

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2008-01  
January 8, 2008

SUBJECT: Appointment of Jeffrey Grode to Emergency and Domestic Programs

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Grode as the new Associate Director for PPQ's Emergency and Domestic Programs staff, effective December 23, 2007. Mr. Grode, who has 28 years of Federal government service, began his career as a grain inspector in USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service in New Orleans, Louisiana. A few years later he transferred to APHIS and served at the Port of Baltimore as a PPQ Officer. Over a 13-year period serving at the Port of Baltimore, Mr. Grode was promoted to supervisor and then port director. Afterward, Mr. Grode served as the PPQ State Plant Health Director in Massachusetts before transferring to APHIS headquarters, Investigative and Enforcement Services branch.

In 1998, Mr. Grode joined PPQ's Port Operations staff in Riverdale as a staff officer dealing with issues ranging from solid wood packing materials from China to avocado imports from Mexico. In 1999, he became the national coordinator for Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance, a new program he helped create within APHIS. From June 2002 to July 2004, Mr. Grode was Assistant to the PPQ Deputy Administrator in Washington, D.C., and served as the chief liaison between PPQ and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). During that time, agriculture inspectors and technicians from APHIS were transferred to CBP.

In 2004, Mr. Grode became the Executive Director for Agricultural Programs and Trade Liaison at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's CBP. He had oversight of agricultural inspection policy, planning, safeguarding, and bio/agro-terrorism countermeasures, fines, penalties and forfeitures, and trade operations. These activities include preventing the introduction of plant and animal pests and diseases, preventing bio- and agro-terrorism, and facilitating trade.

Please welcome Jeff back to PPQ and into his new position as Emergency and Domestic Programs' Associate Director. He can be reached by telephone at (301) 734-3769 and his e-mail address is [jeffrey.j.grode@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:jeffrey.j.grode@aphis.usda.gov).

**/s/ Paul R. Eggert for**

Rebecca Bech  
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