

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 16, 2010

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1066-001
Establishment of the Office of the Chief Scientist

1. PURPOSE

The Department of Agriculture uses scientific evidence to support its work, and supports a research portfolio that spans seven Mission Areas and numerous programs.

Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Reorganization Act) (7 U.S.C. 6971), as amended by section 7511 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-246, states that the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics of the Department of Agriculture shall hold the title of Chief Scientist of the Department.

2. POLICY

- a. Establishment of the Office of the Chief Scientist. There is hereby established in the executive operations of the Department, within the Research, Education, and Economics mission area, an office to be known as the Office of the Chief Scientist.

The Office shall be headed by the Chief Scientist, who is responsible for carrying out the duties described in section 251(c) of the Reorganization Act. The Office shall provide leadership and coordination to ensure that research supported by and scientific advice provided to the Department and external stakeholders are held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity, and any other duties designed to further the research, education, and extension activities of the Department as prescribed by the Secretary.

- b. Responsibilities. The Office of the Chief Scientist shall:
- (1) Provide to the Secretary of Agriculture information on topics that can benefit from scientific input to ensure informed decision making at the highest levels of government.
 - (2) Facilitate the coordination and collaboration of science leadership within the Department on high priority science issues that will benefit from intra-

departmental collaboration, including coordinating the assessment of the scale, quality, and effectiveness of the Department's efforts in science.

- (3) Build partnerships within the scientific community by serving as a point of contact for interactions with other agencies of science, universities, and other external members of the scientific community for the purpose of leveraging and promoting relationships to explore common scientific interests and shared goals.
- (4) Develop appropriate processes to protect and enhance scientific integrity in the Department.

3. INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS

The Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and the Chief Financial Officer are authorized to approve such transfers of funds, personnel, employment authority, space, records, property, and incidentals as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Memorandum.

4. EXISTING DIRECTIVES

Prior delegations of authority, administrative regulations, and other directives not inconsistent with the provisions of this Memorandum shall remain in full force and effect.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this Memorandum are effective immediately.

6. TERMINATION

This Memorandum shall remain in effect for one year, or until such time as the Department's delegations of authority have been revised to incorporate the provisions of this Memorandum.

/s/

Thomas Vilsack