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Mr. Collins is Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is responsible for the Office of the Chief Economist, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis, the Global Change Program Office, and the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses. Keith has served as Acting Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Economics and as Director of the Economic Analysis Staff. Prior to that, he was in the Economic Research Service. As Chief Economist, Keith is responsible for the Department's agricultural forecasts and projections and advises the Secretary on economic implications of alternative programs, regulations, and legislative proposals. For example, he coordinated development of USDA's proposal for the 1996 Farm Bill. Mr. Collins has received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 1990 and 1996 and for Distinguished Executive in 1992.

Mr. Collins, a native of Connecticut, holds degrees from Villanova University and University of Connecticut and a Ph.D. in economics and statistics from North Carolina State University.