

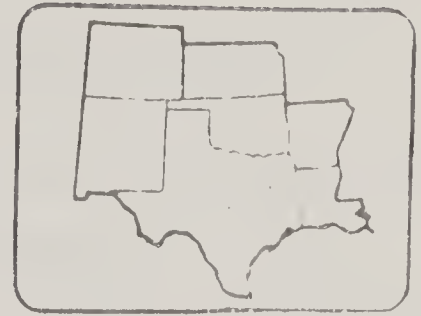
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FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SERVICE

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December

Houston Named Acting Administrator Of USDA'S Food Safety and Quality Service

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has named Donald L. Houston acting administrator of the department's Food Safety and Quality Service (FSQS).

Houston replaces Sydney J. Butler, who is returning to his position as deputy assistant secretary for food and consumer services on a full-time basis.

"Mr. Butler has done an outstanding job serving as acting agency administrator in addition to meeting his responsibilities as deputy assistant secretary," said Carol Tucker Foreman, assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services.

"However, the demands of my office require that Mr. Butler devote full attention to his duties as deputy assistant secretary."

Foreman said that the extensive search to select a permanent administrator of FSQS is continuing.

"We are conducting interviews with a number of individuals and expect to name a permanent administrator by spring," she said. "Until a permanent administrator is selected, I have confidence that Dr. Houston will ably direct the agency's programs."

Houston is presently the deputy administrator responsible for the meat and poultry inspection program of FSQS. He has worked closely with Butler in the overall administration of FSQS, which includes the federal inspection of meat and poultry; standardization and voluntary grading services for meat, poultry, fruit, vegetable and dairy products; egg products inspection; and the various food purchasing operations for the department's school lunch and other domestic food programs.

Houston joined the department in 1961 and has served on the Washington headquarters staff since 1965. He has held a number of technical and administrative positions related to food processing and food hygiene.

2. Houston Named Acting Administrator Of USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service

Houston was born in East St. Louis, Ill., on Sept. 14, 1934. He is a 1959 graduate of the University of Illinois, Champaign, where he earned his doctorate in veterinary medicine. Except for a two-year tour of duty with the U.S. Army, his entire professional career has been with the department. Houston is a member of the American Veterinary Preventive Medicine Association and various other scientific and professional societies.

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