

**ADAM CHAMBERS, SCIENTIST**  
**USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**



Adam leads Environmental Markets activities under NRCS's Energy and Environmental Markets Team. Adam's work focuses on leveraging markets that value ecosystem services, building strategic partnerships, and getting 'more conservation on the ground'. His environmental markets and conservation finance work is supported by NRCS Farm Bill programs that aim to increase the amount of voluntary conservation practices that are implemented on working agricultural lands in the United States.

Over the past two decades Dr. Chambers' project work has focused on the applied sciences and reducing atmospheric pollutants (air pollutants and greenhouse gases).

He is currently working to implement conservation practices on managed agricultural lands that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sequestration in soils, providing an emerging carbon market opportunity for US landowners and agricultural producers.

**DR. CARRIE CASTILLE, DIRECTOR**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**



A Louisiana native, Dr. Castille has championed agriculture and rural issues for more than 20 years.

Throughout her career, she has focused on agriculture, policy and education. She served as Natural Resource Leader and Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University and Associate Commissioner and Science Advisor to the Commissioner for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

In 2017, Dr. Castille joined USDA as state director for Louisiana Rural Development and was later named the mid-south coordinator for USDA's Farm Production and Conservation mission area serving Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri.

Prior to joining USDA, she was appointed by USDA Secretary Vilsack to the National Agriculture Research, Extension, Education, and Economics advisory board and was appointed to the National Council for Environmental Policy and Technology by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. Dr. Castille was a delegate to the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' Council on Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET), a member of the National Food Animal Veterinary Institute Board of Directors and is a past chair of the Southern U.S. Trade Association Operations Committee. She also is a Fellow of the Food Systems Leadership Institute.

**DOUGLAS L. STEELE, PH.D., VICE PRESIDENT  
FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC & LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES**



Dr. Steele was appointed to his current position on January 2, 2019. Through collaborative partnerships with 105 member institutions the office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources focuses on broad cross-cutting issues related to agriculture, food and fiber, forestry, human sciences, natural resources, and veterinary medicine. Priority areas include advocating yearly on behalf of the agricultural research, extension, and education funding in support of land-grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, life sciences and natural resources.

Prior positions and appointments include Director of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Vice President for External Relations and Director of Extension for Montana State University. Steele previously held Extension and faculty positions at Colorado State University and Purdue University.

Doug has presented at international, national, and regional conferences on such topics as leadership, innovation, community engagement, topics in agriculture, and the role of a 21<sup>st</sup> century land-grant university. Some awards of distinction Doug has received include the Visionary Leadership Award, Montana State University Extension; the F. A. Anderson Distinguished Service Award, Colorado State University; National Friend of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Superior Service Award for Excellence, United States Department of Agriculture. Doug believes in the power of the Land-Grant University to provide access and affordability to higher education, increase the profitability of agricultural enterprises and transform families, youth, and communities.

Doug and his wife, Lori, reside in Bowie, MD have four grown children and three grandchildren.

**DR. GLENDA HUMISTON, VICE PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**



Dr. Glenda Humiston became Vice President of UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources in August 2015. Humiston brings over 30 years of experience working on public policy development and program implementation supporting sustainability; prior experience includes service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia and several years as a consultant on environmental and agricultural issues throughout the western states.

Prior to her current position, she served President Obama 2009 – 2015 as the California State Director for USDA's Rural Development programs. From 1998 – 2001 she served President Clinton as Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA. Glenda managed the Sustainable Development Institute at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development in South Africa and the 2006 World Water Forum in Mexico City. She produced a widely acclaimed guidebook on "Access to Capital" and has led efforts to bring rural issues to the forefront of the state's Economic Summit and policymakers throughout California. Humiston earned her Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley in Environmental Science, Policy and Management; a Master's in International Agricultural Development from U.C. Davis and a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Colorado State University.

**HENRY FADAMIRO, CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER  
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH**



Henry Fadamiro joined Texas A&M University in July 2021 as a Professor in the Department of Entomology. He also serves as Associate Director & Chief Scientific Officer for Texas A&M AgriLife Research and as Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

Prior to joining Texas, A&M University, Henry was on the entomology faculty at Auburn University, Alabama for 18+ years and was promoted to the rank of professor in 2012. At Auburn University, Henry served as Associate Dean for Research for the College of Agriculture and as Associate Director of Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station from 2017-2021. He had also served as Assistant Dean for Global Programs from 2014-2016 and as Alabama's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator from 2004-2019. Henry received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biological Sciences from the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) Nigeria, and also taught at FUTA. In 1992, he was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to study at Oxford University, England, where he received a Ph.D. degree in Entomology & Pest Management in 1995.

