



Kevin Harriger
Deputy Executive Director
Agriculture Operational Oversight
Office of Field Operations

Kevin Harriger is the Deputy Executive Director for CBP's office of Agriculture Operational Oversight within the office of Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison. Mr. Harriger is charged with improving oversight of the agricultural mission across all CBP field offices by ensuring a more consistent application of agriculture inspection policy. He serves as the primary point of contact for: Joint Agency Task Force with the USDA; stakeholders; the AQI Partnership Council; and agricultural outreach. His other responsibilities include ensuring compliance with all agricultural program directives and policies, ensuring agriculture specialists have the equipment and resources they need to perform the agriculture inspection function, and initiating and monitoring special agriculture operations.

Prior to assuming his duties as Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Harriger was the Director of Policy and Planning for CBP's agriculture programs. He also served as a Special Assistant to the Executive Director responsible for implementing and coordinating agriculture related projects and all agriculture related training for CBP agriculture specialists and officers.

Mr. Harriger transferred from APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) to CBP at the creation of the Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003. He started his career with APHIS as a PPQ officer in 1981. He has held positions in PPQ of First-line Supervisor, Officer in Charge of a work unit on the Boll Weevil Eradication Program, Port Director at Laredo, Texas, State Plant Health Director of Georgia, Chief Negotiator for PPQ management, and immediately prior to the transfer to DHS, he was one of the Assistant Regional Directors in Raleigh, North Carolina.



William Thomas
Director, Preclearance & Offshore Programs
Plant Protection & Quarantine
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Bill Thomas has been with USDA since 1980 and with PPQ since 1981. He started his career with PPQ in the port of Philadelphia. He held numerous jobs in the port including supervisor and cargo specialist. He joined the staff at headquarters in 2002 as an import specialist where he worked on numerous issues and countries but concentrated on Nursery Stock (Q-37). With the formation of Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection he joined the Quarantine Policy, Analysis and Support staff as the Quality Assurance Coordinator. There he helped develop the Joint Quality Assurance Program with DHS CBP. He became Director of QPAS in October, 2004 and is responsible for a varied program including Preclearance and treatment policy. In 2010, Preclearance and offshore programs was formed and he became the director of that section.

Michael Simon

Director of Quarantine Policy, Analysis and Support
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Michael (Mike) Simon became the Director of Quarantine Policy, Analysis, and Support (QPAS) division of USDA, Animal Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine in October, 2010. He received a B.S. degree in agronomy from the University of Georgia in 1977. He joined PPQ in 1979 as a PPQ Officer in Charlotte, NC and worked on a variety of domestic programs. In 1981 he transferred to the Port of San Francisco where he worked as a PPQ Canine Officer at the Oakland Mail Division. From 1984 until 1990, Mike worked to establish the APHIS-PPQ Beagle Brigade throughout the U.S. in both national and regional positions. In 1990, Mike transferred to the Port of Honolulu to continue canine inspection duties. During his 15 years in Hawaii, he also served as Supervisor in Honolulu and Port Director of the Maui Work Unit. In 2003, Mike was the APHIS-PPQ Port Director of Honolulu in 2003. In August 2005, he joined the QPAS staff and worked on a variety of pest exclusion issues, particularly Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) exclusion efforts and military preclearance. He has worked extensively with Customs and Border Protection, foreign governments in Japan, China, Korea, and Russia, and the shipping industry on AGM offshore mitigation issues. Mike also coordinated with several Agencies in setting up military preclearance programs in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan.



Craig Fedchock

Director, International Capacity Development

APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine

Mr. Fedchock is currently the Director of International Capacity Development, following a year of service as the Associate Executive Director of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine Division's (PPQ) Plant Health Programs. Prior to that, Mr. Fedchock served as the Director of the APHIS, PPQ Phytosanitary Issues Management staff (PIM) leading all U.S. plant and plant health-related trade negotiations. Before joining PIM in 2006, Mr. Fedchock was the Director of Bilateral Sanitary and Phytosanitary Affairs at the Executive Office of the President, Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), Chief of Staff for APHIS International Services, and the Director for Asia Trade Policy in the APHIS International Services' Trade Support Team. While at USTR he was the lead negotiator for the United States on sanitary and phytosanitary issues in several Free Trade Agreement negotiations, as well as World Trade Organization accession discussions with Russia, Vietnam, and Ukraine, among others. Before joining APHIS, Mr. Fedchock worked in the Codex Office of the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. Mr. Fedchock also served as a Russian linguist in the United States Army.