

15 DECEMBER 2006

Keenum Confirmed FAS Undersecretary

"I'd like to thank the Senate for moving quickly to confirm Mark Keenum as under secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Mark's broad experience in agriculture, both in the field and in Washington, D.C., will be of great benefit to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the people we serve.

"Mark has built a reputation as an honest, hard-working and insightful person. Those qualities will serve him well in his new role overseeing both our domestic farm support programs and our global efforts relating to agricultural trade."

Keenum worked for USDA's Cooperative Extension Service in the mid-1980's, carrying on a family tradition of USDA employment. His grandfather worked for the Soil Conservation Service and his father worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The American Sheep Industry Association supported the confirmation of Keenum.