Prior to joining Auburn University in 2003, Henry worked as a researcher and program leader at several institutions, including International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria, Iowa State University, University of Minnesota, and Minnesota Department of Agriculture. He had served as a USAID consultant in Africa and led efforts to develop academic interchange agreements with many institutions in several countries including Brazil, China, Cuba, India, Nigeria, and Vietnam.

Working with various teams, Henry has received more than \$20 million in grants and published more than 150 articles. He has trained over 30 postgraduate students and postdoctoral scholars from various parts of the globe. Henry's academic accomplishments have been recognized nationally and globally with various awards and prizes. In 2010, he was named fellow of the Royal Entomological Society. In 2011, he received an award for Excellence in IPM from the Entomological Society of America-Southeastern Branch and was named Alumni Professor at Auburn University. He is a fellow of the Leadership for the 21st Century (LEAD 21, Class VIII) program for Land-Grant institutions and their strategic partners, and also a fellow of the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI, Cohort 9).

**DEPUTY SECRETARY DR. JEWEL BRONAUGH**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



On May 17, 2021, Dr. Jewel Bronaugh was sworn-in as the first Black woman and woman of color Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Prior to her confirmation, Dr. Jewel H. Bronaugh was appointed as the 16th Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 2018 by Governor Ralph Northam. She previously served as the Virginia State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe and then-U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, in July 2015. Prior to her FSA appointment, she served as Dean of the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University (VSU) with oversight of Extension, Research and Academic Programs and as Executive Director of the VSU Center for Agricultural Research, Engagement and Outreach. She also previously served as the Associate Administrator for Extension Programs and as a 4-H Extension Specialist.

In spring 2019, Dr. Bronaugh launched the Virginia Farmer Stress Task Force to raise awareness and coordinate resources to address farmer stress and mental health challenges in Virginia. In the fall of 2020, she helped establish the Virginia Food Access Investment Fund and Program, the first statewide program of its kind to address food access within historically marginalized communities.

Dr. Bronaugh holds a bachelor's degree in Education from James Madison University, and she received her master's degree and Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education from Virginia Tech. She is passionate about the advancement of youth leadership in agriculture. Dr. Bronaugh is from Petersburg, Virginia. Her husband Cleavon is a retired United States Army Veteran.

**J. KEITH GILLESS, FORMER DEAN  
RAUSSER COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**



J. Keith Gilless is the Former Dean of UC Berkeley's Rausser College of Natural Resources, and a Professor Emeritus of Forest Economics. His research encompasses wildland fire protection planning, forest management decision making, regional economic analysis, and modeling markets for forest products. He received a BS degree in forestry from Michigan State University and a joint PhD forestry and agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

At Berkeley, Gilless held professorial appointments in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management and the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. He has also held visiting professor and researcher appointments at Beijing Forestry University and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria.

Gilless is a recipient of the Berkeley Academic Senate's Distinguished Teaching Award as well as its Distinguished Service Award, and the co-author of two textbooks on forest resource management and economics. Since he retired from active faculty status in 2020, he has continued to serve the campus as the Secretary of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Faculty Club and the Council of Friends of the Bancroft Library.

Gilless currently serves as chair of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Under his leadership, the Board has engaged in substantive revisions to the portions of the California Public Regulatory Code dealing with protection of watercourses, fire safety-related land use planning, non-industrial forest management plans, etc., as well as crafting emergency rules to allow the public to deal with problems such as tree mortality resulting from drought and fire. He previously served on the USDA's Forest Research Advisory Council.



**DR. MICHAEL V. DRAKE, THE 21ST PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**



In August 2020, Michael V. Drake, M.D. became the 21st president of UC's world-renowned system of 10 campuses, five medical centers, three nationally affiliated labs, more than 280,000 students and 230,000 faculty and staff.

Dr. Drake previously served as president of The Ohio State University (OSU) from 2014 through June 2020. Prior to his six years at OSU, his entire academic career has been at UC, including as chancellor of UC Irvine for nine years from 2005 to 2014 and as the systemwide vice president for health affairs from 2000 to 2005. Drake received his A.B. from Stanford University and his residency, M.D., and fellowship in ophthalmology from UCSF. He subsequently spent more than two

decades on the faculty of the UCSF School of Medicine, including as the Steven P. Shearing Professor of Ophthalmology.

