

Warren Preston

Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

A common thread throughout **Warren Preston's** (M.S. 1983, Ph.D. 1987, Agricultural Economics) federal career at USDA was to expand the role of economics in supporting and furthering the missions of the Agencies where he worked. Virtually every project that he undertook throughout his career drew upon his problem-solving ability. With few exceptions, the projects that he led required novel thinking and development of unique solutions. Over his professional career, he developed working relationships with many individuals within government, academia, and the private sector, both domestically and internationally.

Dr. Preston served as Deputy Chief Economist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from May 2018, until his retirement at the end of 2019. In that capacity, he advised the Chief Economist, the Secretary of Agriculture, and top policy officials on the economic implications of policies, programs, and legislative proposals affecting the U.S. food and fiber system and rural areas. He supported USDA policy decision making by evaluating policy options on complex domestic and global agricultural issues.

From February 2016 until May 2018, Dr. Preston served in the role of Deputy Chief Economist for Policy Analysis. He had transferred permanently to the Office of the Chief Economist as senior economist for agricultural policy in August 2015, after serving as USDA's Acting Deputy Chief Economist beginning in February 2015.

Prior to joining the Office of the Chief Economist, Dr. Preston served as an economist and associate deputy administrator, analyzing and overseeing programs and policies across the full spectrum of marketing activities administered by the Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

From 1992 to 2001, he worked as an economist and branch chief in the Packers and Stockyards Programs of USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, playing a key role in integrating economic analysis into investigative procedures and processes.

From 1986 to 1992, he held a research and teaching position as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Virginia Tech, focusing on agricultural marketing and the interface between public policies and food system performance.

Dr. Preston earned his bachelor's degree in dairy science from The Ohio State University and his master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics from Purdue University. In 2010, Warren received an APEX award in recognition of his strong ties and contributions to the field from Purdue's Department of Agricultural Economics.

Until his retirement, he resided in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife Sandra Robinson. His son, Douglas, lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

