

# USDA NEWS

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## We Honor 93 Award-Winning USDA Achievers

by Charlene Baker, FSIS Human Resources Staff, Minneapolis, Minn.

**U**SDA honored a number of its employees, for their outstanding achievements, at its "55th Annual Honor Awards Ceremony," which took place June 4 at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, DC.

Sandra Anglade, USDA's Employee Recognition Program Manager with the Office of Human Resources Management and coordinator of the Ceremony, said that USDA honor awards were awarded to 93 recipients, including 31 individuals and 62 groups.

149 nominations, which included 45 individuals and 104 groups, had been submitted earlier to the USDA Honor Awards Evaluation Committee. The five-member Committee reviewed those nominations and had then made its recommendations to Secretary Ann Veneman.

Veneman delivered the keynote address and then she presented the major USDA awards to the employees. In her remarks she said that "the Honor Awards show how powerful our Department is when we function as a team—working together—learning more about our different agencies and our diversity, both in mission and people."

"These awards are also a way to say 'thank you' for your dedication and service."

The highest USDA honor awards are the Plow Awards. Three individuals and three groups received Plow Awards this year. Those recipients have that particular annotation by their respective names in the lists that follow.

In addition to the 93 USDA honor award presentations, USDA's awards highlight included noting its 14 Presidential Rank Award recipients for 2000 (the December 2000 issue of the *USDA News* carried a story on those 14 employees), the USDA recipients of major awards sponsored by external organizations, and the 504 Departmental employees across the country who have 40 or more  
*continued on pg. 3...*



While Secretary **Ann Veneman** (left) and U.S. Sen. **Pat Roberts** (R-Kan.) (seated, second from left) applaud, former Secretary **Dan Glickman** (right) shakes hands with Overland Park, Kan., portrait artist **John Boyd Martin**. The occasion was the formal unveiling of Glickman's official portrait at USDA headquarters in Washington, DC, on June 7. Glickman said he had requested that his portrait include three items: a reference to his home state of Kansas, a depiction of the U.S. Capitol building, and himself in shirtsleeves—because "Everyone is always so serious, but I wanted to show that this job was terrific, and that public service can be both rewarding and fun." The portrait is now hanging in the Patio of USDA's Whitten Building. **Doug Bowers**, a history specialist with the Economic Research Service, notes that it is one of 27 portraits—of 26 former secretaries plus, even earlier, one former commissioner of agriculture—on display in the area of the Patio.—**PHOTO BY BOB NICHOLS**

## Here's Why Our Grain Was Shipped To India In A Bright Blue Box

### 55 Years Of CARE

by Amy Harding, FSA Export Operations Staff

**T**he Farm Service Agency's Commodity Office in Kansas City, Mo., recently purchased and coordinated a shipment of 44,000 pounds of grain products for a school feeding program in India.

That particular activity is all part of FSA's daily operations—but this time there was a big difference. It was definitely the first time that the grain was shipped to its destination in a bright blue shipping container decorated with oversized postage stamps from all over the world, accompanied by artwork drawn by American schoolkids.

It was all part of an effort to help the private non-profit humanitarian relief organization CARE celebrate its 55th anniversary this year in providing international relief and devel-

opment. Here's how some USDA employees helped to make it happen.

Dave Lovo, PL 480 Title II program manager in FSA's Procurement and Donations Division, explained that, following an earthquake that devastated India on January 26, 2001, the U.S. was using its PL-480 "Food for Peace" program to provide assistance. "Under the Food for Peace program," he said, "USDA buys extra crops and food from U.S. farmers and donates this food to relief organizations such as CARE. The food is then shipped to developing countries or those that need assistance as a result of natural disasters."

Accordingly, earlier this spring FSA's Commodity Office in Kansas City purchased 44,000 pounds of a high-protein corn soy mixture for a school feeding program in Vishakhapatnam, India. "We purchased it from a grain processing company in Cambria, Wisconsin, as a humanitarian aid shipment," Lovo noted.

**Jim Firth**, chief of FSA's Export Operations Branch, said that, at about that same time,  
*continued on pg. 2...*

# Secretary Ann Veneman



President George W. Bush has laid out an ambitious trade agenda, to include the launch of a new round of World Trade Organization negotiations in November, the completion of a free

trade agreement with Chile by the end of the year, and the conclusion of the Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005.

No sector of the American economy stands to gain more from this agenda than agriculture. In fact, with exports accounting for over 25 percent of farm income, agriculture is already one of the most export-dependent sectors of the economy. On average, each week American processors and producers ship a billion dollars in food and farm products to foreign customers.