Under his leadership, Drake greatly enhanced UC Irvine's reputation as a premier university. UC Irvine rose to join the top 10 public universities in U.S. News & World Report's annual list and was ranked by Times Higher Education as the No. 1 university in the U.S. under 50 years old. During his tenure at the campus, the four-year graduation rate increased by more than 18 percent, while undergraduate enrollment and diversity significantly increased. In addition, Drake oversaw the establishment of new schools of law and education as well as programs in public health, nursing and pharmacy.

Drake has published numerous articles and co-authored six books. He served as a reviewer for several medical journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association, Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science and the American Journal of Ophthalmology. Drake is a member of several national scientific and scholarly societies, and has received various awards for teaching, public service, mentoring and research. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received the UCSF School of Medicine's Clinical Teaching Award, the Hogan Award for Laboratory Research, the Chancellor's Award for Public Service, the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for University Service, the UC Irvine Medal, and the University of California Presidential Medal in recognition of his exemplary service to the University.

Drake's extensive public service experience includes various roles for the American Medical Association, the National Eye Institute, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and multiple commissions on health in the state of California. He is a former chair of the board of directors of the Association of American Universities and currently serves as a member of the board of directors for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. He is also the chair of the board of governors of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, a member of the American Talent Initiative Steering Committee, and a member of the board of directors of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



**NEHRWR ABDUL-WAHID, LEAD CONSULTANT  
ONE UMHAAH CONSULTING**



Nehrwr Abdul-Wahid will serve as lead consultant. Nehrwr (pronounced "nay-wah") Abdul-Wahid is a highly sought-after consultant, trainer, and facilitator of what he describes as “much needed empathetic and compassionate dialogue with the goal of being more effective in how we work with and across our differences.” His work focuses on building leadership skills by tapping into the diverse talents of individuals and their work-teams. His work on authentic community building has led to national recognition of some of the programs and students he worked with as Training Coordinator of the University of Minnesota’s Diversity Institute.

Nehrwr’s ability to effectively use experiential learning has facilitated self-reflection, authentic dialogue and innovative and adaptive solutions for thousands of people.

Nehrwr's educational background includes degrees and professional certifications in Mathematics, Educational Policy and Administration and Business Administration, conflict mediation, program design, adult learning, leadership development and team-building. Nehrwr is a resident trainer with the Blandin Foundation of Grand Rapids, Minnesota where he designs and implements leadership programs for rural community leaders. Nehrwr is both a Qualified Administrator (QA) and a faculty member of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Qualifying Seminar – the premier intercultural development assessment tool used all over the world. Nehrwr also served Lead Consultant with AARP’s cultural competency initiative where he oversaw the development and delivery of a wide range of learning initiatives designed to better equip staff and volunteers to more effectively navigate the changing demographics of their members. Nehrwr’s client list also includes Best Buy, Honeywell, Lockheed-Martin, and the City of Dubuque. Social service agencies such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Alexandra House and YouthLink. A long list of educational institutions such as Macalester College, Southwest Minnesota State University, University of Michigan – (Ann Arbor and Flint campuses), University of Illinois, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and school districts all over the country have also made use of his expertise.

Nehrwr was born in Washington D.C., raised on the Chicago’s South Side and currently resides in Fridley, Minnesota. Nehrwr founded One Ummah Consulting in 2003 and in 2009 co-authored "The PIOOYA (Pie-OO-YA) Principles" with William Mease - which they describe as “the 21st century’s ultimate anti-self-help book”.

**NOELLE E. COCKETT, PRESIDENT  
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY**



Noelle E. Cockett was appointed as Utah State University's 16th president in October 2016, beginning her official tenure in January 2017.

At the time of the announcement, Cockett was serving as executive vice president and provost at USU and has held that position since 2013. Prior to that, she served USU as vice president for Extension, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and director of the Utah Agriculture Experiment Station. Cockett joined USU in 1990 as a researcher and assistant professor in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Cockett has built a distinguished career in sheep genomics research, maintaining an active research program even while serving in various leadership positions at USU. Her research program has centered on the identification of genetic markers associated with economically important traits in sheep, as well as the development of resources that advance research on the sheep genome. Cockett and her colleagues published an article describing the sheep genome sequence in *Science* in 2014. Her current project focuses on the identification of genetic regions associated with entropion in newborn lambs. Cockett has served as the United States coordinator for sheep genome mapping since 1993 and is an active member of the International Sheep Genomics Consortium.

Cockett grew up on a beef cattle ranch in eastern Montana and is married to John Cockett, director of technology in USU's Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services. Noelle and John have two children, Dylan and Chantelle.

