

# Florida State University Postdoctoral Association

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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services • Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

## FDACS Divisions & Offices

- Food Safety
- Consumer Services
- Animal Industry
- Agricultural Environmental Services
- Licensing
- Plant Industry
- Administration
- Agricultural Law Enforcement
- Agricultural Water Policy
- Aquaculture
- Food, Nutrition & Wellness
- Fruit & Vegetables
- General Counsel
- Inspector General
- Marketing & Development
- Cabinet Affairs
- Communications
- Energy
- Florida Forest Service



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## Research in Government

- Many government agencies are regulatory in nature
  - Opportunities still exist to conduct research
- Necessary for determining best management practices (BMP)
- Assist respective industries
- Intangible benefits



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## Personal Journey

- Joined the public sector in the Fall of 1998 just prior to graduating from Florida State University
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
  - Gravimetric analysis lab under clean room conditions
  - Nutrients
  - Metals
  - Perceived threat materials
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
  - Petroleum Testing Laboratories
  - Metrology Laboratory
  - Vehicular Fluids Testing Laboratory
  - Weights and Measures
  - Consumer Protection
  - Food Safety



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## Personal Perspective

- Hire for Attitude
  - Critical to forming a positive team nucleus
  - A well-meshed team of "B Students" can significantly outperform and outproduce a group of "A Students" pretending to be a team
- Sell the *Real* You
  - The "perfect person" does not exist so don't try to sell yourself as one
  - You are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you
- Don't get caught up in the "interview game"
  - You need to like where you work as much or more than you like the paycheck
  - Make sure you *want* to go through the door you're trying to get through
- Common career crossroad..."The move to management"
  - Management is not for everyone
  - Requires different set of skills
  - Very challenging and rewarding



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## Chemical Residue Laboratory Food Safety

- Antibiotics in Seafood
- Antibiotics to Fight Against Citrus Greening
- Contaminants in Honey
- Pesticides in Botanicals
- Toxins in Food Products



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## Ag Water Policy

- Evaluation of alternative bed geometries for vegetable production
- Calibration of new soil test procedures
- Use of soil moisture sensors for irrigation and fertilization management
- Use of controlled release fertilizers
- Effects of rotational production on water quality and water conservation



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## Animal Industry

- FDA Vet-LIRN project on Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring
  - Several bacterial organisms used for monitoring
    - ✓ *Staphylococcus pseudointermedius*
    - ✓ *E. coli*
    - ✓ *Salmonella*
- Potential Zika Infection in Animals
- *Tritrichomonas fetus* Prevalence Study
  - Bovine Trichomoniasis is a reproductive disease of cattle caused by protozoan *T. fetus*
- Calf Loss Project
  - To investigate and determine most common causes of abortions, stillbirths and neonatal mortalities in Florida cattle (focused on the Beef Industry).
- Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)



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## Questions?

Go Noles!

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