



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Research
Education
Economics

Office
of the Under
Secretary

Room 216W
Jamie L. Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-0110

APR 30 2019

Dear ERS Colleagues,

As you may be aware, Dr. Hartley's appointment as Acting Administrator of the Economic Research Service (ERS) is limited in duration by law and expires effective tonight at midnight. We are appreciative of Dr. Hartley's exceptional service and leadership during this period and we are pleased to confirm that he will be transitioning to a role in support of ERS, including relocation activities.

I am pleased to also announce that, effective May 1, 2019, Dr. Ephraim Leibtag will serve as the Acting Administrator of ERS. Dr. Leibtag currently serves as ERS's Assistant Administrator and he previously served as Deputy Director for Research and Product Coordinator in ERS's Food Economics Division. Dr. Leibtag has recently led efforts to prepare ERS's new Strategic Plan, oversees ERS's Staff Analysis team and also has extensive experience working with REE and Departmental leadership to ensure ERS delivers timely and relevant research, analysis, and outlook products. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2002 and conducted research on retail food markets and food price dynamics at ERS upon completion of his degree.

Dr. Leibtag is hereby delegated authority to perform the duties assigned by law and Federal regulation. This designation and delegations of authority are effective May 1, 2019, and shall continue in effect for the designee either until withdrawn or until a successor is appointed to perform the functions of the office. He will also join the Research, Education, and Economics Leadership Team in his new capacity.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Leibtag as Acting ERS Administrator, and in thanking Dr. Hartley for his dedicated service to ERS.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hutchins", written over a horizontal line.

Scott Hutchins