Farm Service Agency

United States Department of Agriculture

Biography

Bert Farrish
Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations
Farm Service Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Bert Farrish is the Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations (DACO) for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). As the Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations, Farrish is responsible for developing policies and regulations for the dairy price support program; the storage, handling and disposition of Commodity Credit Corporation's owned commodities; and for the export and domestic commodity donation programs. Under Farrish's leadership, DACO produces a uniform regulatory system for the storage of agricultural products and ensures the timely provision of food products procured for domestic and international food assistance programs and market development programs.

Before being named to this position, Farrish was President of Columbia Grain, Incorporated and helped it become one of the leading wheat exporters in the United States.

In 1997, the Secretary of Agriculture appointed Farrish to serve on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. While on the committee, Farrish helped facilitate the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promoted fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. He also worked to ensure productive and competitive global marketplaces for U.S. agricultural products.

For the past several years, Farrish has been involved in finding cost-effective ways to improve the competitive position of America's grain export industry. Farrish's strong business management background is invaluable to the Commodity Operations Division as more emphasis is placed on the marketplace.

A native of Mississippi, Farrish is actively involved in community leadership organizations. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business from Mississippi State University.

Farrish and his wife, Kay, have two sons.