

News Release

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HICKS NAMED FSA's DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR COMMODITY OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON, June 16, 1998 -- USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Keith Kelly today announced the appointment of Vicki J. Hicks as Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations. "Vicki Hicks has taken on one of the toughest, wide-ranging jobs in the Department of Agriculture," Kelly said. "I can't think of a more consummate professional in USDA capable of handling the job."

The Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations, DACO, is responsible for procurement, storage, and distribution of commodities for domestic and international feeding and humanitarian aid programs, and the management of the U.S. Warehouse Act. Domestically, DACO is called on in disaster situations to provide food assistance and emergency relief, provide food to children and others under the National School Lunch Act and the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, and provides support to other USDA agencies involved in acquisition and distribution of commodities

Internationally, DACO procures commodities on behalf of the Agency for International Development and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service for humanitarian and development use, including Title II and III of the P.L. 480 Food for Peace program, Food for Progress program, and Section 416(b) activities that allow the donation of food and feed commodities for overseas humanitarian assistance.

"These programs do more than \$1 billion worth of business a year," Kelly said. "Vicki's policy background on Capitol Hill in agriculture and international issues, and her experience as the Assistant DACO over the past 4 years gives her unique qualifications for this wide-ranging and difficult assignment. I have every confidence Vicki will do an excellent job."

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In addition to the commodity programs, DACO administers the Dairy Price Support Program; purchasing, arranging for transportation and storage, handling, and inspection of dairy products. Other activities include managing the U.S. Warehouse Act providing reliable protection for producers, regulatory supervision of the storage of agricultural products, provides warehouse receipts that can be used as loan collateral, and oversees the nondiscriminatory operation of warehouses. This office also inspects warehouses licensed under the U.S. Warehouse Act to insure compliance.

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