

R. MACK GRAY

Deputy Under Secretary For Natural Resources and Environment

R. Mack Gray was named deputy under secretary for natural resources and environment for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in January 2002. He had been acting in that position since January 2001. He is responsible for policy relating to the programs of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Gray came to this position out of retirement from 35 years with USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the predecessor agency to NRCS. He served as a district conservationist in Brownsfield, Texas, early in his career with the agency. At the agency's headquarters office in Washington, he held a number of positions, including director of economics from 1975 to 1985, director of congressional and public liaison from 1985 to 1987 and assistant to the chief for strategic planning and budget analysis from 1987 to 1990. After a brief stint as acting chief of SCS, he served as associate chief from December 1990 until his retirement in June 1991.

Born and reared on a dairy farm in Holland, Texas, Gray earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education, a master's degree in agricultural economics and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.