But while we can take pride in the natural resources, the infrastructure, and the technology that make this possible, we cannot afford to be complacent. The long-term

prosperity of the U.S. food and agriculture sector depends on our ability to stay ahead of the competition in the global economy.

One of the most important tools we have is Trade Promotion Authority.

With TPA we can enter into agreements to eliminate trade barriers and roll back trade-distorting subsidies. The President recently said that we need the help of the agriculture community to secure TPA. It is no coincidence that the first group he met with about TPA was agriculture.

The benefits of trade to U.S. agriculture shouldn't be a hard sell. Unfortunately, we haven't been talking enough about the positive results from the Uruguay Round and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico have doubled since NAFTA took effect—a fact that often goes unrecognized. The Uruguay Round results are full of success stories—rice to Japan and Korea, for example, or the establishment of effective sanitary and phytosanitary rules that have allowed us to suc-

cessfully challenge unfair barriers.

We need to talk more about the real benefits we have gained from trade agreements and the benefits that will come from building on the process that was achieved in the Uruguay Round.

Agriculture has benefited from being brought more fully in the WTO rules and having access to the dispute settlement mechanism. The U.S. has been involved in eight ag-related cases brought to dispute settlement panels. We have prevailed in six.

Only with TPA can we continue to create new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products. Without TPA, those opportunities will be lost.

With TPA, we can maintain U.S. leadership in initiating and writing new agreements. Without it, other countries will write the future rules of trade.

These trade issues are too important—not only to agriculture and the food chain, but to the United States as well. ❖

*Bright Blue Box...continued from pg. 1*

officials involved in international humanitarian aid programs wanted to do something to spotlight the 55th anniversary of CARE. "It had been formed to help survivors of World War II," he said. "Back then, CARE meant 'Co-operative for American Remittances to Europe,' and was composed of 22 charities which sent packages of food, clothing, medicine, and other relief supplies to people in Europe and Asia after the war."

"It was thought that this particular delivery to India might spotlight CARE's humanitarian work overseas for over half a century."

So a cooperative effort began to develop among USDA, CARE, the U.S. Agency for International Development, sixth graders from an elementary school in Washington, DC, and American President Lines, which is a private sector shipping company which transports cargo around the world.

Carol Van Alstine, an agricultural marketing specialist in FSA's Export Operations Branch, added that the effort included making the school the first stop for the shipping container, a 40-foot-long cargo container which had been painted bright blue and decorated with oversized postage stamps.

"This particular container is called the 'Boomerang Box,'" she explained, "because it goes out to an international destination loaded with life-saving commodities—like the

high-protein corn soy mixture to India. Then, like a boomerang, it returns to the U.S. filled with products that are needed here."

Mike Martin, an agricultural marketing specialist in FSA's Commodity Office in Kansas City, pointed out that an FSA regulation stipulates that containers are to be inspected for cleanliness and condition prior to loading food into them. Therefore, according to Greg Tomas, assistant manager of the Baltimore, Md., field office of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, on March 9 contract inspectors in Norfolk, Va., licensed by GIPSA, inspected the empty Boomerang Box in advance of the loading of the grain products.

On March 15 the still-empty Boomerang Box arrived at Washington, DC's Ross Elementary School on a truck trailer. The sixth graders presented artwork, which they had drawn illustrating their school and hometown, to a CARE official to give to the school children at a school feeding program in Vishakhapatnam, India. "Then," Van Alstine said, "those students in India will eventually 'boomerang' their own artwork back to students in America."

Martin said that the Boomerang Box was then trucked to Cambria, Wis., where on March 21 it was loaded with the 44,000 pounds of a high-protein corn soy mixture that FSA's Commodity Office in Kansas City

had purchased earlier.

Austen Merrick, chief of the Kansas City Commodity Office's Export Operations Division, said that at Cambria, about 40 third-grade students from the Cambria-Friesland Elementary School met the Boomerang Box. "I was one of the presenters, representing USDA," he said. "Several of us spoke to the students—outdoors, in front of that big, blue Boomerang Box—about the various roles which USDA, CARE, the grain company, and the shipper all play in getting this shipment to the students in India."

Merrick noted that the students were provided a sample, for tasting, of the corn soy mixture contained in the Boomerang Box.

American President Lines had developed a web site so that students in classrooms across the nation could track the voyage of the Boomerang Box.

The Boomerang Box was then trucked to Chicago, and then moved by train to Seattle, where on April 8 it was loaded on an American President Lines cargo vessel called "APL China" for a month-long voyage to Vishakhapatnam, India. It arrived on May 25.

