

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

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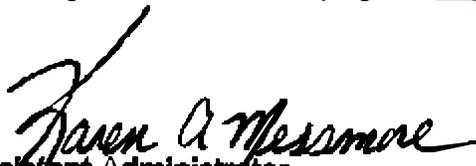
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENT

The Food Safety and Inspection Service reaffirms its commitment to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). All Agency employees and applicants for employment must be treated with respect, dignity, fairness, and equality regardless of race; color; national origin; religion; age (40 and over); gender; mental or physical disability; sexual orientation; marital, family, or parental status; political beliefs; protected genetic information; or reprisal (retaliation) for prior EEO activity. Employees must abide by this policy regardless of personal opinions.

Managers and supervisors must ensure that their employment decisions and actions are in compliance with EEO laws and policies. They are responsible for providing leadership, educating and updating employees on EEO and civil rights issues in the workplace, and ensuring that lines of communication are open at all levels. Each manager and supervisor must take personal responsibility to communicate information in a way that ensures equal access.

As the Agency's mission evolves, we must continue to demonstrate our commitment to attain and maintain a diverse workforce. This will enhance our ability to successfully develop effective solutions to the challenges of food safety and biosecurity risks. Continuing to attract a talented and diverse workforce in all occupations and grade levels, and demonstrating fairness, cooperation, and respect toward all employees is critical. Therefore, discriminatory actions in the workplace will not be tolerated. EEO laws and Agency policy mandate equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination in all policies, practices, and operations.

For more information on EEO or civil rights, employees may contact the Civil Rights Division at 301-504-7756 (Voice and TDD), 1-800-269-6912 (Toll-free), or link to the Civil Rights Division web page at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OM/CRD/toc.htm>.

for

Assistant Administrator
Office of Management

DISTRIBUTION:
All Employees

NOTICE EXPIRES:
March 1, 2005

OPI:
CRD – Program Planning,
Analysis and
Compliance Branch