



PHIL KARSTING

Phil Karsting was appointed Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service in May 2013. Phil 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 Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies.

Previous Capitol Hill assignments include serving as Senior Analyst on the Democratic 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.). He served on the Senate Bi-partisan Chiefs of Staff steering

committee, and in 2013, on behalf of the National Democratic Institute, led training seminars in Liberia for Liberian congressional staff.

Concurrent with his duties as Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, he 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 taskforce on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Phil 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 Institute in New York.