

United States Secretary of Agriculture

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The **United States Secretary of Agriculture** is the head of the United States Department of Agriculture. The current secretary is Tom Vilsack, who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on 20 January 2009.^[1] The position carries similar responsibilities to those of agriculture ministers in other governments.

The department includes several organizations. The 297,000 mi² (770,000 km²) of national forests and grasslands are managed by the United States Forest Service.^[2] The safety of food produced that are produced in the United States and sold here is ensured by the United States Food Safety and Inspection Service.^[3] The Food Stamp Program works with the states to provide food to low-income people.^[4] Advice for farmers and gardeners is provided by the United States Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.^[5]

The line of succession for the Secretary of Agriculture is as follows.^[6]

1. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
2. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services
3. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
4. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development
5. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
6. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment
7. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics
8. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety
9. General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture
10. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration
11. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations


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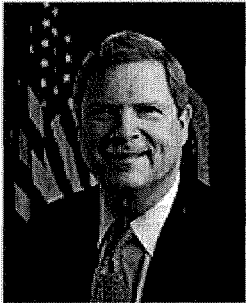
Secretaries of Agriculture

	Secretary of	State of	President(s) served
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United States Secretary of Agriculture



Official Seal



Incumbent:
Tom Vilsack
since: 20 January 2009

First Formation











Norman Jay Coleman
15 February 1889










Presidential succession

Ninth

Website

www.usda.gov
(http://www.usda.gov/)

#	Image		Residence	Term of Office	under
1		Norman Jay Coleman	Missouri	15 February 1889 - 6 March 1889	Grover Cleveland
2		Jeremiah M. Rusk	Wisconsin	6 March 1889 - 6 March 1893	Benjamin Harrison
3		J. Sterling Morton	Nebraska	7 March 1893 - 5 March 1897	Grover Cleveland
4		James Wilson	Iowa	5 March 1897 - 3 March 1913	William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft
5		David F. Houston	Missouri	6 March 1913 - 2 February 1920	Woodrow Wilson
6	 <small>Photo courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa</small>	Edwin T. Meredith	Iowa	2 February 1920 - 4 March 1921	
7		Henry C. Wallace	Iowa	5 March 1921 - 25 October 1924	Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge
8		Howard M. Gore	West Virginia	22 November 1924 - 4 March 1925	Calvin Coolidge
9		William M. Jardine	Kansas	5 March 1925 - 4 March 1929	
10		Arthur M. Hyde	Missouri	6 March 1929 - 4 March 1933	Herbert Hoover
11		Henry A. Wallace	Iowa	4 March 1933 - 4 September 1940	Franklin Roosevelt

					
12		Claude R. Wickard	Indiana	5 September 1940 - 29 June 1945	Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman
13		Clinton P. Anderson	New Mexico	30 June 1945 - 10 May 1948	Harry Truman
14		Charles F. Brannan	Colorado	2 June 1948 - 20 January 1953	
15		Ezra Taft Benson	Idaho	21 January 1953 - 20 January 1961	Dwight Eisenhower
16		Orville L. Freeman	Minnesota	21 January 1961 - 20 January 1969	John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson
17		Clifford M. Hardin	Nebraska	21 January 1969 - 17 November 1971	Richard Nixon
18		Earl L. Butz	Indiana	2 December 1971 - 4 October 1976	Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford
19		John A. Knebel	Oklahoma	4 November 1976 - 20 January 1977	Gerald Ford
20		Robert S. Bergland	Minnesota	23 January 1977 - 20 January 1981	Jimmy Carter
21		John R. Block	Illinois	23 January 1981 - 14 February 1986	

