



61ST ANNUAL

Secretary's

HONOR

2008

AWARDS



Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Jefferson Auditorium

2:00 PM



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

During the time I have been Secretary, I have been impressed by the high standard for public service set here at USDA.

With the broad range of our mission areas, the people of USDA touch the lives of millions of our fellow citizens every year.

The Honor Awards give us the opportunity to celebrate those efforts that rise above the ordinary in dedication to duty, skillful execution and results achieved.

Whether rescuing a skier from an avalanche in Alaska, helping farmers in southern Wisconsin rebound from a 1,000 year flood, restoring foreign market access for U.S. beef or providing authoritative analysis of the trends driving world food prices, the USDA people we honor with this year's awards have delivered service that makes all of us proud to be part of this department.

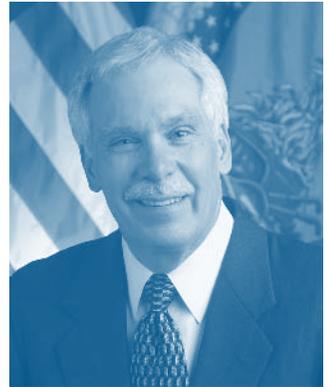
While we honor them for a special effort, the work they and their colleagues do every day also deserves our respect. The people of USDA routinely exceed the expectations that many have for government workers and the services they deliver. With your commitment to hard work and getting the job done, your honesty and concern for others, you reflect the best values of the farmers, ranchers and rural citizens you serve.

We must all work to make sure that quality service, professionalism and responsiveness remain hallmarks of USDA in the years to come. I want to offer my congratulations to this year's winners along with my special thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely,



Edward T. Schafer, Secretary



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
61ST ANNUAL

Secretary's

HONOR
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Thomas Jefferson Memorial Auditorium

Musical Prelude

Presentation of Colors

Armed Forces Color Guard

National Anthem

Donna Carter

Office of Human Capital Management

Pledge of Allegiance

The Honorable Boyd K. Rutherford

Assistant Secretary for Administration

**Welcome and Introduction of
the Secretary of Agriculture**

Boyd K. Rutherford

Assistant Secretary for Administration

Secretary's Message

The Honorable Edward T. Schafer

Secretary of Agriculture

Presentation of Awards

Secretary Edward T. Schafer

The Honorable Charles Conner

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

Audience will be seated promptly at 1:45 p.m.

*Please stand during the presentation of colors and remain standing
until the colors retire.*

*A reception for the Awards Recipients and their guests will be held on
the Jamie L. Whitten Building Patio immediately following the
Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony.*



Secretary's Honor Awards

Enhancing International Competitiveness of American Agriculture
Enhancing the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural Farm Economies
Supporting Increased Economic Opportunities
and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America
Enhancing Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply
Improving the Nation's Nutrition and Health
Protecting and Enhancing the Nation's Natural Resources Base and Environment
Supporting the President's Management Agenda and Civil Rights
Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management
Heroism and Emergency Response

Dr. Daniel E. Salmon Award

The Dr. Daniel E. Salmon Award is presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions and notable service in the public's interest by a federally employed veterinarian who has no more than 10 years of service. This award was established in 1985 to honor the first director of the United States Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry and is sponsored annually by the National Association of Federal Veterinarians.