**ORLANDO F. MCMEANS, CHANCELLOR-DEAN  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER**



Orlando Fitzgerald McMeans' broad knowledge base, commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to agricultural science as well as his keen insight to the problems, issues and trends facing both students and educators easily positions him as a valued colleague in the Land-Grant system. He is quick-witted, an effective communicator, a problem solver, and expects colleagues and employees alike to put forth their best efforts in whatever endeavor they undertake. He is also a very fair and empathetic individual and actively listens to all points of view before drawing conclusions. He will not hesitate to point out poor performance when necessary and make difficult decisions in a timely manner.

After completing post-doctoral work in genetic engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Orlando accepted a faculty research position in biology at West Virginia State University (WVSU) and served as the Director of Land Grant Programs. Immediately, he led the University's efforts to regain its 1890 land-grant status, following a prolonged absence of the institution's historically black land-grant status (WVSU's land-grant status was restored in 1999). Orlando served as the Vice President for Research and Public Service, the Dean and Director of the WVSU Gus R. Douglass Land- Grant Institute, the Executive Director of the WVSU Research and Development Corporation, and the Director of Title III Programs.

In July 2019, Southern University System Board of Supervisors accepted the recommendation to appoint Orlando F. McMeans as Chancellor-Dean of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences at Southern University Baton Rouge.

In addition, Orlando currently serves in two leadership roles with the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU): Chair-Elect of the Budget and Advocacy Committee and the Liaison to the Council of Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET). He has served in leadership positions in the following organizations: Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy; the Association of Research Directors; Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences; and the USDA/1890 Executive Team. In 2016, he was reappointed by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin to the West Virginia Science and Research Council and has served as a member since 2011.

Orlando has received a number of awards and honors—Distinguished Leadership Award as Chair of the Association of Research Directors (ARD); "Pillar of our Community" Award from the Charleston-Institute Chapter; National Head Start Success Story Recipient; Association of Extension Administrators (AEA) 1890 Pioneer Award; Tuskegee University's L.A. Potts Success Story Award; and the Distinguished Ronald E. McNair Scholar Award. Orlando earned a B.S. degree from Alabama A&M University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**DR. PATRICK SULLIVAN, OWNER & FOUNDER  
OCEANIT**



Dr. Patrick Sullivan is a scientist, engineer, technologist, entrepreneur, businessman, author, public speaker, and futurist. He founded Oceanit in 1985, a self-funded “Mind to Market” company that produces technology from home-grown research, development and engineering, which employs approximately 200 scientists, engineers and professionals that provide innovative solutions in the fields of aerospace, energy, engineering, information technology and life sciences. Oceanit’s more than \$600M in funding has created cutting-edge innovations in the fields of aerospace, energy, bio-photonics, artificial intelligence, neurotoxin detection, nanotechnology and optics, as well as technology for missile defense, advanced manufacturing, space debris management and environmental applications that are the subject of numerous reports, patents and research programs.

Dr. Sullivan, named Hawaii Business Magazine’s “2016 CEO of the Year” <http://www.hawaiibusiness.com/the-science-of-success-the-success-of-science/>, brings over 40 years of entrepreneurial, start-up, business, and scientific experience to Oceanit’s “Mind-to-Market” business model that integrates “Design Thinking” for human-centered design with “Intellectual Anarchy™,” the art of disruptive innovation. This approach has yielded a variety of disruptive technologies and products, ranging from composites and material treatments to nano-energetics and sensors with applications straddling disparate markets from medical to energy. Dr. Sullivan’s over 35 years of CEO experience and his broad background in scientific innovations, team building, and business has enabled and launched numerous private equity funded start-up spin-out companies.

Dr. Sullivan has extensive experience on boards and commissions, including former board seats with the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (appointed by the Secretary of the Navy), Parker Ranch, the High Technology Development Corporation and The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES). He serves on Rice University’s Material Science and Nano Engineering (MSNE) Advancement Committee and the Dean’s Engineering Council for the College of Engineering for the University of Hawaii. Current directorships include Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, and Hoana Medical. Dr. Sullivan is a former board member of Watt IQ (formerly IBIS Networks) and is a current member of the Hawaii Military Affairs Council of the Chamber of Commerce; Oahu Economic Development Board; and Friends of the Challenger Center Hawaii. He has successfully developed nationally focused research programs, such as CEROS, and the Electric Vehicle Demo, both collaborations with DARPA. Dr. Sullivan is the author of “Intellectual Anarchy – *The Art of Disruptive Innovation*,” Ingram Press, Amazon and Selected Bookstores, (May 2020). He is Co-Author (Chapters 1&19) of “AI at War - *How Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Are Changing Naval Warfare*” US Naval Institute Press (going to print soon). He served as the honorary consul to the Republic of Indonesia in Hawaii from 2001-2013. Dr. Sullivan received his Ph.D. in Engineering from the University of Hawaii and his BS in Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

**DR. SALLY ROCKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH**



Dr. Sally Rockey became the inaugural Executive Director of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) in September 2015.