					
22		Richard E. Lyng	California	7 March 1986 - 21 January 1989	Ronald Reagan
23		Clayton K. Yeutter	Nebraska	16 February 1989 - 1 March 1991	George H. W. Bush
24		Edward R. Madigan	Illinois	8 March 1991 - 20 January 1993	
25	File:Mike Espy	Mike Espy	Mississippi	22 January 1993 - 31 December 1994	Bill Clinton
26		Daniel R. Glickman	Kansas	30 March 1995 - 19 January 2001	
27		Ann M. Veneman	California	20 January 2001 - 20 January 2005	George W. Bush
28		Michael O. Johanns	Nebraska	21 January 2005 - 20 September 2007	
29		Ed Schafer	North Dakota	28 January 2008 - 20 January 2009	
30		Tom Vilsack	Iowa	20 January 2009 – <i>present</i>	Barack Obama

Living Former Secretaries of Agriculture

- Clifford M. Hardin
- John A. Knebel
- Robert S. Bergland
- John R. Block
- Clayton K. Yeutter

- Alphonso Michael "Mike" Espy
- Daniel R. Glickman
- Ann M. Veneman
- Michael O. Johanns
- Edward T. Schafer

See also

- Living former members of the United States Cabinet

References

- ↑ Jalonick, Mary Clare (2009-01-20). "Senate Confirms Secretary of Agriculture (<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iV1IiNGrgUJu0ySqikhuYGjDF4LgD8UF4AVO0>)". AP.
<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iV1IiNGrgUJu0ySqikhuYGjDF4LgD8UF4AVO0>. Retrieved 2009-01-20.
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- ↑ "FNS Food Stamp Program Home Page (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>)". <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>. Retrieved 2005-09-24.
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United States presidential line of succession		
Preceded by Secretary of the Interior	9th in line	Succeeded by Secretary of Commerce

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Categories: Lists of government ministers | United States Department of Agriculture | United States Executive Cabinet | United States Secretaries of Agriculture | Agriculture ministers

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Ed Schafer

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Edward Thomas "Ed" Schafer (born August 8, 1946) served as the 29th United States Secretary of Agriculture from 2008 to 2009. He also served as the Governor of North Dakota from 1992 to 2000.

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- 2 Governor of North Dakota
- 3 Secretary of Agriculture
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Early life, career, and family

Schafer was born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota, and is the son of businessman Harold Schafer. His sister, Pam Schafer, was the first wife of Democratic-NPL U.S. Senator Kent Conrad.^[1]

His educational background includes a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota, where he was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity, and an M.B.A. from the University of Denver. Following graduation, he went to work at the Gold Seal Company, a North Dakota-based manufacturing company owned by his father, eventually serving as company president from 1978 to 1985.

He is married to the former Nancy Jones and has two children: Tom Schafer and Ellie Schafer; and two stepchildren: Eric Jones and Kari Jones. He is the first North Dakota Governor to be married while in office. Schafer has also played an active role in the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation an organization which preserves the landmarks and legacy of the time that US 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt spent in and around Medora, North Dakota, North Dakota between 1883-1889

Ed was the Expert of the "High Flyers" on the Discovery Channel TV show *Junkyard Wars*. Schafer was on during the fifth season of the show and won 2nd Place when the team lost to the "Jet Doctors" in the Season Five finale.

Governor of North Dakota

Edward Thomas Schafer



29th United States Secretary of Agriculture

In office

January 28, 2008 – January 20, 2009

President George W. Bush

Preceded by Mike Johanns

Succeeded by Tom Vilsack

30th Governor of North Dakota

In office

December 15, 1992 – December 15, 2000

Deputy Rosemarie Myrdal

Preceded by George Sinner

Succeeded by John Hoeven

Born	August 8, 1946 <div>Bismarck, North Dakota, United States</div>
Political party	Republican
Spouse(s)	Nancy Jones Schafer
Children	Tom Schafer <div>Ellie Schafer</div> <div>Eric Jones (stepson)</div> <div>Kari Jones (stepdaughter)</div>
Alma mater	University of North Dakota <div>University of Denver</div>
Religion	Episcopalian (currently attends First Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND where his wife is a member.)

