

J. B. Penn

Under Secretary, Farm & Foreign Agricultural Services

Dr. J.B. Penn was sworn in as under secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman on May 25, 2001.

Before his appointment to USDA, Penn was Senior Vice President and Manager of Sparks Companies, Inc.'s Washington office. Prior to joining Sparks, he was President of Economic Perspectives, Inc. from 1981 to 1988.

Penn's government experience includes service as Deputy Administrator for Economics of the USDA's Economics and Statistics Service and as Senior Staff Economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

A widely respected agricultural economist, Penn has also served on numerous missions and task forces, including two to Poland led by Nobel Laureate Norman E. Borlaug. He also was a member of Presidential Agricultural Task Forces sent to Honduras in 1982 and Ecuador in 1984, as well as a similar Mission to Guatemala in 1987.

Penn received his BS in Agriculture from Arkansas State University in 1965. In 1967 he earned a MS in Agricultural Economics from Louisiana State University. He earned a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University in 1973.

Penn is a member of several professional organizations including the American Agricultural Economics Association; Bennett Agricultural Roundtable; Council on Food, Agriculture, and Resource Economics; and the Farm Foundation. In 1988 he became a founding member of the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture.

Penn has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles, technical reports, research monographs, book chapters and popular reports. He co-authored *Agricultural and Food Policy (fourth edition)*, which is widely used in U.S. universities. He has been a frequent speaker before industry groups and associations. He also has received numerous awards, the most recent being Distinguished Alumnus from the College of Agriculture at Purdue University.

May 25, 2001