

USDA News

SONNY PERDUE SWORN IN AS 31ST U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

On April 25, 2017, Sonny Perdue was sworn in as the 31st Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by fellow Georgian and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Clarence Thomas.

Secretary Perdue was born into a farming family in Bonaire, Georgia. As a youngster growing up on a dairy and diversified row crop farm in rural Georgia, Perdue never fully realized how his work on a farm would serve him as it has in life. As a younger man, he served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He then earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia, and put that training to use in private practice in North Carolina.

Later on, Perdue held a position on the Georgia State Senate for eleven years, eventually ascending to the position of President Pro Tempore. As a state senator, he was recognized as a leading authority on issues including energy and utilities, agriculture, and transportation. As a two-term governor of Georgia, Perdue reformed state budget priorities, helped Georgians create more than 200,000 new jobs, and promoted his home state around the world to attract new businesses.

Perdue followed these accomplishments with a successful career in agribusiness, where he focused on commodities and transportation in enterprises that have spanned the southeastern United States. He has served as a board member for the National Grain & Feed Association, and as President of both the Georgia Feed and Grain Association and the Southeastern Feed and Grain Association.

Secretary Perdue's policies and decisions will be guided by four principles. First, he will maximize the ability of the men and women of America's agriculture and agribusiness sector to create jobs and produce and sell the foods and fiber that feed and clothe the world. Second, he will prioritize customer service every day for American taxpayers and consumers. Third, USDA will continue to serve in the critical role of ensuring the food we put on the table to feed our families meets strict safety standards. Finally, Perdue will always remember that America's agriculture bounty comes directly from the land. 🐾

Source: USDA. Office of Communications. Press Release No. 0029.17. Available at www.usda.gov.

SECRETARY PERDUE ANNOUNCES CREATION OF UNDERSECRETARY FOR TRADE

Secretary Perdue has announced the creation of an undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), a recognition of the ever-increasing importance of international trade to American agriculture. As part of a reorganization of USDA, Perdue also announced a newly-named Farm Production and Conservation mission area to have a customer focus and meet USDA constituents in the field. Finally, Perdue announced that the department's Rural Development agencies would be elevated to report directly to the secretary of agriculture in recognition of the need to help promote rural prosperity.

USDA's report detailing the reorganization of the department can be found on the USDA website at www.usda.gov. USDA employees and members of the public may comment on the reorganization plan by visiting the comments page hosted by the White House at www.whitehouse.gov. 🐾

Source: USDA. Office of Communications. Press Release No. 0038.17. Available at www.usda.gov.

NASS News

DAIRY PRODUCTS, 2016 SUMMARY

Total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 12.2 billion pounds, 2.8 percent above 2015 production. Wisconsin was the leading State with 26.6 percent of the production.

Italian varieties, with 5.29 billion pounds were 4.1 percent above 2015 production and accounted for 43.5 percent of total cheese in 2016. Mozzarella accounted for 77.7 percent of the Italian production followed by Provolone with 7.6 percent and Parmesan with 7.6 percent. Wisconsin was the leading State in Italian cheese production with 30.8 percent of the production.

American type cheese production was 4.76 billion pounds, 1.3 percent above 2015 and accounted for 39.1 percent of total cheese in 2016. Wisconsin was the leading State in American type cheese production with 20.1 percent of the production.

Butter production in the United States during 2016 totaled 1.84 billion pounds, 0.6 percent below 2015. California accounted for 30.6 percent of the production.

Dry milk powders (2016 United States production, comparisons with 2015) Nonfat dry milk, for human food totaled 1.75 billion pounds, down 3.8 percent. Skim milk powders totaled 559 million pounds, up 25.3 percent.

Dry whey totaled 955 million pounds in 2016, down 2.3 percent from 2015. Lactose, for both human and animal food, was 1.10 billion pounds in 2016, up 4.7 percent from 2015. Whey protein concentrate, totaled 468 million pounds, down 5.1 percent from 2015.

In 2016, regular ice cream totaled 919 million gallons, up 2.4 percent from 2015. Lowfat ice cream decreased 0.8 percent from 2015, totaling 435 million gallons. 🐄

Source: USDA. National Agricultural Statistics Service. "Dairy Products 2016 Summary", published April 27, 2017. Available at www.nass.usda.gov.

2016 MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

On April 27, 2017, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) published the annual summary of 2016 data for U.S. milk production, disposition, and income.

Milk production increased 1.8 percent in 2016 to 212 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 22,774 pounds, was 378 pounds above 2015. Arizona produced a total of 4.8 billion pounds in 2016, with an average of 24,429 pounds per cow. Oregon had an annual production number of 2.6 billion pounds, averaging 20,744 pounds per cow. Washington's 2016 production totaled 6.7 billion pounds, with an average of 24,094 pounds per cow. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.33 million head, up 14,000 head from 2015.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2016 totaled \$34.5 billion, 3.3 percent lower than 2015. Producer returns averaged \$16.34 per hundredweight, 5.1 percent below 2015. Marketings totaled 211.4 billion pounds, 1.8 percent above 2015. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.0 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 3.3 percent more than 2015. Calves were fed 91 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households. 🐄

Source: USDA. National Agricultural Statistics Service. "Milk Production, Disposition, and Income 2016 Summary", published April 27, 2017. Available at www.nass.usda.gov.