In 1990, Schafer unsuccessfully challenged then-U.S. Congressman Byron Dorgan's reelection bid capturing 35% of the vote, to Dorgan's 65%. He was elected as North Dakota's 30th Governor in 1992, and subsequently won reelection in 1996. He did not seek reelection in 2000. During his final year in office, he served as Chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

In 2004, he declined to run for United States Senate against Dem-NPLer Byron Dorgan despite calls from national Republican leaders including then-President George W. Bush.

In 2002, Schafer was appointed as Civilian Aide to the United States Secretary of the Army. He also appeared in 2003 with his team, The High Flyers, as a contestant in the American TV Series Junkyard Wars. Schafer was formerly the CEO of Extend America, a start-up wireless communications company. He was a frequent guest host of the "Hot Talk" program on WDAY-AM in Fargo, North Dakota. Prior to his appointment to the cabinet, Schafer also served as an advisor and sometimes spokesperson for the North Dakota chapter of Americans for Prosperity, a nationwide limited-government/pro-growth organization.

Since Americans for Prosperity pulled out of North Dakota, Schafer has been supporting the North Dakota Taxpayers' Association as an advisor and key-note speaker.

Secretary of Agriculture

On October 31, 2007 Schafer was nominated by then-President George W. Bush to be the next Secretary of Agriculture.^[2] His hearing was originally scheduled for January 30, 2008, but was moved to January 24 on the request of North Dakota Sen. Kent Conrad so that Schafer could attend the State of the Union address as a cabinet member.^[3] The hearing was held on January 24; it was friendly,^[4] with Senators asking Gov. Schafer questions on various topics such as US beef exports to Japan and South Korea, the Department of Agriculture's ability to deliver on programs passed by Congress, policy on sugar, and cotton prices.^[5] On January 28, he was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate.^{[6][7]}

Schafer was in office just several days when a major scandal concerning cruelty and unsafe food erupted in the wake of an investigation of the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company by the Humane Society of the United States. In late February, in testimony before a subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he took the position that there was no need for a ban on downed cattle in the food supply.^[8]

Electoral history

- **1996 Race for Governor**
 - Ed Schafer (R) (inc.), 66%
 - Lee Kaldor (D), 34%
- **1992 Race for Governor**
 - Ed Schafer (R), 58%
 - Nick Spaeth (D), 41%
- **1990 Race for U.S. House of Representatives - At Large**
 - Byron Dorgan (D) (inc.), 65%
 - Ed Schafer (R), 35%

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1.

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2.

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White House (2007-10-31). "President Bush Nominates Ed Schafer for Secretary of Agriculture (<http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071031-9.html>)". Press release. <http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071031-9.html>. Retrieved 2008-01-25.

3.

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Jalonick, Mary Clare. *Schafer hearing to be held* (<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2008/01/12/news/state/146407.txt>). AP. 2008-01-12. Accessed 2008-01-25. "I was talking to Gov. Schafer, and he said it'd be nice if he could be confirmed earlier so he could go to the State of the Union address as a member of the president's cabinet," Conrad said. "That's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

4.

^

Pates, Mikkel. *Schafer gets a warm reception in Washington* (<http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/articles/index.cfm?id=13732§ion=news>). Grand Forks Herald. 2008-01-25. Accessed 2008-01-25. "Schafer, who served as North Dakota governor from 1992 to 2000, made it through a decidedly friendly Senate Agriculture Committee confirmation hearing Thursday on Capitol Hill."

5.

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Tonneson, Lon. *Senate Ag Committee Quizzes Schafer* (<http://dakotafarmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=31906&fpstid=2>). Dakota Farmer. 2008-01-25. Accessed 2008-01-25."

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7.

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<http://www.farmpolicy.com/?p=609>

8.