President's Volunteer Service Awards and Call to Service Award

Closing Remarks

Charles Conner

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

Off-Stage Announcer

Ron Buckhalt

Agricultural Research Service

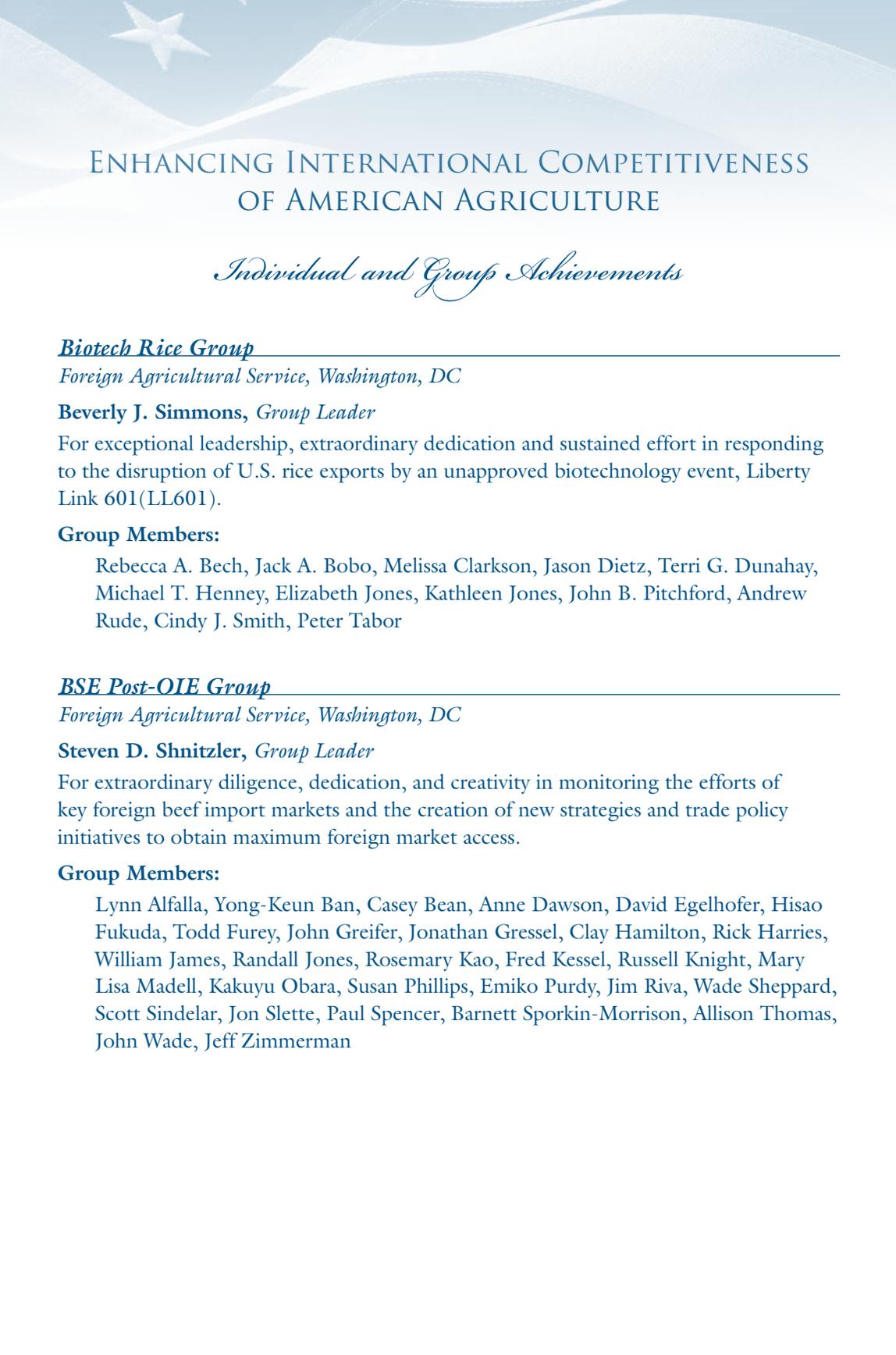
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Recipients





ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Individual and Group Achievements

Biotech Rice Group

Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington, DC

Beverly J. Simmons, Group Leader

For exceptional leadership, extraordinary dedication and sustained effort in responding to the disruption of U.S. rice exports by an unapproved biotechnology event, Liberty Link 601(LL601).

Group Members:

Rebecca A. Bech, Jack A. Bobo, Melissa Clarkson, Jason Dietz, Terri G. Dunahay, Michael T. Henney, Elizabeth Jones, Kathleen Jones, John B. Pitchford, Andrew Rude, Cindy J. Smith, Peter Tabor

BSE Post-OIE Group

Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington, DC

Steven D. Shnitzler, Group Leader

For extraordinary diligence, dedication, and creativity in monitoring the efforts of key foreign beef import markets and the creation of new strategies and trade policy initiatives to obtain maximum foreign market access.

Group Members:

Lynn Alfalla, Yong-Keun Ban, Casey Bean, Anne Dawson, David Egelhofer, Hisao Fukuda, Todd Furey, John Greifer, Jonathan Gressel, Clay Hamilton, Rick Harries, William James, Randall Jones, Rosemary Kao, Fred Kessel, Russell Knight, Mary Lisa Madell, Kakuyu Obara, Susan Phillips, Emiko Purdy, Jim Riva, Wade Sheppard, Scott Sindelar, Jon Slette, Paul Spencer, Barnett Sporkin-Morrison, Allison Thomas, John Wade, Jeff Zimmerman

China Cotton Reform Team

Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, DC

Darryl Wayne Earnest, *Group Leader*

For leadership in establishing precedent-setting relations between the USDA and the cotton and fiber segments of the Chinese government to promote global acceptance of USDA standards and instrument-grading methods as the industry benchmark.



Group Members:

Leon Xiaoliang Cui, James Lloyd Knowlton

Food Price Analysis Team

Economic Research Service, Washington, DC

Ephraim Leibtag and Paul Westcott, *Group Leaders*

For conducting research, analyzing the factors contributing to the recent world wide food price increases, and widely disseminating the results.



Group Member:

Ron Trostle

ENHANCING THE COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL FARM ECONOMIES

Individual and Group Achievements

East National Technology Support Center

*Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Greensboro, North Carolina*

Carolyn Adams and Philip McCloud,
Group Leaders

For proving innovative informational tools to reduce barriers to small scale and limited resource farmers in implementing conservation activities which resulted in greater access to USDA programs and technical assistance.



Group Members:

Susan Andrews, Ray Archuleta, Bill Boyd, Kim Bradford, Gail Brant, Tracy Briscoe, Leander Brown, Anthony Burns, Frank Clearfield, Elvis Graves, Ron Gronwald, Kale Gullett, Michael Hall, Gene Hardee, Hank Henry, Charles Kome, Holli Kuykendall, Kevin Ogles, Jeff Porter, Madalene Ransom, Bill Reck, Kerry Robinson, Kristin Smith, Charlene Wood

Farm Loan Programs

Streamlining Task Force

Farm Service Agency, Washington, DC

William David Cobb, *Group Leader*

For exceptional teamwork in the successful redesign of Farm Loan Programs' regulations, directives and forms resulting in efficient and effective delivery of programs to loan applicants and borrowers.



Group Members:

Niki K. Chavez, Michael C. Cumpston, Michael R. Hinton, Marilyn McMullen, Michael T. Moore, Catherine Quayle, Clarence Ropp, Janet Safian, Gail Wargo

***Quality Initiative for California Almonds
Exported to the European Union***

Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, DC

Lloyd C. Day, Group Leader

For successfully maintaining the \$1 billion European Union export market for U.S. almonds through the development and implementation of the USDA/Almond Board of California aflatoxin testing and certification program.



Group Members:

Julie Adams, Kyle Cunningham, Michael V. Durando, Robert L. Epstein, James V. Falk, Jay N. Guerber, Debra Henke, Jana D. Humphries, Bobby Joyner, Robert C. Keeney, Scott D. Lough, Hugh Maginnis, Kirk Miller, Michael Morrelli, Sue Olson, Maureen T. Pello, Alan Post, Mark Rasmussen, James Roberts, Kurt Seifarth, Nate Tickner, Gerda Vandercammen, Terry J. Vawter, Richard Waycott, Thomas B. Whitaker, Dawn Williams, Shirley J. Wright, Anita Okrend

SUPPORTING INCREASED ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPROVED
QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AMERICA

Individual and Group Achievements

2007 Census of Agriculture

Edit Processing Team

*National Agricultural Statistics Service,
Washington, DC*

David J. McDonnell and Asa M. Manning,
Group Leaders

For improving the 2007 Census of Agriculture edit process from design through implementation, resulting in better data quality, enhanced processing stability, and increased employee productivity.



