

Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Partnership Council

The Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Partnership Council is a Federal-State Government council responsible for providing advice, recommending direction, and providing open communication to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)/U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Joint Agency Task Force (Task Force) charged with improving the agriculture quarantine activities of both agencies. The Partnership Council will support the activities of the Task Force by monitoring the action plans generated by the Task Force and by providing advice and guidance that reflects the interests and concerns of the American agricultural and environmental communities and stakeholders. The Partnership Council will concentrate on issues relating to the policies, protocols, procedures, decision-making, and organizational management of the agriculture quarantine mission of CBP and APHIS. The Partnership Council monitors the implementation of recommendations for agriculture quarantine inspection made by third-party government reviewers and draws on the expertise of its members and other sources to advise CBP and APHIS and provide:

1. Greater two-way communication between agriculture stakeholders, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Plant Protection and Quarantine;
2. A forum for innovation for process and policy improvements; and,
3. Maintain a robust council to monitor and support progress on the action plans of the Joint Agency Task Force

Partnership Council membership includes:

Kevin K. McAleenan
(A) Assistant Commissioner
Office of Field Operations
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
US Department of Homeland Security

Rebecca Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
US Department of Agriculture

Kevin Harriger
Executive Director
Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison
Office of Field Operations

Mike Watson
Executive Director
Plant Health Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Adam Putnam
Commissioner
Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

Karen Ross
Secretary
California Department of Food and
Agriculture

Dr. David Smith
State Veterinarian
Division of Plant Industry
New York Department of Agriculture

Leonard Eldridge
State Veterinarian
Washington State Department Agriculture

Geir Friisoe
Director
Plant Protection Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Gray Haun
Administrator
Division of Regulatory Services
Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Keith Wiggins
Director
Veterinary Regulatory Support
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service