate Deputy Administrator of the AMS Poultry Programs where he had oversight of the Agency’s services provided to the chicken, turkey, egg, and rabbit industries. Earlier work experience with the Agency included serving as an Assistant to the Deputy Administrator and an International Marketing Specialist for the AMS Livestock and Seed Program in Washington, D.C.. Apart from government service, Dr. Morris served as the Assistant Vice President of Food Safety for Future Beef Operations, LLC, in Arkansas City, Kansas, and as the Manager of Scientific and Technical Affairs for the American Meat Institute in Washington, DC.

Dr. Morris was born in St. Louis County, Missouri, and spent part of his childhood growing up in suburban Dallas and Houston, Texas. Dr. Morris received his Bachelor of Science degree with Distinction in Animal Science from Iowa State University and served as a Regent’s Graduate Fellow while earning his Doctorate in Animal Science from Texas A&M University. Dr. Morris and his wife have two sons and reside in Fairfax Station, Virginia.