Group Members:

Aida Aguilar, Jeff Beranek, Deborah Brown, Matt Buchert, Donald Buysse, Henry Chiang, Neil Collignon, Jim Cotter, Frank Frederick, Sheryl Garrett, Goshko Georgiev, Virginia Harris, Mike Hogye, Thomas Jacob, Tim Keller, Karl L. Krider, Becky LaJoice, Joel Lehman, Charles Less, Steve Logan, Huong Luong, Gretchen McClung, Bob McEwen, Orrin Musser, Mojo Nichols, Ai Linh Nguyen, Peter Quan, Donald Salzman, Chenei Shiao, Charles Smith, Steve Sakry, Roger Schou, Julie Searle

Business Programs Group

Rural Development, Des Moines, Iowa

Randall C. Frescoln, Group Leader

For outstanding achievement in program delivery demonstrated by more than a 200% growth in businesses assisted and a 450% increase in total dollars awarded by Iowa's Business Programs since 2004.



Group Members:

Barbara Boelman, Teresa Bomhoff, Joshua Borchert, Norman Brus, Shannon Chase, Erika Damschen, Melinda Gottman, Marjorie Huegel, Shari Kieffer, Jeffery Kuntz, Chris Mercer, Leonard Merrick, Thomas Miller, D. Michelle Moore, Jennifer Nihart, Connie Noll, Dorinda Oostenink, Debra Reed, Catherine Sand, Sheila Svoboda, Robin Templeton, Karen Triplett

Roger B. Davis

Rural Development, Raleigh, North Carolina

For extraordinary dedication and outstanding leadership in the delivery of USDA-Rural Development Community Programs resources resulting in improved quality of life and economic opportunities for North Carolina rural citizens and communities.



Ralph Eddie Miller

Rural Development, Raleigh, North Carolina

For exemplary leadership and achievement in improving the socioeconomic conditions of North Carolina communities and citizens, resulting in one of the highest rankings of program delivery in the Nation.



ENHANCING PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY

Individual and Group Achievements

E. Coli O157:H7 Work Group

*Food Safety and Inspection Service,
Washington, DC*

Rachel Edelstein and James Withee,
Group Leaders

For leading the development of improved E. Coli O157:H7 sampling and inspection policy, resulting in a new risk-based sampling algorithm, 4 new sampling programs, and 6 significant new inspection notices.



Group Members:

Ilene Arnold, Robert Bayne, Don Carlson, Denise Eblen, Daniel Engeljohn, Emilio Esteban, Michael Gabriel, Gail Graves, Janell Kause, Yolanda Kennedy, Alam Khan, Susan Knowler, Leonard Lang, Jr., Carrie Leathers, Beth Leopold, Priscilla Levine, Evelyne Mbandi, Steven McDermott, Matthew Michael, Krishna Murthy, Lee Puricelli, Robert Ragland, Mildred Rivera-Betancourt, Gurinder Saini, Wayne Schlosser, William Shaw, Jr., Hany Sidrak, David Smith, Teresa Taylor, Elizabeth Volk, Jennifer Webb, James Wilkus

Meat and Poultry Risk-Based Inspection Team

*Office of Inspector General,
Beltsville, Maryland/Chicago, Illinois*

**Joseph E. Mickiewicz and
John W. Pepper,** *Group Leaders*

For timely and critical in-depth analyses and recommendations made to stakeholders aimed at improving the systems and inspection processes for risk-based inspection at meat and poultry processing establishments.



Group Members:

Richard K. Arnold, Deborah A. Bix, Kimberly S. Bretz, David A. Cissell, Monica A. DeVaughn, Fredonia R. Eddy, Larry D. Ellis, Randy S. Evans, Stephanie F. Falls-Warr, Greg A. Gall, Dennis J. Gannon, Adam D. Halperin, Gilroy H. Harden, Jeffrey J. Harpenau, Jay A. Haverdink, Cheryl A. Hawkins, Lance R. Jenkins, Turon S. Kendrick, Edward R. Krivus, Ralph E. Leeper, Steven D. Lureau, Lance R. Moore, Katherine L. Mowbray, Wanda M. Philippi, Ronda F. Price, Marsha Ross, Mark C. Schaper, Brett Siefers, Evert A. Stevens, Renea A. Webb, Michael T. White, Joseph R. Wood

Public Health-Based Performance

Measures Workgroup

Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC

Janell R. Kause, Group Leader

For leading the development of novel simulation models and implementation of enhanced agency performance measures, resulting in objectively linking federal food safety activities to public health outcomes.



