



***USDA Secretary Perdue Announces USDA Reorganization
Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs to be
Named***

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced a [proposed reorganization of the US Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) to establish an Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. This action was called for by Section 3208 of the 2014 Farm Bill, with the intent of increasing USDA's focus on international trade. The Farm Bill also requires consultation on this reorganization with the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, so while this proposal is important, it is potentially not final. The House Agriculture Committee has scheduled a hearing with Secretary Perdue for Wednesday, May 17, to review the state of the rural economy. [House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway](#) has said he expects the reorganization to be one of the issues discussed at this hearing.

Of special interest to CIAA members, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) will report to the new Under Secretary. This new Under Secretary will also be the USDA multiagency coordinator for agricultural trade policy, and will chair an inter-agency committee that includes FAS, the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). The new Under Secretary will also meet regularly with the Under Secretary for Food Safety and the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs regarding trade issues that require regulatory involvement and support.

The emphasis in this report is on increasing US agricultural exports, with the potential for more trade missions, providing greater support for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)-led trade negotiations, and responding more quickly when trade flows are interrupted by concerns over product certification or safety.

Other changes suggested by this report include:

- Redesignating the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture as Under Secretary for Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation;
- Moving the Natural Resources and Conservation Service from the Under

Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment to the Under Secretary for Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation;

- Eliminating the Under Secretary for Rural Development and have those agencies report directly to the Secretary.

The USDA announcement also invites the public to [comment on the reorganization plan by visiting this page](#) hosted by the White House.

There has not been any announcement as to when a nominee for this new Under Secretary position will be made.

Senate Confirms United States Trade Representative and FDA Commissioner

The United States Senate has confirmed [Robert Lighthizer](#) as the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, by a [vote of 82 to 14](#).

Earlier this week the Senate also confirmed [Scott Gottlieb](#) as FDA Commissioner by a [vote of 57 to 42](#).

Should you have any questions, please contact Roger Szemraj at rszemraj@theciaa.org or (202) 789-1212.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 1, 2017

Last day for an exporting country that is not designating importers for calendar year 2017 to notify FAS.

August 31, 2017

Last day to Enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2017 license.

September 1, 2017

First day of 2018 license applications

September 15, 2017

Last day of licensees applying for reallocated license amounts for 2017

October 2, 2017

Last day to surrender 2017 license amounts

October 16, 2017

Last day of 2018 license applications

November 2, 2017

Member Meeting

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Saddle Brook Marriott, Saddle Brook, NJ

December 22, 2017 (approximately)

FAS issues first notice of calendar year 2018 licenses to licensees.

December 31, 2017

Last day for licensees to make entries to fulfill the requirement to use 85% of their calendar year 2017 license amount. Last day for which calendar year 2017 licenses are valid.

January 21, 2018

CIAA Fancy Food Show Reception

5:00 pm- 7:30 pm

Thirsty Bear Brewery

San Francisco, CA

* If a deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the deadline will be the next business day (Section 6.36(a) of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation). This does not apply to dates of entry for eligibility.

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