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USDA Rejects 'Downer' Cow Ban - washingtonpost.com (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/28/AR2008022804117.html>)

External links

■

High Plains Journal Article on Ed Schafer (<http://www.hpj.com/archives/2007/nov07/nov12/MeetthenomineeeforSecretaryo.cfm?login=true>)

■

USDA biography of Secretary Schafer (http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=bios_schafer.xml)

Political offices		
Preceded by George A. Sinner	Governor of North Dakota <div>1992 – 2000</div>	Succeeded by John Hoeven
Preceded by Mike Johanns	United States Secretary of Agriculture <div>Served Under: George W. Bush<div>2008-2009</div></div>	Succeeded by Tom Vilsack

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Categories: 1946 births | Living people | Governors of North Dakota | United States Secretaries of Agriculture | George W. Bush Administration cabinet members | People from Bismarck, North Dakota | American businesspeople | University of North Dakota alumni | University of Denver alumni | 2000 United States presidential electors | American Episcopalians

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Schafer

10/13/2009

Tom Vilsack

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Thomas James "Tom" Vilsack (born December 13, 1950) is an American politician, a member of the Democratic Party, and presently the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. He served as the 40th Governor of the state of Iowa. He was first elected in 1998 and re-elected to a second four-year term in 2002. On November 30, 2006, he formally launched his candidacy for the Democratic Party's nomination for President of the United States in the 2008 election, but ended his bid on February 23, 2007.^[1]

As of May 1, 2007, Vilsack joined the Des Moines office of Minneapolis-based law firm Dorsey & Whitney and is of counsel.^[2] Shortly after ending his 2008 bid for the White House, he endorsed Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and was named the national co-chair for Clinton's presidential campaign.^[3]

Barack Obama announced Vilsack's selection to be the United States Secretary of Agriculture under his administration on December 17, 2008. Vilsack's nomination was confirmed by the United States Senate by unanimous consent on January 20, 2009.

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Early life and family

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Tom Vilsack was abandoned at birth and placed in a Roman Catholic orphanage. He was adopted in 1951 by Bud and Dolly Vilsack, who raised him in the Roman Catholic faith. His adoptive father was a real-estate agent and insurance salesman, and his adoptive mother was a homemaker.

He attended high school at Shady Side Academy, a preparatory

Tom Vilsack



30th United States Secretary of Agriculture

Incumbent

Assumed office
January 21, 2009

PresidentBarack Obama

Preceded byEd Schafer

40th Governor of Iowa

In office

January 15, 1999 – January 12, 2007

LieutenantSally Pederson

Preceded byTerry Branstad

Succeeded byChet Culver

Member of the Iowa Senate

In office

1993 – 1998

Born

December 13, 1950
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Political party

Democratic

Spouse(s)

Christie Vilsack

Alma mater

Hamilton College
Albany Law School

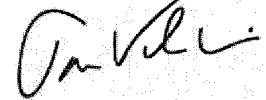
Occupation

Attorney

school in Pittsburgh. He received a Bachelor's degree in 1972 from Hamilton College in New York. While at Hamilton College he joined The Delta Upsilon Fraternity. He received a Juris Doctor (J.D.) in 1975 from Albany Law School. He and his wife, Ann Christine "Christie" Bell moved to rural Mount Pleasant, Iowa, her hometown, where he joined his father-in-law in law practice.

Religion
Signature

Roman Catholic



Tom and Christie Vilsack have two sons, Jess and Doug. Jess graduated from Hamilton College in 2000 where he, like his father, was a member of The Delta Upsilon Fraternity. Jess received a J.D. from the University of Iowa in May 2003. Doug later graduated from Colorado College and is currently attending the University of Colorado School of Law. He is also a research associate at the School of Law's Energy and Environmental Security Initiative (EESI).

On May 1, 2006 it was announced that Vilsack joined the Board of Directors of Pittsburgh-based Carnegie Learning, a leading publisher of research-based math curricula for middle school, high school, and postsecondary students.^[4]

Early political career

Tom Vilsack was elected mayor of Mount Pleasant, Iowa in 1987, following the murder of mayor Ed King by a disgruntled citizen. He was elected to the Iowa State Senate in 1992 by a relatively slim margin. Following election, he worked on legislation requiring companies who received state tax incentives to provide better pay and benefits. He helped pass a law for workers to receive health coverage when changing jobs, and helped re-design Iowa's Workforce Development Department. He also wrote a bill to have the State of Iowa assume a 50% share of local county mental health costs.

Electoral history

■ 1998 Race for Governor of Iowa:

Democratic Primary

- Tom Vilsack (D), 52%
- Mark McCormick (D), 48%

1998 General Election:^[5]

- Tom Vilsack (D), 52.3% – 500,231 votes
- Jim Lightfoot (R), 46.5% – 444,787 votes

Governorship

In 1998, Terry Branstad chose not to seek re-election following sixteen consecutive years as governor. The Iowa Republican Party nominated Jim Ross Lightfoot, a recent former U.S. House Representative. Lightfoot became the odds-on favorite to succeed Branstad. Tom Vilsack defeated former Iowa Supreme Court Justice Mark McCormick in the Democratic primary. Vilsack chose as his running mate Sally Pederson. Vilsack narrowly won the general election – making it the first time in 30 years that a Democrat was elected Governor of Iowa.

In 2002 he won his second term in office by defeating Republican challenger attorney Doug Gross by eight points. Also in 2002, Vilsack appointed Dr. Stephen Gleason as his Chief of Staff. Gleason resigned in 2005 to pursue a career in Medical Consulting at Health Policy Strategies in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was replaced by Cynthia Eisenhauer, former director of the Iowa Department of Management and Iowa Workforce Development.

The first year of his second term saw creation of the Grow Iowa Values Fund, a \$503 million appropriation designed to boost the Iowa economy by offering grants to corporations and initiatives pledged to create higher-income jobs. Vilsack used a line-item veto, later ruled unconstitutional by the Iowa Supreme Court, to pass the fund, vetoing portions of the bill that would have cut income taxes and eased business regulations. After a special session of the Iowa General Assembly on September 7, 2004, \$100 million in state money was set aside to honor previously made commitments. The Grow Iowa Values Fund was reinstated at the end of the 2005 session: under the current law, \$50 million per year will be set aside over the next ten years.

Candidates seeking to replace Vilsack, most notably Ed Fallon, criticized this program.^[6] Their complaints include the fact that companies lured into Iowa by the fund, unlike Iowa-based corporations, can be lured away by greater cash incentives elsewhere. Another criticism is that it does nothing to promote new business.^[7] In July 2005, Vilsack signed an executive order allowing all felons who had served their sentences to vote again. Iowa law previously held that convicted felons are permanently disenfranchised unless voting rights were restored personally by the governor; Vilsack did away with this process.^[8]

For most of Tom Vilsack's tenure as Governor, Republicans held effective majorities in the Iowa General Assembly. Following the November 2, 2004, elections, the 50-member Senate was evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. Republicans held a 51–49 majority in the House of Representatives.

During the 2005 legislative session, Vilsack signed into law greater restrictions that require products containing the active ingredient pseudoephedrine to be sold behind pharmacy counters, as opposed to open-access at open-shelf level. Those wishing to buy such products must show identification and sign a log book. The new law, designed to reduce methamphetamine use in Iowa, took effect on May 21, 2005.

Following *Kelo v. City of New London*, Vilsack vetoed but was overridden on Iowa House file 2351, a bill to restrict Iowa's use of eminent domain. *"I am particularly troubled with the provisions that restrict the use of eminent domain for redevelopment purposes to areas defined as slum or blighted."*--Tom Vilsack, veto letter for Iowa House file 2351.

Vilsack is a former member of the National Governors Association Executive Committee. He was chair of the Democratic Governors Association in 2004. He was also chair of the Governors Biotechnology Partnership, the Governors Ethanol Coalition, and the Midwest Governors Conference, and has also been chair and vice chair of the National Governors Association's committee on Natural Resources, where he worked to develop the NGA's farm and energy policies.

Prior to Democratic Presidential candidate Senator John Kerry's selection of Senator John Edwards, Vilsack was thought to be high on the list of potential running mates for Kerry in the 2004 presidential election.

