

**Opening Statement of Dudley Hoskins**  
**Nominee for Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
**Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry**

**May 21, 2025**

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and distinguished members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump’s nominee to serve as the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) mission area. I want to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve in this role, and I want to thank Secretary Rollins for her trust and confidence in supporting my nomination.

I also want to thank the members of this committee, your respective staffs, and the non-designated clerks for the incredible honor and privilege to serve in support of this committee’s members and mission over the past four years. Regardless of whether I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will forever treasure the time, experiences, and relationships I have been blessed with throughout my tenure serving this committee. Finally, I want to thank my family for your often-tested but never-wavering love and support.

I did not grow up in agriculture, but through happenstance, dumb luck, and great fortune I fell into, and ultimately, fell in love with it. After graduating law school, I came to D.C. with my dog, Huckleberry, a law license, and no malpractice insurance. Like most experiences in my life, I have been a recipient of goodwill I didn’t earn and good luck I didn’t deserve. The combination of those two dynamics allowed me to work for the American Horse Council, the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and before joining the committee, the opportunity and privilege to serve at USDA in the first Trump Administration under then-Secretary Perdue in multiple capacities. One of which was in the MRP mission area for then-Under Secretary Greg Ibach. Those experiences exposed me to the countless challenges and innerworkings of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which in my very biased estimation, are the two most critical, complex, and impactful agencies informing the health and viability of U.S. agriculture.

The people serving in the APHIS and AMS agencies are on the clock and at their post “twenty-four seven” as stewards and sentries: protecting our producers from incursions of devastating animal and plant pests and diseases; traveling across our rural communities to ensure price transparency through Market News reporting; conducting bird control at airports; ensuring the highest confidence in our grading standards; reviewing and regulating certain agricultural biotechnologies; mitigating the impacts of feral hogs and other invasive species; and ensuring the integrity of Research and Promotion Boards and countless Marketing Orders – just to name a few.

In short, the career officials and subject matter experts tasked with this incredibly diverse mission set are the best in the world at what they do, and if confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and working every day to support the APHIS and AMS missions in helping U.S. farmers, ranchers, and foresters produce the safest, most affordable, and most abundant food and fiber in the world.

To the members of the Committee, I am grateful for the time and opportunity to have met with many of you and your respective staffs before today's hearing. Those conversations were incredibly instructive in helping me better understand some of the challenges and opportunities impacting producers in your states and across the country. If confirmed, I will dedicate myself to delivering a transparent, predictable, and science-based regulatory structure to protect the health and viability of U.S. agriculture, mitigate the impact of animal and plant pests and diseases, and facilitate the timely delivery of critical marketing programs consistent with the spirit and intent of the law.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have for me.