



[Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and USDA's Chief Scientist](#)

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young serves as the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), and as USDA's Chief Scientist. The REE mission area is comprised of more than 8,500 employees with a \$4 billion budget across its five component organizations including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS). Together these organizations advance agricultural research, innovation, data, and Extension across a full range of agricultural issues including climate-smart agriculture, nutrition security, equity, and strengthening food supply chains. As Chief Scientist, Dr. Jacobs-Young advises the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials on scientific matters and chairs the USDA Science Council, which convenes all parts of USDA's scientific enterprise.

Prior to being appointed by President Biden to serve as the REE Under Secretary, Dr. Jacobs-Young was Administrator for ARS from 2014 to 2022. Prior to that role, she served as ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, leading the research objectives of the entire Agency. She also led the Office of International Research Programs, which is responsible for ARS' liaison with its international partners. From 2009 to 2012, Dr. Jacobs-Young served as the inaugural OCS Director, where she was responsible for facilitating the coordination of scientific leadership across the Department to ensure that research supported by, and scientific advice provided to, the Department and external stakeholders were held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity. She has also served as the Acting Director for NIFA and as a senior policy analyst for agriculture in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

[Hubert Hamer, USDA NASS Administrator](#)

Hubert Hamer has served as NASS Administrator since 2016. He brings extensive experience in all aspects of the agency's work. Before becoming administrator, he served as director of the Statistics Division, which produces and releases more than 400 national statistical reports each year covering the agency's crops, livestock, economic, demographic, environmental, and census programs. Mr. Hamer also served as chair of the Agricultural Statistics Board and associate deputy administrator for field operations. Since joining NASS, Hamer has served in a number of capacities in Washington, D.C. as well as the Louisiana, Illinois, and Missouri field offices. While directing the Missouri office, he completed USDA's Senior Executive Candidate Development Program and was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2000.

Bryan Combs, USDA NASS Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch Chief

Virginia Harris, USDA NASS, Statistician, Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch

Miste Salmon, USDA NASS, Statistician, Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch