



United States Department of Agriculture

ABOUT USDA

USDA, helps America's farmers and ranchers. But we also do much more...

- USDA leads the Federal anti-hunger effort with the Food Stamp, School Lunch, School Breakfast, and the WIC Programs.
- USDA is the steward of our nation's 192 million acres of national forests and rangelands.
- USDA is the country's largest conservation agency, encouraging voluntary efforts to protect soil, water, and wildlife on the 70 percent of America's lands that are in private hands.
- USDA brings housing, modern telecommunications, and safe drinking water to rural America.
- USDA is responsible for the safety of meat, poultry, and egg products.
- USDA is a research leader in everything from human nutrition to new crop technologies that allow us to grow more food and fiber using less water and pesticides.
- USDA helps ensure open market for U.S. agricultural products and provides food aid to needy people overseas.

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) has the primary responsibility for the supervision and coordination of the design, acquisition, maintenance, use, and disposal of information technology by USDA agencies. OCIO's strategically acquires and uses information technology resources to improve the quality, timeliness and cost-effectiveness of USDA services.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) shapes an environment for USDA officials eliciting the high-quality financial performance needed to make and implement effective policy, management, stewardship, and program decisions.

Office of the Inspector General (OIG) investigates allegations of crime against the Department's program, and promotes the economy and efficiency of its operations.

Office of the Executive Secretariat (OES) ensures that all Department officials are included in the correspondence drafting and policy-making process through a managed clearance and control system. Keeping policy officials informed of executive documents enhances the Secretary's ability to review sound and thought out policy recommendations before making final decisions.

Office of Communications (OC) provides centralized information services using the latest, most effective and efficient technology and standards for communication. It also provides the leadership, coordination, expertise, and counsel needed to develop the strategies, products, and services that are used to describe USDA initiatives, programs, and functions to the public.

Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is an independent legal agency that provides legal advice and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and to all other officials and agencies of the Department with respect to all USDA programs and activities.

Forest Service (FS) sustains the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

Farm & Foreign Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency (FSA) aids farmers and ranchers as it works to stabilize income through its efforts to conserve resources, provide credit and relieve operations from the effects of disaster.

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) works to improve foreign market access for U.S. products. This USDA agency operates programs designed to build new markets and improve the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace.

Risk Management Agency (RMA) helps to ensure that farmers have the financial tools necessary to manage their agricultural risks. RMA provides coverage through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, which promotes national welfare by improving the economic stability of agriculture.

Rural Development

Rural Utilities Service helps rural utilities expand, keep their technology up to date, and establish new and vital services such as distance learning and telemedicine.

Rural housing Service helps rural communities and individuals by providing loans and grants for housing and community facilities such as single family homes, apartments for low-income persons or the elderly, housing for farm laborers, childcare centers, fire and police stations, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes and schools.

Rural Business Cooperative Service works in a partnership with the private sector and community-based organizations to provide financial assistance and business planning and to promote understanding and use of the cooperative form of business as a viable organizational option for marketing and distributing agricultural products.

Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services

Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) increases food security and reduces hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthy diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.

Center for Nutrition Policy & Program (CNPP) works to harness the Nation's agricultural abundance to end hunger and improve health in the United States. Its agencies administer federal domestic nutrition assistance programs and the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, which links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers through science-based dietary guidance, nutrition policy coordination, and nutrition education.

Food safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) enhances public health and well-being by protecting the public from foodborne illness and ensuring that the nation's meat, poultry and egg products are safe, wholesome, and correctly packaged.

Research, Education & Economics

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) as USDA's principal research agency, leads America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.

Cooperative State Research, Education & Extension Services (CSREES), in partnership with land-grant universities, and other public and private organizations, CREES provides the focus to advance a global system of extramural research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences.

Marketing & Regulatory Programs

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) facilitates the strategic marketing of agricultural products in domestic and international markets while ensuring fair trading practices and promoting a competitive and efficient marketplace. AMS constantly works to develop new marketing services to increase customer satisfaction.

Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) protects and promotes agricultural health by administering the Animal Welfare Act and carrying out wildlife damage management activities.

Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products. It also promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. GIPSA ensures open and competitive markets for livestock, poultry, and meat by investigating and monitoring industry trade practices.

Office of Congressional Relations (OCR) serves as the USDA's liaison with Congress. OCR works closely with members and staffs of various House and Senate Committees to communicate the USDA's legislative agenda and budget proposals.

Department Administration (DA) provides central administrative management support to Department officials and coordinates administrative programs and services.

Civil Rights (CR) ensures compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies for USDA customers and employees regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital or family status, political beliefs, parental status, protected genetic information, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Source:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?navtype=M A&navid=AGENCIES_OFFICES