In 2005, Vilsack established Heartland PAC, a political action committee aimed at electing Democratic Governors. In the first report, he raised over half a million dollars.

Vilsack left office in 2007; he did not seek a third term. Succeeded by Chet Culver, he became the first Democratic governor since Clyde L. Herring seventy years earlier to be succeeded by another Democrat.

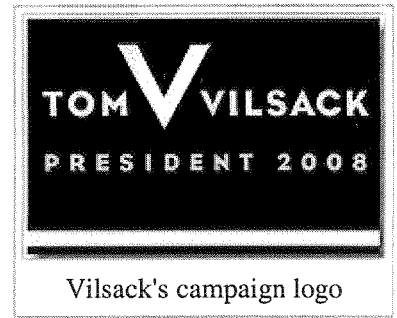
2008 presidential campaign

Main article: Tom Vilsack presidential campaign, 2008

On November 30, 2006, Tom Vilsack became the second Democrat (after Mike Gravel) to officially announce intentions to run for the presidency in the 2008 election. In his announcement speech, he said "America's a great country, and now I have the opportunity to begin the process, the legal process of filing papers to run for President of

the United States." Vilsack dropped out of the race on February 23, 2007 citing monetary constraints.^[9]

Vilsack's campaign made significant use of social media by maintaining an active MySpace profile, a collection of viral video clips on YouTube, a Facebook profile, videoblog on blip.tv,^[10] and a conference call with the podcast site TalkShoe.^[11] On January 27, 2007, Vilsack called into the Regular Guys Show hosted by Kurt Hurner to conduct a fifteen minute interview on his running for the Democratic nomination for 2008. Since then, Vilsack appeared again, now The Kurt Hurner Show at Talk Shoe on August 12, 2008, this time as a supporter of Barack Obama for president taking questions from callers to the program for thirty minutes.



Vilsack's campaign logo

During the campaign, Vilsack joined fellow candidates Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden in supporting the establishment of a U.S. Public Service Academy as a civilian counterpart to the military academies.^[12]

Views on Iraq

Vilsack's stance on the war is critical of President Bush but hesitant to call for an immediate and complete pullout from Iraq: "I don't think we're losing in Iraq. It appears to be a draw. People are upset by the fact that their kids are over there and there doesn't seem to be any end to this whole process. It's not pacifism that makes people think this way. They're questioning the credibility and competence of the Commander-in-Chief."^[13]

On December 5, Vilsack announced that he favored withdrawing most of the U.S. forces from Iraq and leaving a small force in the Northern region for a limited period. While acknowledging that a withdrawal would lead to more violence, he felt that it would be the only way for the Iraqi government to take control of their country.^[14]



Vilsack announcing his withdrawal from the race

Views on energy security

The Vilsack Energy Security Agenda set out a strategy to dramatically reduce U.S. reliance on foreign energy and to cut the United States' carbon emissions. It also called for replacing the Department of Energy with a new Department of Energy Security, to oversee and redefine the federal government's role in energy policy. The reorganized department would have acted as an institutional advocate for innovation in energy policy, and was intended to ensure accountability as the nation works towards achieving its energy security goals. Through this new department, America's overriding objective in energy policy would have been to make America the unquestioned leader in clean energy, enhancing national security and economic strength.^[15]

In a 2007 lecture to the Commonwealth Club of California, Vilsack stated,

“ Iowa is one of the nation's leading producers of corn-based ethanol, and many people in my state have an economic stake in the expanded use of corn-based ethanol. But the reality is that corn-based ethanol will never be enough to reach our goals. Some have suggested that we import more sugar-based ethanol from Brazil and we should indeed consider all sources of available ethanol ... but if we are going to create energy security we can't simply replace one imported source of energy with another. That alone is not security ... the only way we can produce enough domestically is if we greatly improve the technology used to produce cellulosic ethanol.^[16]

”

