

## **Maria Zieba**

Maria Zieba is Manager of International Affairs for the National Pork Producers Council and helps represent 67,000 U.S. pork producers in Washington, D.C. She works on NPPC's trade policy program which focuses on opening, maintaining and increasing market access for U.S. pork. Prior to joining NPPC, Ms. Zieba was a Trade Policy Manager for the National Milk Producers Federation and the U.S. Dairy Export Council where she worked on various non-technical trade issues affecting the dairy industry. Before then, she worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Foreign Agricultural Service managing capacity building projects aimed at increasing U.S. agricultural exports to emerging markets. Maria Zieba holds a master's degree in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Riverside with a double major in Political Science: International Affairs and Spanish Linguistics. She is fluent in three languages and has lived in Washington, D.C., Southern California, Argentina and Brazil.

Mark Brusberg is Deputy Chief Meteorologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the Chief Economist, one of five agricultural meteorologists providing domestic and international crop weather assessments in support of USDA's global situation and outlook program. As such, he is familiar with the weather and climate of various international regions, global cropping patterns, and the potential impacts on agriculture by El Niño and other phenomena. As a crop weather analyst, his current areas of responsibility include South America and large sections of North America and Africa.

Mr. Brusberg is the International Editor of the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* and is involved in the production of the *North American Drought Monitor*. He is also active in efforts to strengthen the partnerships between USDA and other Federal Departments, recently including the updating of the Memorandum of Understanding between USDA and NOAA and involvement with the National Drought Resilience Partnership, an activity outlined in the President's Climate Action Plan and overseen by the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Of particular note, he has been a strong advocate within USDA for the establishment of a National Soil Moisture Monitoring Network. Mark is a 1985 and 1987 graduate of University of Maryland and has been working for USDA since 1986.

