



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

June 2013



**Todd Atkinson**

Acting Director, Office of External Affairs  
Farm Service Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

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Todd Atkinson was appointed in May 2013 as the Acting Director for the Office of External Affairs for the Farm Service Agency. In this capacity he oversees the offices of Public Affairs, FOIA and Legislative Affairs.

Previously, Atkinson served as Senior Policy Advisor and Chief of Staff to the FSA Administrator and Senior Policy Advisor to the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Prior to joining USDA, Atkinson was appointed to the Office of Policy for the Environmental Protection Agency where he was the EPA representative on the President's Biofuels Interagency Working Group. He also served on the Obama Presidential Transition Team for the Department of Energy and the nomination preparation teams for Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

In February 2007, Atkinson became one of the first Policy Advisors and an early developer of the Obama for America energy and environment agenda, as well as the agriculture and transportation committees.

Beginning his career in 1985 at the Bureau of Legislative Affairs at the Illinois Department of Transportation, Atkinson worked for 20 years on the staff of three U.S. Senators from Illinois, including four years as senior policy advisor on energy, environment, agriculture and transportation for then-Senator Barack Obama during his tenure on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Atkinson is a 2012 recipient of the USDA Secretary's Award and the 2011 FSA Administrator's Award for reforming the Biomass Crop Assistance Program established in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Atkinson has an MBA from the University of Maryland and an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Urbana. A native of Bethany, Ill., Atkinson's family farms in Shelby County, which was first settled by his great-great-great grandfather in 1843.