Group Members:

Isabel Arrington, Patricia Bennett, Peter Bridgeman, Erin Dreyling, William Disney, Denise Eblen, Rachel Edelstein, Michael Erickson, Neal Golden, Kim Green, John Hicks, Priyamvada Kadam, Karlease Kelly, David LaBarre, Heejeong Latimer, Thomas O'Brien, Gurinder Saini, Carl Schroeder, Wayne Schlosser, Alice Thaler, Michael Williams, James Withee

Ug99 Team to Combat New, Virulent Wheat and Barley Stem Rusts

Agricultural Research Service, St. Paul, Minnesota/Raleigh, North Carolina

Yue Jin and David S. Marshall, Group Leaders

For excellence in rapid mobilization of research expertise and resources to assess vulnerability to Ug99 African wheat stem rust, resulting in early deployment of genetic resources to protect the nation's grain supply.



Group Members:

A. Rick Bennett, Harold E. Bockelman, J. Michael Bonman, Gina Brown-Guedira, Martin L. Carson, Blair J. Goates, Robert A. Graybosch, C. James Peterson, Michael O. Pumphrey, M. K. W. Simmons, Les J. Szabo, Steven S. Xu

IMPROVING THE NATION'S NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Individual and Group Achievements

EDPIR Funding Work Group

*Food and Nutrition Service,
Alexandria, Virginia*

Nancy Lynne Theodore and Laura Ellen Castro, Group Leaders

For leading development of an objective method of allocating federal administrative funding for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and improve levels of service among participating Tribes.



Group Members:

Melanie J. Casey, Phil Cohen, Don L. DeBoer, Christine D. Hennelly, Elvira E. Jarka, Lillie F. Ragan, Steve Stathopoulos, Madeline C. Viens, Cynthia A. Wheeler

Oglala Sioux Tribe Group Member:

Joe Bluehorse

Quinalt Indian Nation Group Member:

Ray Capoeman

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Group Member:

Gale Dills

Shoshone Paiute Tribal Council Group Member:

Nancy Egan

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Group Member:

Charles "Red" Gates

Lac Du Flambeau Band of Chippewa Group Member:

Betty Jo Graveen

Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association Group Member:

Yunus Lakhani

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Group Member:

Tony Nertoli

Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma Group Member:

Melinda Newport

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Group Member:

Lindsay Rayon

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Group Member:

Susie Roy

Spirit Lake Sioux Nation Group Member:

Mary Greene Trottier

Navajo Nation Group Member:

Thomas Yellowhair

Good Nutrition Can Lead to Great Things

Food and Nutrition Service, Alexandria, Virginia

Jean W. Daniel and Pat Steward, Group Leaders

For leading the development of public service advertising designed to promote awareness of the need to balance healthy nutrition and daily physical activity in MyPyramid.gov, to combat the epidemic of obesity.

Group Members:

Jan Adams, Garth Clark, Robert Contreras, Carole Davis, Charles DeJulius, Laura Griffin, Jackie Haven, Regan Hooper, Donna Johnson-Bailey, Chris Kocsis, Brenda Lisi, Alice Lockett, David Lum, Margarita Maisterrena, Patricia Mancha, Jane Mandell, Moria McCormack, Patsy Palmer, Colette Rihane, Melissa Walker, Adriana Zorrilla

Office of the White House Group Member:

Terri Teuber



***Kids in the Woods
Inter-Deputy Team***

U.S. Forest Service, Washington, DC

Gloria Manning, Group Leader

For outstanding teamwork and exceptional commitment to facilitating learning and organized activities that expose thousands of children to healthy, outdoor, active, lifestyle choices while reconnecting them with American's natural heritage.



Group Members:

Drew Burnett, Jacqueline A. Emanuel, Sandra Frost, Ellita Harrington, Richard Henderson, Anne Hoover, Patricia Jackman, Susan Mockenhaupt, Kristen Nelson, Danielle L. Price, Rhonda S. Stewart, Craig Willis

***The MyPyramid for Pregnancy
and Breastfeeding Team***

*Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion,
Alexandria, Virginia*

Patricia J. Britten, Group Leader

For outstanding commitment in the development and implementation of MyPyramid for Pregnancy and

Breastfeeding, designed to help mothers understand their food needs and make wise choices.

