



## Phil Karsting

Phil Karsting was appointed administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in May 2013. He previously served more than 22 years on Capitol Hill, most recently as Chief of Staff to Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), then-chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies.

Karsting's previous Capitol Hill assignments included serving as senior analyst on the staff of the Senate Budget Committee where he handled issues relating to agriculture, rural development, housing, telecommunications, energy and the environment. He also served as legislative assistant to the late Senator Jim Exon (D-Neb.) and as a member on the Senate Bi-partisan Chiefs of Staff steering committee. In 2013, Karsting traveled to Liberia on behalf of the National Democratic Institute to lead training seminars for Liberian congressional staff.

Concurrent with his duties as FAS administrator, Karsting serves as vice president of the Commodity Creditor Corporation (CCC), chair of USDA's Interagency Coordinating Committee on International Agriculture, and as an advisor to USDA's Task Force on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Karsting began his association with American agriculture working in his family's farm supply business in rural Nebraska. He received a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is also a graduate of the International Culinary Center in New York.