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## **Troxler appoints Dr. Karen Beck to head Meat and Poultry Inspection Division**

RALEIGH – Dr. Karen Beck has been named director of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division at the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

She will oversee the 120-employee division that includes meat and poultry inspectors, veterinarians and compliance officers who enforce laws designed to ensure that meat and poultry products entering grocery stores and restaurants in North Carolina pass rigorous guidelines and are properly labeled. This division has 85 inspectors located across the state whose job is to supervise the humane slaughter of animals and to make sure processing plants are in compliance with state and federal laws.

“Dr. Beck’s commitment and dedication to protecting agriculture is evident,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “She is a long-time departmental employee that consistently goes above and beyond what is required in her normal duties. She will be an asset to the state in her role as Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Director.”

Beck previously served as a surveillance veterinarian for the Emergency Programs Division where she helped identify, evaluate and prevent threats to the people, animals and agriculture of North Carolina. During statewide emergencies, including most recently Hurricane Matthew and Florence, as well as the current COVID-19 crisis, she has helped coordinate a Department-wide response through the Ag Emergency Operations Center. Dr. Beck served as the department’s main liaison to the state Emergency Management’s Emergency Operation Center. Beck also oversaw the statewide permitting and inspection process for animal contact exhibits at sanctioned agricultural fairs.

Beck is a graduate of N.C. State University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology, a doctorate of veterinary medicine and a Ph.D. in comparative biomedical science.