Group Members:

Anne M. Bartholomew, Stephanie D. Cooks, Patricia N. Daniels, Carole A. Davis, Jane W. Fleming, Jacqueline Haven, David M. Herring, Wenyen Juan, Joan M. Lyon, Kristin L. Marcoe, Colette I. Rihane, John S. Webster



***WIC Food Packages
Development Team***

*Food and Nutrition Service,
Alexandria, Virginia*



Debra R. Whitford, *Group Leader*

For creativity and leadership in developing new food package regulations for the special supplemental Nutritional program for women, infants, and children.

Group Members:

Anne Bartholomew, Edward Harper, Jay Hirschman, Patti Mitchell

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE NATION'S NATURAL RESOURCES BASE AND ENVIRONMENT

Individual and Group Achievements

Roger A. Hansen

*Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Columbia, Missouri*

For formulating and strengthening a cooperative alliance with the Missouri Department of Conservation and other conservation partners which produced exceptional results in conserving and enhancing Missouri's natural resources.



Illinois Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program

*Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,
Raleigh, North Carolina*

Christine Markham, Group Leader

For outstanding leadership in the successful eradication of the Asian longhorned beetle from the Chicago, Illinois area, resulting in the protection of the nation's forest resources.



Group Members:

Judith Antipin, Robert W. Benjamin, John Bieg, Suzanne M. Bond, Mark Cinnamon, Jeffrey C. Coath, Margaret Crabtree, Thomas Dille, Warren Goetsch, David J. Gruchot, Stephen Knight, Phillip A. Lewis, Vic Mastro, Joseph J. McCarthy, Jennifer L. Medina, Renee R. Perry, Greg J. Rentschler, Alan J. Sawyer, Scott Schirmer, Noel Schneeberger, Gwen Servies, Jeff Squibb, Michael B. Stefan, Julie S. Twardowski, Scott Walock, Baode Wang

Open Space Conservation Team

U.S. Forest Service, Washington, DC

Theodore W. Beauvais, Jr., *Group Leader*

For significant contributions in protecting and enhancing open space and natural resources that provide vital ecosystem services and benefits to society.



Group Members:

Ralph J. Alig, Stephanie A. Bertaina, Tracy L. Calizon, Mary A. Carr, Sara J. Comas, Kathryn Jeanne Conant, Ken Cordell, Michael Eley, Katherine Goslee, Jonathan M. Haber, Claire L. Harper, Janette S. Kaiser, Kathryn P. Maloney, Kathleen A. McAllister, Ronald E. McRoberts, James Melonas, Mark D. Nelson, Larry Payne, Megan E. Roessing, Peter Roussopoulos, Susan M. Stein, David Theobald, Eric M. White, Katharine S. Wiand

SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S MANAGEMENT AGENDA AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Individual and Group Achievements

Budget Re-engineering Process Team

*Food Safety and Inspection Service,
Washington, DC*



Anthony C. Thompson, Group Leader

For outstanding leadership in re-engineering the Food Safety and Inspection Service's budget process, resulting in increased accountability, enhanced fiscal discipline, and the alignment of resources and public health-based goals.

Group Members:

Carey Barlowe, Denise Bass, Becky Bell, Peter Bridgeman, Juan Cristiani, Erin Dreyling, Daniel Engeljohn, Michael Erickson, Louise Fox, LaChain Glenn, Nancy Hakenson, Sherri Johnson, Carol Maczka, Karen Messmore, William P. Milton Jr., Thomas O'Brien, Deborah Patrick, Francisco Salguero, Janet Stevens, Alicia Taylor, Brenda Taylor

Change Agents for the Business Process Re-engineering Initiative

*Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards
Administration, Washington, DC*



William A. Crutchfield, Group Leader

For transforming the USDA GIPSA, Packers and Stockyards Program into a streamlined and efficient organization, by establishing national standard operating procedures resulting in significant cost savings and freeing up resources for program delivery.