Secretary of Agriculture selection

On December 17, 2008, then-President-elect Barack Obama announced his choice of Vilsack as the nominee to be the next Secretary of Agriculture.^[17] Vilsack has governed a farm state as did the previous two Secretaries of Agriculture, Senator Mike Johanns (2005–2007) and Ed Schafer (2007–2009). Reaction to Vilsack's nomination from agricultural groups was largely positive and included endorsements from the Corn Refiners Association, the National Grain and Feed Association, the National Farmers Union, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the Environmental Defense Fund.^[18] Opposition to the nomination came from the Organic Consumers Association, which outlined in a November 2008 report several reasons why it believed Vilsack would be a poor choice for the position, particularly as energy and environmental reforms were a key point of the Obama campaign.^[19] Among those reasons the report cites: Vilsack has repeatedly demonstrated a preference for large industrial farms and genetically modified crops;^[20] as Iowa state governor, he originated the seed pre-emption bill in 2005, effectively blocking local communities from regulating where genetically engineered crops would be grown; additionally, Vilsack was the founder and former chair of the Governor's Biotechnology Partnership, and was named Governor of the Year by the Biotechnology Industry Organization, an industry lobbying group.^[21] The Senate confirmed Vilsack's nomination for the position by unanimous consent on January 20, 2009.^[22]



Vilsack conducts a press conference shortly after being nominated as Secretary of Agriculture, December 2008.

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- blip.tv page (<http://tomvilsack.blip.tv/>)
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- Collected news and commentary (http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/v/tom_vilsack/) at The New York Times
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 - 2004 (<http://www.followthemoney.org/database/StateGlance/candidate.phtml?c=70886>) 2002 (<http://www.followthemoney.org/database/StateGlance/candidate.phtml?c=13437>) 2000 (<http://www.followthemoney.org/database/StateGlance/candidate.phtml?c=27930>) 1998 (<http://www.followthemoney.org/database/StateGlance/candidate.phtml?c=27665>) campaign contributions
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Political offices		
Preceded by Ed Schaefer	United States Secretary of Agriculture Served Under: Barack Obama 2009 – present	Incumbent
Preceded by Terry Branstad	Governor of Iowa 1999 – 2007	Succeeded by Chet Culver
Party political offices		
Preceded by Evan Bayh	Chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council 2005 – 2007	Succeeded by Harold Ford
United States order of precedence		
Preceded by Ken Salazar	United States order of precedence <i>Secretary of Agriculture</i>	Succeeded by Gary Locke

<i>Secretary of the Interior</i>		<i>Secretary of Commerce</i>
United States presidential line of succession		
Preceded by Ken Salazar <i>Secretary of the Interior</i>	9th in line <i>Secretary of Agriculture</i>	Succeeded by Gary Locke <i>Secretary of Commerce</i>

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Commodity Credit Corporation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Commodity Credit Corporation** (**CCC**) is a wholly owned government corporation created in 1933 to "stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices" (federally chartered by the CCC Charter Act of 1948 (P.L. 80-806)). The CCC is authorized to buy, sell, lend, make payments and engage in other activities for the purpose of increasing production, stabilizing prices, assuring adequate supplies, and facilitating the efficient marketing of agricultural commodities.

The CCC, which has no staff, is essentially a financing institution for USDA's farm price and income support commodity programs, and agricultural export subsidies. The programs funded through CCC are administered by employees of the Farm Service Agency and the Foreign Agricultural Service. The CCC has the authority to borrow up to \$30 billion from the U.S. Treasury to carry out its obligations. Net losses from its operations subsequently are restored through the congressional appropriations process. It issues payments in the form of Commodity Certificates.

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History and charter

CCC was incorporated October 17, 1933, under a Delaware charter pursuant to Executive Order 6340 issued the previous day by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It had a capitalization of \$3 million subscribed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

It was initially managed and operated in close affiliation with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which funded its operations. On July 1, 1939, CCC was transferred to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Secretary of Agriculture was granted the authority to exercise all rights of ownership of the Corporation's stock by Executive Order 8219 of 1939.

It was reincorporated on July 1, 1948, as a Federal corporation within USDA by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (62 Stat.1070; 15 U.S.C. 714).

The 1996 farm bill (P.L. 104-127) expanded the CCC mandate to include funding for several conservation programs (including the Conservation Reserve Program) and made conservation one of the purposes of the CCC.

Basic Responsibilities

The CCC Charter Act, as amended, aids producers through loans, purchases, payments, and other operations, and makes available materials and facilities required in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities. The CCC Charter Act also authorizes the sale of agricultural commodities to other government agencies and to foreign governments and the donation of food to domestic, foreign, or international relief agencies. CCC also assists in the development of new domestic and foreign markets and marketing facilities for agricultural commodities.

Organization

CCC is managed by a Board of Directors, subject to the general supervision and direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, who is an ex-officio director and chairperson of the Board. The Board consists of seven members, in addition to the Secretary, who are appointed by the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. All members of the Board and Corporation officers are USDA officials. The president of the CCC is the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, and the executive director is the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency.

CCC has no operating personnel. Its price support, storage, and reserve programs, and its domestic acquisition and disposal activities are carried out primarily through the personnel and facilities of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Its overseas surplus disposal and commodity export credit guarantee activities are carried out by personnel of the Foreign Agricultural Service, particularly the General Sales Manager.

See also

- Ever-normal granary

External links

- USDA, Farm Service Agency, Commodity Credit Corporation (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ccc/>)
- Executive Order 6340, from the Donnelly Collection, a project of The Conservative Caucus (<http://www.conservativeusa.org/eo/1933/eo6340.htm>)
- General Accountability Office reports on and audits of the Commodity Credit Corporation (http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/locate?searched=1&o=0&order_by=rel&search_type=publications&keyword=Commodity+Credit+Corporation&Submit)
- CRS Report for Congress: Agriculture: A Glossary of Terms, Programs, and Laws, 2005 Edition - Order Code 97-905 (<http://ncseonline.org/nle/crsreports/05jun/97-905.pdf>), a document in the public domain.
- Proposed and finalized federal regulations from the Commodity Credit Corporation (http://openregs.com/agencies/view/71/commodity_credit_corporation)

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Farm Service Agency

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Farm Service Agency** (FSA) is the USDA agency into which were merged several predecessor agencies, including the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). The ASCS was, as the FSA is now, primarily tasked with the implementation of farm conservation and regulation laws around the country. The Administrator of FSA reports to the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.^[1] The FSA (ASCS) of each state is led by a politically appointed State Executive Director (SED).



FSA was set up when the Department was reorganized in 1994,^[2] incorporating programs from several agencies, including the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (now a separate Risk Management Agency), and the Farmers Home Administration. Although its name has changed over the years, the Agency's relationship with farmers goes back to the 1930s. Earlier USDA agencies that evolved into FSA include the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, War Food Administration, Production and Marketing Administration, and Commodity Stabilization Service as well as ASCS.^[3]

At that time, Congress set up a unique system under which Federal farm programs are administered locally. Farmers who are eligible to participate in these programs elect a three- to five-person county committee, which reviews county office operations and makes decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives farmers a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect their communities and their individual operations. After more than 60 years, it remains a cornerstone of FSA's efforts to preserve and promote American agriculture.

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- ³ See the full administrative history of FSA on the the National Archives and Records Administration website. [[3] (<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/145.html#145.1>)]

External links

- "Farm Service Agency (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>)". <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Retrieved October 10 2005.
- Farm Service Agency Meeting Notices and Rule Changes (http://thefederalregister.com/b.p/agency/Farm_Service_Agency/) from The Federal Register RSS Feed (http://thefederalregister.com/rss/agency/Farm_Service_Agency/)
- Proposed and finalized federal regulations from the Farm Service Agency (http://openregs.com/agencies/view/661/consolidated_farm_service_agency)

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