"This single container of 44,000 pounds equates to 10,000 child servings of 100 grams each of food," Firth underscored. "With that perspective, it's amazing to think that FSA purchased over 5.4 million metric tons of food assistance just last year alone." ❖

Award-Winning...continued from pg. 1

years of federal service. Singled out for individual recognition was **Harold "Bruno" Mangum**, a program specialist with FSA's state office in Raleigh, N.C., who has 65 years of federal service, all with USDA.

**The 31 Individuals receiving USDA honor awards included:**

*For Expanding Economic and Trade Opportunities for United States Agricultural Producers:* **James MacDonald** (Economic

Research Service), Washington, DC; and **James Sands** (National Agricultural Statistics Service), Des Moines, Iowa; *For Promoting Health by Providing Access to Safe, Affordable, and Nutritious Food:* **Mark Winne** [Plow Award] (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and the Hartford Food System), Hartford, Conn.; **Gary Beecher** (Agricultural Research Service), Beltsville, Md.; **Anthony Hall** (CSREES and the University of California), Riverside, Calif.;

**Mohammad Koohmaraie** (ARS), Clay Center, Neb.; and **John Sofos** (CSREES and Colorado State University), Fort Collins, Colo.; *For Maintaining and Enhancing the Nation's Natural Resources and Environment:* **Nancy Burt** (Forest Service), Rutland, Vt.; **Raghavan Charudattan** (CSREES and the University of Florida), Gainesville, Fla.; **James Miller** (FS), Auburn, Ala.; **Tom Quigley** (FS), La Grande, Ore.; **Andrew Sharpley** (ARS), University Park, *continued on pg. 4...*

# INDIVIDUAL HONOR AWARDS RECIPIENTS

# 50<sup>th</sup>



J. MACDONALD



J. SANDS



M. WINNE



G. BEECHER



A. HALL



M. KOOHMARAIE



J. SOFOS



N. BURT



R. CHARUDATTAN



J. MILLER



T. QUIGLEY



A. SHARPLEY



R. STATEN



B. AEILLO



J. DAY



R. GOTKOWSKI



N. GRAYBEAL



C. KRAENZLE



J. SCHICKEDANZ



D. WAYMIRE



R. HALL



A. CHASE



N. DEUTSCH



B. FRIEDEN



F. KOCHER



F. PRIDGEN



J. SHELTON



M. MASSEY



V. APODOCA



E. GARCIA



D. GREINER

*Award-Winning...continued from pg. 3*

Pa.; and **Robert Staten** (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), Phoenix, Ariz.; *For Enhancing the Capacity of all Rural Residents, Communities, and Businesses to Prosper:* **Brenda Aeillo** (Rural Housing Service), Garden City, Kan.; **Jonathan Day** (CSREES and the University of Florida), Vero Beach, Fla.; **Robert Gotkowski** (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Bourbonnais, Ill.; **Nancy Graybeal** (FS), Portland, Ore.; **Charles Kraenzle** (Rural Business-Cooperative Service), Washington, DC; **Jerry Schickedanz** (CSREES and New Mexico State University), Las Cruces, N.M.; and **Dayleann Waymire** (RHS), Covington, Ind.; *For Operating an Efficient, Effective, and Discrimination-Free Organization:* **Rosemary Hall** [Plow Award] (Farm Service Agency), Kansas City, Mo.; **Alva Chase** (Office of the Chief Financial Officer), New Orleans, La.; **Nathaniel Deutsch** (Departmental Administration), Washington, DC; **Brian Frieden** (FSA), Normal, Ill.; **Frederick Kocher** (FSA), Springfield, Ill.; **Florence Pridgen** (FS), Milwaukee, Wis.; and **Jacalyn Shelton** (Agricultural Marketing Service), Lubbock, Texas; *For Heroism and Emergency Response:* **Melvin Massey** [Plow Award] (National Association of State Departments of Agriculture), Reed Springs, Mo.; **Victor Apodoca** (FS), Pecos, N.M.; **Eric Garcia** (New Mexico State Police Department), Santa Fe, N.M.; and **Doris Greiner** (RHS), Washington, DC.

