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Sec. Vilsack makes 48 appointments to key USDA posts

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Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced 48 more names on Friday, filling key posts at USDA “effective immediately” in agencies ranging from the Farm Service Agency and the Foreign Agricultural Service to the Food and Nutrition Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. These 48 names follow the announcement earlier on Friday that Sec. Vilsack had officially named John Norris as his Chief of Staff and Carole Jett as Deputy Chief of Staff, confirming our report in the Jan. 21, 2009 issue of Agri-Pulse.

- Carolyn Cooksie, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS);
- Linda Treese, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA), FFAS
- Patricia Sheikh, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), FFAS
- Dennis Taitano, Acting Administrator, FSA
- Sandra Wood, Acting Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations, FSA
- Candy Thompson, Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, FSA
- Chris Beyerhelm, Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs, FSA
- Robert Stephenson, Acting Deputy Administrator for Field Operations, FSA
- Suzanne Hale, Acting Administrator, FAS
- Robert Riemenschneider, Acting Associate Administrator, FAS
- William Murphy, Acting Administrator, RMA
- Timothy Witt, Acting Associate Administrator, RMA
- Tim O’Connor, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
- Enrique Gomez, Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- Ron Vogel, Acting Associate Administrator, FNS
- Robert Post, Acting Director, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
- Ron Hicks, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety
- Al Almanza, Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service

- Cindy Smith, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP)
- Kevin Shea, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for MRP
- David Shipman, Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service
- Kevin Shea, Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Alan Christian, Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration
- Ann Bartuska, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)
- Hank Kashdan, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Forest Service, NRE
- Doug Lawrence, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), NRE
- David White, Acting Chief, NRCS
- Leonard Jordan, Acting Regional Assistant Chief, Eastern Region, NRCS
- Diane Gelburd, Acting Regional Assistant Chief, Central Region, NRCS
- Ginger Murphy, Acting Regional Assistant Chief, Western Region, NRCS
- Katherine Smith, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics
- Colien Hefferan, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics
- Bill Hagy, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development
- Sherie Hinton Henry, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development
- Pat Fiala, Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service
- Chris Alsop, Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service
- Jim Newby, Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service
- Russ Ashworth, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration
- Russ Ashworth, Acting Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
- Robin Heard, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
- Christine Sarcone, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
- Doug Crandall, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
- Jon Holladay, Acting Chief Financial Officer
- James Michael Kelly, Acting General Counsel
- W. Scott Steele, Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis
- Joseph Glauber, Chief Economist
- Christopher L. Smith, Acting Chief Information Officer
- Larry Quinn, Acting Director, Office of Communications
- Jim Brownlee, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Communications
- Jim Brownlee, Acting Press Secretary, Office of Communications.

The USDA appointments decision notes that “This list includes several officials who have been appointed to and serve permanently in the positions identified. These designations and delegations of authority are effective immediately, and shall continue in effect for each designee either until withdrawn or until a successor is appointed to perform the functions of the office.”