Group Members:

Gayle L. Barnett, Jackie S. Crull, Herple A. Ellis IV, James M. Elswick, Peter J. Jackson III, Pamela L. Lake, Kristen E. Pirtle, Roger E. Schneider, Creig F. Stephens, Patricia L. Tolle, John J. VerLinden, Regina R. Ware, Philip A. Warren

eXtension, Cooperative State Research

*Education, and Extension Service,
Washington, DC/Starkville, Mississippi*

**Gregory L. Crosby and
Ronald A. Brown, Group Leaders**

For excellence in leadership and commitment to bringing Americans the best research-based, objective, and reliable information and educational resources 24/7/365 online through eXtension and the Cooperative Extension System.



Group Members:

Lavon L. Bartel, Paul D. Coreil, Dan Cotton, Carla Craycraft, Elbert C. Dickey, Kevin J. Gamble, Colien Hefferan, Karen J. Hinton, Lyla E. Houglum, Betty Johnson, David A. King, Daniel E. Kugler, Michael T. Lambur, Lawrence A. Lippke, L. Washington Lyons, Dalton H. McAfee, Terry Meisenbach, Carl W. O'Connor, Frederick J. Piazza, Adam Siegel, Larry W. Turner, James C. Wade, Craig H. Wood, Richard D. Wootton, R. Stephen Wyatt

Horace D. Hodge

*Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,
Prairie View, Texas*

For developing and managing a recruitment and retention program that resulted in more high school and college students studying and pursuing careers in food, agriculture and natural resources sciences.



Human Capital Management Team

Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC

William P. Milton, Jr., Group Leader

For proactively developing and implementing innovative Strategic Human Capital Management Solutions resulting in FSIS advancing the President's Management Agenda for Human Capital Management and serving as a model for USDA and other Federal agencies.



Group Members:

James Alexander, Becky Bell, Susan Bowen, Daniel Burkard, John Buscemi, Andrea Cotter, Yvonne Davis, Louise Fox, Teresa Hunt, Robert Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Jill Kubina, Jennie Liming, Laurie Lindsay, Brenda Lucas, Charles Lupole, Evelyn McGovern, Karen Messmore, Brenda Nickens, Dennis O'Malley, Thomas Reimler, Richard Reyes, Nancy Russell, Sharin Sachs, Julaine Schmidt, Patricia Smith, Peter Theis, Deborah Thompson, Mary Lou Werner, Stephanie Wilkins, Valerie Yarbrough

STRENGTHENING FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

Individual and Group Achievements

USDA Headquarters Green Team

*Departmental Administration,
Washington, DC*

**Edward B. Murtagh and
Edward J. Hogberg, *Group Leaders***

For leading efforts to a “green” USDA Headquarters and for reducing the Department’s carbon footprint through recycling, composting, reducing energy use throughout the complex, and increasing environmental awareness of employees.



Group Members:

P.V. Alexander, Robert T. Bailey, Janice D. Barnes, Tonnie L. Dixon, Judith Dudley, Randall Fossum, Thomas H. Hoffman, Shana Love, Marian M. Romero, Mark Sajbel, Michael V. Sazonov, Karen Waldvogel

U.S. Forest Service Group Members:

Matthew Arnn, Linda Parker

Agricultural Research Service Group Members:

Ronald B. Buckhalt, Sandy Morgan

Agricultural Marketing Service Group Member:

Fidel Delgado

Natural Resources and Conservation Service Group Member:

Robert Snieckus

*Washington International
Renewable Energy Conference
Planning Committee*

Rural Development, Washington, DC

Allan R. Johnson, Group Leader

For exceptional leadership and commitment in fostering increased private sector investment to accelerate the scale-up of renewable energy producing positive outcomes in climate change, agriculture profitability and increased rural economic development.



Group Member:

Richard Kasting

Foreign Agricultural Service Group Members:

George Douvelis, Anna Ferus, Christian Foster, Constance Jackson

Office of Communications Group Members:

James W. Brownlee, Carolyn O'Conner, Kim Taylor, Heather Vaughn, Tom Witham

Office of the Chief Economist Group Member:

Harry Baumes

Research, Education and Economics Group Member:

Jim Fischer

HEROISM AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Individual and Group Achievements

Katharine Lewison

Farm Service Agency, Viroqua, Wisconsin

For outstanding and selfless public service to Vernon County, Wisconsin, following the historic floods of 2007, in which she led her staff in emergency response and assisted those in need who had lost everything.



Matthew J. Murphy

U.S. Forest Service, Girdwood, Alaska

For quick action, expertise and leadership in conducting an avalanche search and rescue on February 23, 2008, which resulted in the survival of a skier in Turnagain Pass.



2008 DR. DANIEL E. SALMON AWARD

Major Kirk P. Winger

Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine and Masters of Public Health, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine, Chief of Global Threat Analysis, Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center, Defense Intelligence Agency, Ramstein Airbase, Germany

For extraordinary proficiency and sustained determination in applying broad knowledge and expertise of veterinary science in support of public health and preventive medicine programs for the United States government.



MEMORIAL RECOGNITION

*In honor of the service and sacrifice of those men and women
who gave their lives in the performance of their duties
while supporting USDA's mission.*

In July 2008, two firefighters lost their lives while working alongside Forest Service employees to battle wildfires in California. While they were not direct members of the USDA family, they worked with the Forest Service in a common mission.

This special recognition is ...

In memory of Olympic National Park Firefighter **Andrew Palmer**, who died from injuries suffered on July 25, 2008, while securing a fire line on the Eagle Fire in California.



*Andrew
Palmer*

In memory of **Daniel Packer**, Chief of East Pierce County Fire and Rescue in Bonney Lake, Washington, who lost his life in the line of duty on July 26, 2008, in the Panther Fire in California.



Daniel Packer

On August 5, 2008, an aircraft carrying 11 firefighters and two pilots crashed in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California while in support of the Iron Complex wildfires. **There were nine fatalities.**

This special recognition is ...

In memory of U. S. Forest Service employee, **James N. Ramage**; seven contract firefighters—**Scott Charlson, Shawn Blazer, Matthew Hammer, Edrik Gomez, Bryan Rich, David Steele, Steven Renno**; and one contract pilot, **Roark Schwanenberg**, who lost their lives in the line of duty.



James Ramage



Scott Charlson



Shawn Blazer



*Matthew
Hammer*



Edrik Gomez



Brian Rich

This special recognition is ...

In memory of Pilot **Eugene Wahlstrom** of Huntsville, Utah; Co-pilot **Gregory Gonsioroski** of Baker, Montana; and aircraft mechanic **Zachary Vander Griend** of Gig Harbor, Washington, who lost their lives in the line of duty on September 1, 2008, when their airtanker crashed shortly after takeoff from Stead Airport, approximately 15 miles north of Reno, Nevada.



David Steele



Steven Renno



*Roark
Schwanenberg*

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families of these brave men. Their valor and dedication to their missions will live on in the hearts and minds of their colleagues in both the wildland fire community and in those communities they chose to serve and protect.

Secretary Edward T. Schafer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We especially thank **Cecilia Matthews**, USDA, Employee Recognition Program Manager, **Anita Adkins**, USDA Performance Management Program Manager, Office of Human Capital Management, and the Agency Employee Recognition Program Coordinators, for their months of dedicated efforts in preparation for the ceremony. Special Thanks are extended to all who have contributed to our Program.

Office of Human Capital Management

Donna Carter

Rural Housing Service

Charlene Baker

Farm Service Agency

Tonya Willis
Janet Connelly

Office of Executive Services

Kerry Gorton

Office of Communications

Lonnie Thomas, Issac Evans, Cheryl Normile, Bill Quinn, Mansy Pullen, Ron Hall, and other members of the Office of Communications

Caterers

Milloff's Catering

Florist

Beautiful Works Flowers & Gifts

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION
PROGRAM COORDINATORS



*(Front Row, left to right) Deborah Crite,
Cecilia Matthews, Angela Jackson
(Back row, left to right) Sandra Johnson,
Denise N. Johnson, Christina Williams*

Department of Agriculture

Cecilia Matthews

Departmental Administration

Leslie Violette

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Stephanie S. Brown

Angela Jackson

Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

Sandra Johnson

Food Safety

Christina Williams

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

John Morris, AMS & APHIS

Monica Alexander, GIPSA

Natural Resources and Environment

Beverly Leftridge, NRCS

Linda Beckman, FS

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Schlanda Shephard, NFC

Office of Inspector General

Deborah Crite

Research, Education and Economics

Mary Oxner

Chevon Gibson

Rural Development

Denise N. Johnson