Prior to this role, Dr. Rockey was an award-winning leader in Federal research, overseeing the operations of the extramural programs in both agriculture and biomedicine. She spent 19 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) where she held a number of positions within the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

Very early in her career she became the head of the competitive grants program, overseeing the extramural grants process and portfolio. In her final years with USDA, she was the Chief Information Officer, applying her breadth of government knowledge to information technology. She brought her experience in agriculture research to her 11-year career at the National Institutes of Health, where she emphasized the connection between agriculture, food, and health. As Deputy Director for Extramural Research, Dr. Rockey oversaw the operations of the largest Federal extramural research program and led groundbreaking initiatives and activities that have and will have a lasting positive impact on the research community.

Dr. Rockey received her Ph.D. in Entomology from the Ohio State University and did postgraduate work at University of Wisconsin prior to joining the government. She has devoted her career to improving people's lives through research and will continue her mission by seeing FFAR become an essential component of the scientific enterprise.

**SHARON NANCE, ASSISTANT STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**



Sharon Nance is the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Fresno California. Her experiences in USDA and NRCS include working with the Civil Rights Division, Legislative Affairs Office, Programs, the Outreach Division and was the USDA Strike Force Coordinator for eight western states.

She began her career with USDA as California's Rural Sociologist working with the Central Valley's Southeast Asian fruit & vegetable producers. She has aided Tribal Nations with their 'Seven Generation Plan' and was invited to conduct sociological observations in the Micronesian Islands. While serving as the California NRCS Environmental Justice Coordinator, she assisted EPA/EJ conduct Public Participation Stakeholder sessions throughout California. Over the last 15 years she has continued her work in Outreach, training NRCS staff to develop and lead Cadres on Extending Outreach to All Communities.

Sharon is Past President of National Association of Black Natural Resource Conservation Service employees (ORG), and a life member and the American Indian & Alaskan Native Association of NRCS employees and Equality USDA.



**STEVE KAPPES, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR  
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH SERVICE**



Steven Kappes became the ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs in August 2016.

Until his appointment, Dr. Kappes served as the Deputy Administrator for Animal Production and Protection (APP) in the Office of National Programs since 2005. The APP program includes animal production, animal health, entomology, aquaculture and animal well-being research in cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, trout, catfish and salmon. The APP staff also includes the ARS Biosafety Officer.

Currently, Steven is leading the ARS Big Data initiative. He recently served as a senior advisor for animal protection and production in the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist. He had worked with USDA agencies on issues related to animal health and production, herbicide resistance, and biosafety and biocontainment in high and maximum biocontainment laboratories.

Previously, he has co-chaired a U.S. Government interagency biosafety taskforce and is a co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Foreign Animal Disease Threats. He also is a member of the USDA One Health Joint Working Group, and he is working with USDA agencies and Food and Drug Administration to address issues on antimicrobial resistance.

**SUSAN DUNCAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION**



Dr. Susan Duncan is the Associate Director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station at Virginia Tech. In that role she contributes leadership in support of the 11 Virginia Tech Agricultural Research and Extension Centers around the state, Hatch and other capacity fund programs, and the research enterprise of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

As the Director of the VT Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture, she serves to advance transformative agricultural initiatives including the VT SmartFarm Innovation Network, data analytics and artificial intelligence, and cyberbiosecurity and biosecurity. She serves on the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee and several committees in the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors.

Throughout her career, Dr. Duncan has led and contributed to multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and education training programs. She is a Professor of Food Science and Technology, with a research emphasis in sensory evaluation of foods. Research impacts from her program have contributed to food packaging innovations for protection of milk nutrients and sensory quality, artificial intelligence applications in understanding consumer emotional response to food packaging and product quality, importance of consumer perception in selection of new domestic varieties of vegetable soybeans, also known as edamame, and potential of the milk protein, lactoferrin, on diminishing taste and odor dysfunction for cancer patients.

Her academic training includes a PhD from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville in food science, MS from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in foods and nutrition, and BS from The Ohio State University in food technology. She is a registered dietitian.