

1 Dr. Joe Rudek
2 Dr. Calvin Parnell
3 Ms. Rita Sharma
4 Ms. Annette Sharp
5 Dr. Bob Flocchini
6 Dr. William Schillinger
7 Ms. Sally Shaver
14 Mr. Gary Baise
15
16
17 **Designated Federal Official:**
18 Mr. Elvis Graves
19
23
24 **NRCS Staff:**
25 Mr. John Siliznoff
26 Mr. John Brenner
27 Mr. Larry Clark
28 Dr. Greg Johnson
29 Mr. Ron Heavner
30 Mr. Will Rue
37
38 **EPA Staff:**
39 Mr. Kerry Drake
40 Ms. Robin Dunkins
41 Ms. Linda Metcalf
44
45 **Presenters:**
46 Mr. Mark Rey, Deputy Under Secretary
47 Ms. Bill Hohenstein, USDA Office of the
48 Chief Economist
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8 Mr. Doug Shelmidine
9 Dr. Marc Pitchford
10 Mr. Pat Takasugi
11 Dr. Phillip Wakelyn
12 Ms. Cynthia Cory
13 Dr. Bob Wright
20 Dr. Steven Kirkhorn
20 **Natural Resources Division, Office of the**
21 **General Counsel, USDA:**
22 Ms. Meredith Dahl, Esq.
31 Dr. Gary Margheim
32 Ms. Katie Matthews
33 Mr. John Beyer
34 Mr. Jeff Schmidt
35 Roel Vining
36 Dr. Sheryl Kuniickis
42 Mr. Jon Scholl
43 Dr. Beth Sauerhaft
50 Dr. Jerry Hatfield, USDA/ARS
51 Mr. Peter Chen, USDA/OGC
52 Dr. George S. Foster, USDA/FS

1 **Public Comment:**

- 2 Mr. Tamara Thies, National Cattlemen's
- 3 Beef Association
- 4 Dr. Richard Higashi, UC Davis
- 5 Ms. Patti Gora, Safe Air for Everyone (SAFE)
- 6 Mr. Vic Simpson, General Chemical
- 7 Mr. Roland Schirman, WSU, Cooperative
- 8 Extension
- 9 Dr. Trisha Marsh-Johnson, Jones Hamilton Co.
- 10 Mr. Ray McAllister, CropLife America
- 11 Dr. Godfrey Gayle, NC A&T State University

The first meeting of this charter of the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) took place on January 27-28, 2005 in Crystal City (Arlington), Virginia.

The Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture, Mark Rey, provided comments on behalf of the Secretary and thanked the members for their anticipated service. The new members were allowed an opportunity to introduce themselves and provide background information to the committee.

The members were provided a presentation on Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) rules, roles, and responsibilities by a representative from the USDA Office of General Counsel (OGC).

USDA and EPA representatives gave presentations on both days detailing agency initiatives and activities relative to air quality. These presentations informed/updated Task Force members on a variety of issues including USDA's global climate change initiative and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act/Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (CERCLA/EPCRA).

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) provided air quality research funding updates. ARS also provided an update on an existing air quality study that is attempting to accurately measure the emissions from animal feeding operations (AFO) using state-of-the-art X-ray (LiDAR) equipment.

The Forest Service provided a discussion on the BlueSkyRAINS Demonstration Project ongoing in the Western States, as well as a discussion on major initiatives currently ongoing within the agency to address fire and ecosystem sustainability.

The Environmental protection Agency (EPA) described in detail the Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) Consent Agreement that was recently published in the Federal Register (70 FR 4958, January 31, 2005). Task Force members were asked to provide comments (as appropriate) during the public comment period which is currently open (comments should be received on or before March 2, 2005). EPA also discussed the PM, ozone and regional haze implementation schedules and provided a list of the newly designated nonattainment areas for ozone and particulate matter (PM)_{2.5}. These new designations are in addition to the existing PM₁₀ nonattainment designations.

The Task Force members were provided an opportunity to discuss the goals, objectives and how the structure of committees would be established to conduct the work of the Task Force. The Task Force members decided to maintain the existing structure and retain the four established committees: Policy; Research; Education and Outreach; and Emerging Issues. However, the Emerging Issues Committee will be the impetus for channeling information into other committees for additional review and analysis. Members of the Task Force were asked to indicate their willingness to serve on one or more of the designated committees.

The **Education and Technology Transfer Committee** presented the draft "Agricultural Air Quality: Issues, Activities, and Contacts" informational brochure. The Education and Outreach Committee presented the original document to the Task Force at the last meeting which was held in Coeur d'Alene, ID. The NRCS Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Team based in Portland, OR provided input into further development of this document. The draft received favorable

reviews from the Task Force. A determination will be made later on the final design and distribution of this document.

The next two meetings of the Task Force were preliminarily scheduled to take place in Amarillo, TX and Cooperstown, NY. The dates and exact locations are to be determined.

The public was allowed opportunities to address the Task Force at two times during each day of the two-day meeting.