### **The 62 Groups receiving USDA honor awards included:**

*For Expanding Economic and Trade Opportunities for United States Agricultural Producers:* the National Organic Final Rule Team [Plow Award] (AMS), Washington, DC; **Kathleen Merrigan**, Group Leader; the Agricultural Market Access Database Team (ERS), Washington, DC; **Paul Gibson** and **Daniel Whitley**, Group Leaders; the European Union Export Team (Food Safety and Inspection Service), Washington, DC; **Mary Stanley**, Group Leader; the Juniper Wood Composite Development Team (FS), Madison, Wis.; **James Muehl**, Group Leader; the Multi-State Research Project—Northeast 183 (CSREES and the State Agricultural Experiment Station, Purdue University), West Lafayette, Ind.; **Peter Hirst**, Group Leader; the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act Branch Internet Training Program Team (AMS), Washington, DC; **Charles Parrot**, Group Leader; the Slaughter Surveillance Validation Team (APHIS), Riverdale, Md.; **Michael Gilsdorf**, Group Leader; and the Spokane Regional Office (Risk Management Agency), Spokane, Wash.; **Dave**

**Paul**, Group Leader; *For Promoting Health by Providing Access to Safe, Affordable, and Nutritious Food:* the Consumer Protection Task Force (FSIS), Oak Park, Mich.; **Stephen Parker**, Group Leader; the Food Safety Initiative Team (Office of Inspector General), Washington, DC; **Stephen Fowkes**, Group Leader; the Food Security Team (Food and Nutrition Service), Atlanta, Ga.; **Virgil Conrad**, Group Leader; the Healthy Eating Index Group (Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion), Washington, DC; **Peter Basiotis**, Group Leader; the Inspection Team from Establishment 9400 (FSIS), Wyalusing, Pa.; **Craig Shultz**, Group Leader; the Partnership for Food Safety Education (FSIS), Washington, DC; **Susan Conley**, Group Leader; the Performance High Impact Team (FNS), Alexandria, Va.; **Steven Carlson**, Group Leader; the Seamless Food Safety Distribution and Enforcement Group (FSIS), Chicago, Ill.; **Louis Leny**, Group Leader; and the Welfare to Work Group (FNS), Alexandria, Va.; **Floyd Wheeler**, Group Leader; *For Maintaining and Enhancing the Nation's Natural Resources and Environment:* the Living With Wildlife Team [Plow Award] (APHIS), Lakewood, Colo.; **Craig Coolahan**, Group Leader; the Cache River Watershed Project Team (NRCS), Anna, Ill.; **Richard Miller**, Group Leader; the Climate Change Negotiations Analytic Support Team (Office of the Chief Economist), Washington, DC; **William Hohenstein**, Group Leader; the Geo-Spatial Information System Partnership (NASS), Fairfax, Va.; **George Hanuschak**, Group Leader; the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District (NRCS), Carthage, Ill.; **Lori Bollin**, Group Leader; the Roadless Area Conservation Project Team (FS), Washington, DC; **Scott Conroy**, Group Leader; the Roland Wetland Restoration Team (FS), Bedford, Ind.; **Patrick Merchant**, Group Leader; the Semi-Arid Land-Surface-Atmosphere Team (ARS), Tucson, Ariz.; **David Goodrich**, Group Leader; Students Sharing Our Agricultural Roots (CSREES and the University of Florida), Belle Grande, Fla.; **Richard Raid** and **Russell Nagata**, Group Leaders; Vegetation Simulator Fuels and Fire Effects (FS), Fort Collins, Colo.; **Ralph Johnson**, Group Leader; and the Wood Magic Science Fair Program (CSREES and Mississippi State University), Mississippi State, Miss.; **Dan Seale**, Group Leader; *For Enhancing the Capacity of all Rural Residents, Communities, and Businesses to Prosper:* the Value-Added Wheat Program Team [Plow Award] (CSREES and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service), Stillwater/Alva, Okla.; **Rodney Holcomb** and **Robert LeValley**, Group Leaders; the All Hazards Early Warning System Working Group

