

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY



**2022 SUNSET REVIEW
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

EXECUTIVE STAFF

(225)922-1234

- **Brent Robbins, DVM - Deputy Commissioner**
- **Todd Parker – Confidential Assistant**
- **Sabrina Sentino – Deputy Chief of Staff**
- **Tabitha Irvin Gray - Executive Counsel and Director of the Medical Marijuana Program**
- **Jennifer Finley– Press Secretary**

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

MISSION OF LDAF:

promote, protect and advance agriculture and forestry, soil and water resources.

VISION of LDAF:

be a unified and coordinated team that effectively responds to the challenges facing the agricultural and forestry industries, and which pursues each and every opportunity that might provide a benefit to the state and its citizens.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (AES)

Office of Agro-Consumer Services (ACS)

Office of Animal Health and Food Safety (AHFS)

Office of Forestry (FOR)

Office of Management and Finance (OMF)

Office of Soil and Water Conservation (OSWC)

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (AES)

**DR. ANSEL RANKINS, SR., ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
(225) 925-3763**

- Dr. Ted Gauthier, Director – Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division
- Tina Peltier, Director – Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division
- Harry Schexnayder, Director – Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division
 - Lester Cannon, Director – Seed Programs Division
 - Tabitha Irvin, Director – Medical Marijuana Programs Division

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (AES)



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (AES)

MISSION OF AES:

- ensure that fertilizers, agricultural liming materials, and pesticides meet all requirements of law;
- monitor, prevent, control, and eradicate plant pests and diseases that threaten Louisiana's agriculture, environment, and economy;
- facilitate agricultural exports through certification of products;
- oversee the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry;
- protect human health and the environment by ensuring the proper labeling, distribution, storage, use, application, and disposal of pesticides, and through enforcement of all pesticide laws;
- ensure that seed sold for planting meets label guarantees and quality standards;
- ensure that industrial hemp remains a viable agricultural commodity in Louisiana and is produced in compliance with state and federal laws; and
- ensure that both medical marijuana licensees and their subcontractors comply with product safety, federal and state guidelines, and quality assurance requirements.

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (AES)

25 Major Program Areas

- Apiary Regulation
- Biotechnology
- Boll Weevil Eradication
- Cooperative Agric. Pest Survey
- Endangered Species
- Export Certification
- Seed Certification
- Seed Service Testing
- Food Safety
- Structural Pest Control
- Horticulture Regulation
- Worker Protection
- Medical Marijuana
- Pesticide Certification and Training
- Pesticide Enforcement and Compliance
- Pesticide Registration
- Pesticide Waste Control
- Plant Pest Inspections
- Quarantine Authority
- Fertilizer Regulation
- Seed Regulation
- Sweet Potato Inspection
- Water Quality Control
- Nursery Inspections
- Industrial Hemp

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (AES)

The following Commissions are housed within AES:

- Advisory Commission on Pesticides
- Agricultural Chemistry and Seed Commission
- Boll Weevil Eradication Commission
- Horticulture Commission
- Structural Pest Control Commission
- Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission

OFFICE OF AGRO CONSUMER SERVICES (ACS)

DR. BOBBY FLETCHER, JR., ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
(225) 922-1341

- Kyra Fitzgerald, Director – Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission
- Rene Simon, Director – Dairy Division
- Paul Floyd, Director – Weights and Measures Division



OFFICE OF AGRO CONSUMER SERVICES (ACS)

MISSION OF ACS:

- ensure that equity prevails in the marketplace by regulating various aspects of commerce and trade and by promoting and heightening consumer awareness of Louisiana's agricultural commodities to increase sales, thereby enhancing the economic well being of Louisiana farmers and the State as a whole;
- ensure that Louisiana consumers get what they pay for, that producers have markets available and receive fair compensation for their commodities;
- ensure that businesses have a favorable environment in which to operate.

OFFICE OF AGRO CONSUMER SERVICES (ACS)

Board and Commissions in ACS

- Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission
- Louisiana Dairy Stabilization Board
- Louisiana Weights and Measures Commission



OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFS)

KEVIN WOFFORD, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Director of the Board of Animal Health, Director of Livestock Brand Commission and
Director of Emergency Programs
(225) 925-3962

- Brent Robbins, DVM, Deputy Commissioner and State Veterinarian
- Daniel Myrick, DVM, Assistant State Veterinarian and Assistant Director of the Board of Animal Health
- Natalie Glover, Director of Egg Commission, Director of the Meat Inspection, Poultry & Egg and Food Quality Service Division
 - Mack B. Williams, RD, Director of Food Distribution Division
 - Jonathan Roberts, DVM, Director of Animal Feed Division
 - Rebecca Riecke, Director of Strawberry Marketing Board

OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFS)

MISSION OF AHFS:

- guard and protect the integrity of the livestock industry against animal diseases through diagnostic, preventative, eradication and other deterrent measures;
- protect the food chain, public health and general welfare of the Louisiana citizens by assuring that meat, seafood, poultry, eggs, fruits and vegetables and their products are properly identified, labeled, inspected and accurately graded;
- control livestock theft and denying a market for stolen cattle, horses and farm equipment;
- administer (through the Food Distribution Division) the USDA Commodity Program ;
- coordinate the department's Emergency Management and Response before, during and after a disaster (ESF-4, Firefighting and ESF-11, Agriculture); and
- regulate animal feeds manufactured and distributed in the state to ensure they are labeled according to regulations and tested to guarantee they are safe for livestock and pets.

OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFS)

Divisions of AHFS

- ANIMAL FEED PROGRAM
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION
- FOOD QUALITY SERVICES DIVISION
- LIVESTOCK BRAND COMMISSION
- MEAT & POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM/GRADING & CERTIFICATION
- POULTRY AND EGG DIVISION
- VETERINARY HEALTH DIVISION



OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFS)

Boards and Commissions housed in AHFS:

- Louisiana Animal Control Advisory Task Force
- Louisiana Beef Industry Council
- Louisiana Board of Animal Health
- Louisiana Crawfish Promotion And Research Board
- Louisiana Egg Commission
- Louisiana Equine Research and Promotion Board
- Louisiana Livestock Brand Commission
- Louisiana Strawberry Marketing Board



OFFICE OF FORESTRY

WADE DUBEA

STATE FORESTER AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

(225)925-4500

Epney Brasher - - Associate State Forester



OFFICE OF FORESTRY

MISSION OF OFFICE OF FORESTRY:

protect, conserve, and replenish the state's forest resources.

Five Divisions

- Forest Protection
- Forest Management
- Forest Health
- Enforcement
- Aviation



OFFICE OF FORESTRY

THE OFFICE OF FORESTRY:

- promote sound forest management practices;
- provide technical assistance, insect and disease control and law enforcement for the state's forest lands;
- conduct fire detection and suppression activities using surveillance aircraft and fire crews;
- provide conservation, education and urban forestry expertise and
- house the Louisiana Forestry Commission.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE (OMF)

DANE MORGAN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

(225)952-8143

- Kevin Finley, Deputy Undersecretary
- Rebecca Dupree, Director – Fiscal Services
- Michelle Ribera, Director – LA Ag Finance Authority
- Michelle Estay - Commodities Promotion and Research Division
- Jennifer Bello, Director - Purchasing
- Kelly Ransome, Director – Property Control
- Earl Thornton, Director – Information Technology Services
- Chris Rowinsky, Director – Facility Maintenance
- Scottie Harrell, Director – Fleet Operations

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE (OMF)

MISSION OF OMF:

- specify, procure and allocate resources necessary to support the mission of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry.

OMF is comprised of the Executive Office and the following functional areas:

- Fiscal and Support Services
- Auditing
- Fleet and Facility Maintenance
- Market Bulletin
- Human Resources
- Purchasing
- Property Control
- LA Agricultural Finance Authority
- Certified Louisiana
- Commodity Promotion and Research
- Information Technology Services



OFFICE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION (OSWC)

JOEY BREAU, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
(225)922-1269

Theron Phillips, Coordinator of Soil & Water
Conservation District Programs



OFFICE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION (OSWC)

OSWC Staff duties:

- Conservation Education
- Soil & Water Conservation Commission
- Administration and Assistance to SWCDs
- Agriculture Solid Waste Management Program
- Agricultural Prescribed Burning
- Coastal Wetland Re-vegetation Program
- The Clean Water Act Section 319 (EPA)
Agriculture Nonpoint Source Pollution Control
- USDA Conservation Programs

OFFICE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION (OSWC)

State Soil & Water Conservation Commission is housed in OSWC.

- OSWC Asst. Commissioner serves as SWCC Exec. Director
- OSWC serves as the official cooperating agency with the USDA as required for conservation program benefits.
- OSWC provides financial assistance, administrative support, centralized direction and coordination to 44 Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).
- SWCDs provide conservation planning services to landowners, parish governments, municipalities and others within their individual districts.
- SWCDs are local units of state government with capabilities very unique to any other form of state or local government, due mainly to their capability of entering private property at the request of landowners to plan and/or construct various conservation systems.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

LDAF headquarters in Baton Rouge

225-922-1234

www.ldaf.state.la.us

Toll-free number

(answered in Baton Rouge)

1-866-927-2476