

Guest Speaker

Tracy Vanderpool

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Tracy Vanderpool is a native of the San Luis Valley of Colorado. Upon completion of undergraduate studies at the Phoenix Institute of Technology, he began working as a fresh fruit and vegetable inspector for the Colorado Department of Agriculture in 1987. In 1992, he became a state supervisor overseeing state inspectors conducting inspection work on the western slope, northern Colorado, and the San Luis Valley.

In 1998, Tracy became the Section Chief of the Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Section of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, overseeing all services and responsibilities of fruit & vegetable inspection work conducted within the state. This program uses more than 30 inspectors to conduct statewide inspections on more than 2.1 billion pounds of fresh produce annually.

Tracy is a member and past president (2008) of the Association of Fruit & Vegetable Inspection and Standardization Agencies (AFVISA). Among other things, this group of state representatives from all over the nation was an instrumental partner with USDA in the formation of the Good Agricultural Practices / Good Handling Practices Audit Verification Program services that USDA provides nationally.

Currently, he continues to oversee the Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Program of the Colorado Department of Agriculture and resides in Monte Vista with his wife Colleen and children Mitchell and Blair.