(Rural Utilities Service), Washington, DC; **Marci Hilt**, Group Leader; the Covington Area Office (RHS), Covington, Tenn.; **Thomas Taylor**, Group Leader; the Delta-Schoolcraft and Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District (FS), Escanaba, Mich.; **Dennis Stanek**, Group Leader; the Literacy Team (CSREES and West Virginia University Extension Service), Morgantown, W.Va.; **Ruthellen Phillips**, Group Leader; the Oglala/USDA Partnership Team (RHS), Huron, S.D.; **Patrick Gross** and **Timothy Potts**, Group Leaders; the Oregon Conservation Planner Certification Cadre (NRCS), Portland, Ore.; **Roy Carlson**, Group Leader; the Program Support Operations Research Group (RHS), Washington, DC; **Richard Davis**, Group Leader; the Rural Home Loan Partnership Initiative Team (RHS), Lewiston, Maine; **Michael Hope** and **David Kent**, Group Leaders; the Southern Illinois-Southeast Missouri Outreach Project (NRCS), Mt. Vernon, Ill./Dexter, Mo.; **Roscoe Allen** and **Walter Smith**, Group Leaders; Team Oregon of Rural Development (Rural Development), Portland, Ore.; **Jerry Sheridan**, Group Leader; the Three Mile Reservoir Agency and Supporting Affiliates (NRCS), Creston, Iowa; **Robert Brown**, Group Leader; the Trinity/Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Group (NRCS), Weaverville, Calif.; **Scott Eberly**, Group Leader; and the White Earth Reservation Science and Math Program (CSREES and the University of Minnesota Extension Service), Crookston, Minn.; **Deb Zak**, Group Leader; *For Operating an Efficient, Effective, and Discrimination-Free Organization:* Audits of Electronic Benefits Transfer Systems (OIG), Beltsville, Md.; **Marlane Evans**, Group Leader; the Clerical/Support Staff (Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration), Destreham, La.; **Glenda Lasseigne**, Group Leader; the Combined Administrative Management System Team (NRCS), Beltsville, Md.; **Hans Heidenreich**, Group Leader; the Contracting and Acquisition Branch (FSA), Kansas City, Mo.; **Khristy Baughman**, Group Leader; the Document Management Imaging System Project Team (FSA), Kansas City, Mo.; **Susan Karr**, Group Leader; the Funds Reservation System Project Team (RHS), Washington, DC; **Dean Daetwyler**, Group Leader; the Interactive Data Analysis System Development Team (NASS), Washington, DC; **Mark Apodaca** and **Robert Hood**, Group Leaders; the MAJCO, Incorporated, Investigation and Prosecution Team (OIG), East Lansing, Mich.; **Andrew LaFleur**, Group Leader; the National Arboretum's Big Bugs Exhibit Committee (ARS), Washington, DC; **Elizabeth Ley**, Group

*continued on pg. 5...*

USDA recognized six individual employees and one group of employees as “unsung heroes” during its recent observance of Public Service Recognition Week.

According to **Otis Thompson**, executive director of the Organization of Professional Employees, U.S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA) and retired USDA public affairs specialist, the purpose of the “unsung hero” designation is to identify those employees who have been “unusually dedicated and efficient and had a positive attitude.”

He noted that nominees as “unsung heroes” are based on actual “hands-on” activities rather than on supervisory or managerial efforts. “However,” he added, “all USDA employees were eligible to be nominated.”

The idea for an “unsung heroes” contest was developed in late 1987 by a group of six representatives of professional organizations in the Department. In addition to OPEDA, current sponsoring groups include the Association of Technical & Supervisory Professionals, USDA’s Employee Services & Recreation Association, the National Association of Federal Veterinarians, and the USDA Chapter of the Senior Executive Association.

This is the 14th year of the contest, which was conducted USDA-wide. Thompson said that following a Departmentwide solicitation, 40 employees and groups were nominated, either by fellow USDA employees or by customers of USDA programs and services. The final selection was made in April by a team of USDA officials.

#### **USDA’s “unsung heroes” for 2001 include:**

① **Jeff Aldrich**, the research leader with the Agricultural Research Service’s Chemicals Affecting Insect Behavior Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., who helped to establish new affiliations between ARS and the Department of Defense’s Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md., to explore mosquito repellants and attractants. This affiliation is already yielding new chemical leads for repellants and attractants to combat mosquitoes in the U.S., including those transmitting the West

## **USDA Spotlights Its “Unsung Heroes”**

*by Ron Hall, Office of Communications*



Nile virus.

② **Sue Beckman**, a supervisory management analyst with the Farm Service Agency in Washington, DC, who donated her left kidney to her 73-year-old father in a successful operation. In addition, while being absent from her job a minimal amount of time during the pre-operative preparation period and the post-operative recovery period, she continued to manage both her staff and numerous national FSA projects.

③ **Richard Mankin**, a research entomologist with ARS’s Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology in Gainesville, Fla., who has introduced high school and college students to science through his leadership in the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists, his direct involvement in local and state science fairs, and his personal efforts as a mentor to aspiring young scientists. Several former students with whom he worked in such efforts subsequently completed their education and took positions with ARS, including an electrical engineer, a computer network administrator, and a graduate of Florida A&M University.

