

**AAEA Extension Section 2009 Election  
Candidate Information**

**Mark Harris**

Director, Research and Development Division, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

1. *Your education (degrees & institutions):*  
B.S. Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University  
Graduate Studies, Statistics, NC State University
2. *Past employment/activities/awards/duties/accomplishments/points of interest/etc (please limit to 75 words or less):*

Mark Harris serves as the Director of the Research and Development Division for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Prior to this appointment, he has served at all levels of NASS management. Between 1994 and 2007, Harris was the Director of the Nebraska Field Office, Chief of the Crops Branch, Head of the Economics Section, and Deputy Directory of the Tennessee Field Office. Additionally, he has had experience in NASS's Statistical Methods Branch, the Remote Sensing research program, and the International Programs Office. He has consulted internationally in Pakistan, Yemen, Egypt, El Salvador, Poland, Russia and Brazil on their agricultural statistics programs.

3. *Your 150 word (or less) response to the question: What are important issues the Extension Section should address in the next several years?*

The Extension Section's role in agriculture continues to be an important aspect to all sizes of farms. The need to provide relevant economic analysis for markets to producers and educate producers on the changing structure and opportunities ongoing in agriculture is critical to many current producers and will allow them to remain and prosper in rural America.