



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

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**CHIEF ECONOMIST GLAUBER ANNOUNCES SELECTION
OF DR. LINDA ABBOTT AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF RISK ASSESSMENT
AND COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

WASHINGTON, October 26, 2012 – U.S. Department of Agriculture Chief Economist Joseph Glauber today announced the selection of Linda Abbott as the Director of the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit.

As director of the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis, Abbott is responsible for ensuring that major regulatory actions of the Department are supported by sound risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses. The Office also provides education and training in risk assessment and economic analysis, consultation and technical assistance to USDA agencies performing risk assessments and facilitates communication about risks addressed by USDA programs. It serves as a focal point for risk assessment issues and methods in USDA.

Abbott began working for USDA in July of 1991 at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service where she conducted ecological risk assessments and prepared environmental documents required under the National Environmental Policy Act. In 1998, Abbott was detailed to the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy to evaluate risk assessment methods developed for the Food Quality Protection Act. Abbott joined the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit staff in 2000. She has developed or reviewed risk assessments in a wide variety of agricultural areas including natural resource conservation, forestry management, food safety, animal health, and pest management.

Abbott received a Ph.D. in biology-ecology from Utah State University, a Master's degree in environmental biology from George Mason University, and a Bachelor's Degree in biology from Florida Southern College. She also holds a J.D. from the George Mason University School of Law.

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