④ **Julie MacSwain**, a district conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Stillwater, Minn., who, in her capacity as the [then] president of Minnesota’s Soil & Water Conservation Society, planned and chaired a conference, co-sponsored by 45 federal, state, local, public, and private organizations, titled “Sharing the Heartland.” It was held in Bloomington, Minn., and over 300 participants from around the country focused on

strategies to preserve and protect Minnesota’s farmland and natural resources.

⑤ **Anna Pierce**, a personnel management specialist with the Food Safety and Inspection Service in Washington, DC, for her efforts as the coordinator and major fundraiser behind FSIS’s activities to support its “adopted school,” the Lincoln Multicultural Middle School in Washington, DC. As an example, she has worked to ensure that funds raised by agency employees for that school are not only used for school supplies but also for functions which show its students that FSIS supports their academic achievements. In support of that goal she recently organized a fundraising event to have a pizza party for the students who participated in the school’s science fair—at which FSIS employees often serve as judges.

⑥ **A.B. Whitley**, a district conservationist with NRCS in Edgecombe County, N.C., for his responsiveness in support of office activities, USDA customers, local residents, and farm animals in Edgecombe County, in the aftermath of the destruction caused by Hurricane Floyd. This included using topographic maps and directing military pilots on search and rescue efforts for stranded individuals. He also personally located a 110-head herd of cattle after several hours of paddling and navigating a canoe through treetops in flooded waters, and then initiated measures to dispose of the animals which had perished.

⑦ the Information Services Unit of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, Colo., whose technical information specialists use creative strategies to provide information to the public on how to avoid or minimize damage caused by wildlife. Such initiatives have included developing teacher training materials and web pages for children; organizing international symposia on subjects such as wildlife fertility management; hosting numerous tours of the National Wildlife Research Center; maintaining a public access library; and staffing an educational booth at university career days, the Colorado State Fair, and the National Western Stock Show. ❖

*Award-Winning... continued from pg. 4*

Leader; the Operation Forbidden Fruit Task Force (OIG), New York, N.Y., **Gary O’Brien**, Group Leader; the Science and Technology Initiative for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (CSREES), Washington, DC, **Deborah Cavett**, Group Leader; the Southern Tier/African American Heritage Group (FS), Murphysboro, Ill., **Mary McCorvie**, Group Leader; the Upland Cotton Task Force (OIG), Memphis, Tenn., **Sandra Haste-Conner**,

Group Leader; and the Work Force Services Staff (OCFO), New Orleans, La., **Donald Lewis**, Group Leader; *For Heroism and Emergency Response*: the Cass-Clay Flood Recovery (CSREES, North Dakota State University Extension Service, and the University of Minnesota Extension Service), Fargo, N.D./Moorhead, Minn., **Bradley Cogdill**, Group Leader; the Flavivirus (West Nile Virus) Team (APHIS), Riverdale, Md., **Randall Crom**, Group Leader;

the Heritage Resource Crew (FS), Duluth, Minn., **William Clayton**, Group Leader; the Oklahoma Tornado Response Team (CSREES and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service), Ada, Okla., **Jack Frye**, Group Leader; the Sun Valley Avalanche Center (FS), Ketchum, Idaho, **Ann Marie Devereaux** and **Kelly O’Neill**, Group Leaders; and the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Working Group (APHIS), Robinsville, N.J., **Linda Detwiler**, Group Leader. ❖



**J.B. Penn** was sworn in as the under secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services. He succeeded **August "Gus" Schumacher**, who held that position from August 1997 until January 2001, and who is currently working to carry out the "New American Farmer Initiative," which is designed to supply hotels, restaurants, schools, and colleges across the country with high-quality agricultural products grown by America's multi-ethnic farmers.

Before rejoining USDA, from 1988 until he was sworn in to this position in May 2001 Penn served as senior vice president and manager of the Washington, DC office of Sparks Companies, Inc., a Memphis, Tenn.-based firm that analyzes commodity markets and government policy for food and agricultural interests. From 1981-88 he was president of the Washington, DC-based Economic Perspectives, Inc., an agricultural policy consulting firm.

Penn served as the deputy administrator for economics with USDA's [then] Economics and Statistics Service from 1978-81, after having worked as a senior staff economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisors from 1977-78. He was an agricultural economist with the Economic Research Service from 1975-77, where he worked on the 1977 Farm Bill.

Penn has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles and technical reports, and co-authored "Agricultural and Food Policy (fourth edition)," an economics textbook which is widely used in many U.S. universities.

