



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
(602) 542-4373 FAX (602) 542-5420

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

## **ARIZONA NAMES NEW STATE VETERINARIAN**

Arizona Department of Agriculture Director Don Butler today announced Dr. Perry Durham as the new State Veterinarian. Dr. Durham returns to the Department to ensure the safety of animals and help protect the food supply for Arizonans.

“Dr. Durham’s experience in the community, in education, in the private sector and in state government is a gift to the Department,” said Director Don Butler. “His enthusiasm to make sure a job is done the right way and all the right people are involved will pay dividends for the people of Arizona.”

Dr. Durham comes to the ADA most recently from the private sector where for the last several years he worked with a small company adapting its veterinary management software application for the Pentagon. The application allows the Veterinary Command of the U.S. Department of Defense to manage and ensure continuing care for the troops' pets as well as the military's working dogs while deployed around the globe.

This spring Dr. Durham took the reins of the Veterinary Technician Program at Pima Medical Institute where he led its American

Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA)-accredited program coordinating classes and students on three valley campuses, in addition to his extensive teaching duties.

Dr. Durham was the Assistant State Veterinarian for seven years, where he focused on bio-security and prevention of disease in Arizona’s livestock industry. Dr. Durham has been involved in agriculture his entire life, growing up on a farm in North Carolina where his family raised Hereford cattle, and grew tobacco, corn, and small grains.

Dr. John Hunt has been Acting State Veterinarian for three years, while being Associate Director for Animal Services. Dr. Hunt will remain at the Department and serve as Associate Director for Animal Services.

“Dr. Durham has a special set of skills that make him the perfect person to take over this job right now,” said Dr. John Hunt, Associate Director for Animal Services. “He has fresh ideas that will help bring together the community.”

Dr. Durham’s first day at the Department was Monday, September 19, 2011.

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