

USDA Honors Joanna LaBlanc In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Joanna LaBlanc for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. LaBlanc is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Joanna LaBlanc is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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GIPSA Release #33-01
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