A native of Lynn, Ark., Penn holds a B.S. degree in agriculture from Arkansas State University, an M.S. degree in agricultural economics from Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind. ❖



**Bill Hawks** was sworn in as the under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs. He succeeded **Isi Siddiqui**, who held that position from December 2000 until January 2001, and who is now the senior director for biotechnology and international trade with the American Crop Protection Association in Washington, DC.

Before joining USDA, from 1986 until he was sworn in to this position in May 2001 Hawks was managing partner of Hawks Farm-

## Editor's Roundup

### USDA people in the news

ing, which farms approximately 7700 acres of land, including 5200 acres of soybeans, 3,000 acres of double-cropped winter wheat, and 2,500 acres of corn, in three counties in northern Mississippi. Since 1987 the Hawks family has also owned DeSoto East, Inc., a residential development company based in Herndon, Miss.

Hawks served in the Mississippi State Senate from 1995-2000, representing his native DeSoto County. During that period he served on committees with jurisdiction over agriculture and the environment, and concentrated on such specific issues as initiating a study showing the importance of agriculture to the state economy of Mississippi. From 1985-98 he owned and managed Northwest Mississippi Flying Service, Inc., an agricultural aerial application service in DeSoto County, and also owned and operated a recreational airport there. He was part owner of Sunbelt Land and Timber Company, Inc., a professional farm management company in DeSoto County, from 1980-86.

A farmer since 1970, Hawks started farming by owning and operating a dairy in DeSoto County. Then in the early 1970s he began to lease acreage from neighbors to get started in a row crop operation, often doing custom harvesting work for others to help pay for equipment. Over the years, this has evolved into the multi-faceted operation in place today.

A native of northern Mississippi, Hawks holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University. ❖



**Lou Gallegos** was sworn in as the assistant secretary for administration. He succeeded **Paul Fiddick**, who held that position from November 1999 until May 2001.

Before rejoining USDA, from January 1995 until he was sworn in to this position in May 2001 Gallegos served as the chief of staff to

New Mexico Governor **Gary Johnson** (R). In addition, during that period he also served, from 1998-2001, as the acting secretary for New Mexico's Human Services Department, where he coordinated the implementation of the state's welfare reform program. From 1990-95 he worked in the private sector as president of GNA, Inc., in Rio Rancho, N.M. During that period he also served [then] President **George Bush** as the special representative to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands from 1991-93. He was the assistant secretary for policy, management, and budget for the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1989-90. From 1987-88 he was the secretary for New Mexico's Human Services Department.

Gallegos served as state director of the [then] Farmers Home Administration in New Mexico, based in Albuquerque, from 1985-86. He was the chief of staff to U.S. Sen. **Pete Domenici** (R-N.M.) in Washington, DC from 1980-84, after having served as his director of field operations in New Mexico, based in Albuquerque, from 1977-80. From 1967-75 he worked in several positions with the Food and Nutrition Service, where, while based in Dallas, he ultimately served as director of the agency's Food Stamp Program for both its Southwest Region and its Mountain Plains Region.

A native of Amalia, N.M., Gallegos attended the University of Maryland in College Park and New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, N.M. ❖



**Mary Waters** was sworn in as the assistant secretary for congressional relations. She succeeded **Andrew Fish**, who held that position from October 1999 until January 2001, and who is now of counsel with the Washington, DC law firm of FoxKiser, specializing in agricultural biotechnology.

Before joining USDA, from 1986 until she was sworn in to this position in May 2001 Waters served as a senior director and legislative counsel for ConAgra Foods, based in Washington, DC. In this capacity she was active in the development of the 1990 and 1996 Farm Bills and built coalitions of agricultural producers and processors in the development of agricultural and trade policy. Within that period, from 1999-2000 she chaired the Washington Agriculture Roundtable, which provided a forum for public and private sector agricultural officials to confer on agricultural policy matters.

Waters worked as a legislative assistant for [then] U.S. Rep. **Larry Hopkins** (R-Ky) from 1982-86, where she concentrated on such issues as the No Net Cost Tobacco Act of 1983, and worked on agricultural policy for the 1985 Farm Bill. She served as the director of the Agriculture Task Force for the House Republican Research Committee from 1981-82, which was chaired by [then] U.S. Rep. **Ed Madigan** (R-Ill.), who later served as USDA secretary from 1991-93.

A native of Champaign, Ill., Waters holds a B.A. degree in political science from the University of Illinois and a Juris Doctor degree from George Mason University School of Law in Fairfax, Va. She is admitted to the Bar of the District of Columbia. ❖



An article in the May 14 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine reported that “The chances that an American adult will get to the ‘Who Wants To Be A Millionaire’ hot seat in any

given eighteen-month period are about one in three hundred and fifty thousand.”

