

**Phil Karsting**  
Administrator  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Phil Karsting was appointed Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service in May 2013. Phil served more than 22 years on Capitol Hill, most recently as Chief of Staff to Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), then Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies.



Previous Capitol Hill assignments include serving as Senior Analyst on the Democratic Staff of the Senate Budget Committee where he handled issues relating to agriculture, rural development, housing, telecommunications, energy and the environment. He also served as Legislative Assistant to the late Senator Jim Exon (D-Neb.). He served on the Senate Bi-partisan Chiefs of Staff steering committee, and in 2013, on behalf of the National Democratic Institute, led training seminars in Liberia for Liberian congressional staff.

Phil began his association with American agriculture working in his family's farm supply business in rural Nebraska. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is also a graduate of the French Culinary Institute in New York.