



Rebecca Bech

Associate Deputy Administrator for Action Programs

Rebecca Bech has served as the Associate Deputy Administrator for Action Programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), International Services (IS) since 2015. She provides executive leadership and oversight for the U.S.-Panama Sterile Screwworm program and the sterile Fruit Fly Trilateral MOSCAMED agreement with the governments of Guatemala and Mexico. Ms. Bech ensures that a permanent biological barrier for SW is maintained at the Panamanian Darien Gap, that our sterile SW rearing facility in Pacora, Panama is operating well and that an emergency response plan for SW in Central America is developed. Ms. Bech provides direction over the MOSCAMED program, overseeing the implementation of cooperative technical and financial programs that allow the prevention, detection, suppression and eradication of these fruit fly pests.

From 2008 – 2015, Ms. Bech served as the Deputy Administrator (DA) for APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) programs and as the Associate Deputy Administrator over PPQ field operations. She managed over 2,700 employees throughout the continental United States and territories and provided leadership to a variety of programs to exclude, detect, and respond to plant pest incursions into the United States that could seriously impact agriculture or the environment.

Prior to 2008, Ms. Bech held numerous leadership positions in USDA. She served as the DA for APHIS Biotechnology and Regulatory Services, providing executive leadership for policy and program activities with emphasis on biotechnology domestic and international issues that significantly impacted trade, domestic markets, human health and the environment. She was the senior official representing the program on emerging international plant and animal biotechnology issues. In addition, she served as the USDA Liaison for Invasive Species, coordinating the activities for the Secretary of Agriculture with 12 different Federal Departments.

She joined APHIS in 1986 as a PPQ officer at the port of New Orleans, later serving as a plant pathology identifier in the field and providing new officer training at the APHIS Professional Development Center. Other notable positions include serving as the first chief for National Identification Services and the Director for PPQ's Scientific Services.

Ms. Bech attended Auburn University, received her Bachelor's degree in Plant Science from Southeastern Louisiana University and her Master's from Western Maryland College.