**Lorraine Werner** didn't quite make it there herself—but she sure got mighty close.

Werner, a rural development specialist with the Rural Development area office in Torrington, Wyo., made the final cut and traveled to New York City to tape the popular TV quiz show on May 24. Here's the story behind the story on what she had to do to get there.

“ABC-TV airs the show,” she explained, “and during the show it is announced when the show's automated touch-tone quiz telephone lines will be open each month so that would-be contestants can try playing.”

According to **Linda McFall-Bailey**, the public information coordinator at the RD state office in Casper, Wyo., the first step in the ‘weeding-out process’ consists of correctly selecting—over the phone—five questions,

which they refer to as ‘fastest-finger’ questions, in less than 10 seconds per question. “If you get all five correct,” she said, “you're eligible for that month's drawings, in which a computer randomly picks the names of 500 persons from the estimated 20,000 ‘phone player pool’ members who had passed the ‘fastest-finger’ automated touch-tone quiz during that particular time frame.” Of those 500 persons, ten are then randomly selected by computer again, are then called, and have 24 hours to return the call.

“I'd been calling for about 18 months, and had also passed the ‘fastest-finger’ test several times, but the computer hadn't selected my name,” Werner recounted. But then on May 17 she received a call from an intern from the show, who left her a voice mail message.

“I thought it was a joke at first—until I noticed the New York City area code on my caller ID,” she said. “Then I got so nervous that I accidentally deleted the phone number that I needed to call back!”

But she recovered her composure, was able to track down the number, and then returned the call. “The intern asked me questions about my employment, to ensure that I didn't have any conflict that might disqualify me, such as working for ABC-TV.”

Werner passed that review—and the next step was to take four days of annual leave. That's because “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire” paid Werner to fly to New York City and stay two nights, plus provided a daily stipend and transportation to and from the airport, as well as to and from the TV studio.

The show was taped on May 24. Anything unusual about the taping session?

“Oh yes, I didn't realize that they'd put makeup on our *hands*—and that really blew me out,” she emphasized. “It's because of their close-up camera shots of the hands during the ‘fastest-finger’ competition.”

“I was literally sworn to secrecy about the outcome of the show,” she affirmed, “but I still

lined up all my friends and colleagues to watch it.” It aired June 3.

The format of the show is that ten preliminary contestants play—on the air—a round of ‘fastest-finger’ questions, and the winner immediately advances to the ‘hot seat’ to become a contestant and be quizzed by host **Regis Philbin**. The remaining preliminary contestants are seated in the background, off-camera. During the hour-long show, Werner was able to participate in two chances of ‘fastest-finger’ questions but was beaten out by other contestants, so she never made it to the ‘hot seat.’

While seated off-camera, did you secretly wish that the person in the ‘hot seat’ would lose early, so that you'd have yet another chance at being the victor in ‘fastest-finger’ questions, before the hour was up?

“I *didn't* secretly wish they'd lose—but I *did* wish that they'd hurry up their answers,” Werner quipped.

“Nobody walked away feeling bad,” she added. “In fact, I'm still exchanging e-mails with my co-contestants.” ❖

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- *USDA Launches New Information-Based Web Site on Food Safety Research Programs* (USDA News Release No. 0114)
- *USDA Marks 75th Anniversary of Cooperative Programs* (No. 0112)
- *USDA Funds New Programs Providing Additional Conservation Assistance to Farmers and Ranchers* (No. 0104)
- *USDA Estimates Child Rearing Costs* (No. 0097)
- *USDA Research Agency Sequences Genome of Food Borne Pathogen* (No. 0096)

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Hair: Black Eyes: Brown

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*"OK, students, do you all have your caps on? Yes, you too on the far left: Cap ON! We're about to snap your pic in front of this bright blue 'Boomerang Box,' that's decorated with oversized postage stamps from all over the world, before it gets loaded with nearly 20 metric tons of a high-protein corn soy mixture—which the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently purchased from a grain processing company here in Cambria, Wisconsin. Then it'll all be shipped to a school feeding program in India, along with some artwork from students in Washington, DC. In a minute you'll get to sample what that corn soy mixture tastes like. Have any of you students heard of CARE? It turns 55 this year. No, it's not a stuffed toy bear; that's something else..." So just what's this all about, and how were USDA employees involved in it? Note the story on page 1.—PHOTO BY SCOTT FRANK*

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