SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) continues to serve our Nation performing vital marketing, grading and regulatory functions. AMS is committed to ensuring the safety and health of all assigned employees and visitors. AMS is committed to excellence in safety and occupational health and environmental stewardship through continuous improvement of our awareness, understanding, and performance. To that end, we as an Agency, and as individuals, must embrace our responsibility to identify, correct, or report any situation, act, or condition that places unnecessary risk or exposure to unsafe acts or conditions to anyone in AMS’ workplaces or offices by:

- Ensuring that all AMS offices, laboratories, and other worksites maintain the highest standards, situational awareness, and are free of hazards that can result in death or physical harm.
- Complying with all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and AMS safety and health standards, regulations, and directives.
- Providing every employee with specialized or required safety and health training, as well as personal protective equipment required for the work that they perform.
- Communicate AMS’ safety and occupational health policies and programs to our visitors, customers, shareholders, and partners.

Safety and occupational health are integral to AMS’ operation. AMS managers are responsible for implementing the Agency’s safety and health programs, reporting, and investigating mishaps and potential hazards in the workplace. AMS employees are expected to participate in all phases of AMS’ safety and health programs and to conduct their daily tasks in a manner consistent with the Agency’s objectives and applicable Federal, State, and USDA regulations and policies. We all need to work together to promote hazard awareness, foster better understanding of safety and health policies, and most importantly, to maintain safe and healthy performance practices and work environments.

To better address occupational safety and health mishaps and ensure AMS’ employee workplace safety, AMS established the online First Report tool in 2021. This tool ensures that mishap notifications go to the appropriate reporting staff. Additionally, analysis of First Report data allows AMS to identify and mitigate future mishaps and establish additional best practices. AMS’ managers and supervisors report occupational safety and health mishaps, both employee and vehicle, through the First Report tool at: https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/ams/FirstReport/SitePages/Home.aspx. All serious workplace related injuries must be reported within 1 hour to the AMS Safety and Occupational Health Program Manager; all other mishaps should be reported within 24 hours.

For more information about AMS’ safety program, please contact your Program safety coordinator; the AMS Safety and Occupational Health Program Manager, Mark L. Kemp, at 202-720-0061 or by email at Mark.L.Kemp@usda.gov; and/or consult the AMS Safety and Health Handbook, AMS HB 4790, located at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/policies/ams-issuances#General.

Erin Morris
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Designated Agency Safety and Health Officer