



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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**Karis Gutter**

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

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As Deputy Administrator for Field Operations (DAFO), Karis Gutter is responsible the oversight and guidance for 50 state and Puerto Rico executive directors and 2,250 county offices.

Before joining the Farm Service Agency, Gutter worked as a senior policy aide for Congressman Bennie G. Thompson of Mississippi and the House Committee on Homeland Security, specializing in agro defense policy and minority agricultural issues.

As a senior policy aide on Capitol Hill for six years, Gutter worked closely with USDA and was instrumental in the congressionally directed funding, oversight, and improvement process of the Farm Service Agency. During the 2008 Farm Bill negotiations, Gutter was the chief staff member representing the Congressional Black Caucus in staff-level negotiations before the House Committee on Agriculture.

As a Senior Professional Staffer for the House Committee on Homeland Security, Gutter was responsible crafting Agricultural Defense policy strengthening food safety and security for farmers throughout the nation.

Gutter, a native of Terry, Mississippi, earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Jackson State University in Mississippi. While working on Capitol Hill he also attended the George Washington University, graduating with a master's degree in Legislative Affairs.

Gutter is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves in which he served for eight years.