



Chairman Robert Aderholt

*Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY 2016 Budget Hearing – USDA Office of the Inspector General Hearing February 13, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared

The Subcommittee will come to order.

Good morning. Welcome to the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee's second hearing for fiscal year (FY) 2016. I'm sure my colleagues will agree that we are off to a quick and good start this year.

On Wednesday, I shared in some detail the themes I have set to guide the Subcommittee's work for FY 2016. As a reminder, they are 1) Improving the Management of our Agencies and Programs; 2) Targeting Funds to the Most Important Programs and Functions; and 3) Promoting U.S. Agriculture, Free and Fair Markets, and Safe Food and Medicines.

In summary, we will focus on "management, targeting, and promotion."

Today, I will focus on Theme #1 – Improving the Management of our Agencies and Programs. This builds off of our oversight activities over the past several years. It also corresponds with the Inspector General's efforts on these issues.

Ms. Fong, we look forward to learning more about your work to encourage USDA to improve its governance processes and internal controls and to be more disciplined and transparent in its decision-making. This Subcommittee respects your work and appreciates your recommendations on ways to continuously improve the management of a large, complex, and important part of the Federal Government.

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