



Rachel BICKFORD

Agricultural Attaché

Rachel Bickford is the Agricultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain and with responsibilities for both Spain and Portugal.

She led the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Santiago, Chile from July 2010 until July 2014.

In 1996 Ms. Bickford received a bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in Latin American Studies from the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY. In 1994 she won an internship at the USAID mission to Bolivia. That experience inspired her to spend one year of her undergraduate career studying at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose. Later she pursued graduate studies at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and received her MA in Latin American Studies with an emphasis in Economics in 2000.

In the course of her graduate studies she participated in an internship with the USDA's Office of Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. As a result of this experience she decided to continue a career with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service

She served as the Attaché at the FAS office in Pretoria, South Africa from 2003 to 2007, after which she returned to Washington to cover biotechnology issues in Latin America for the Agency, until being assigned to Santiago.

Ms. Bickford hails from Massachusetts where she was born and raised on her family's sheep farm. She spent her youth working at a local vegetable and fruit farm that has been in operation for five generations. Ms. Bickford has twin daughters and all three are fluent in Spanish and English.