

Economic Policy and Analysis Staff (EPAS) Functions and Responsibilities:

- Evaluate, analyze, and recommend program policies and provide technical advice on program alternatives, proposed legislation, policy determinations, and commodity and conservation related issues.
- Provide analysis and evaluation of the economic, environmental, and budgetary issues related to existing and proposed natural resource legislation, programs and policies.
- Provide forecasts of commodity supply and use, farm prices, CCC loan activity and outlays, and Conservation Reserve Program enrollment and outlays for the President's Budget and administrative and legislative initiatives.
- Serve on the USDA's interagency commodity estimates committees and maintain current estimates of domestic and world supply, use, price, income, and outlays.
- Prepare risk assessments and cost/benefit analyses of major rules proposed by the Agency.
- Participate with the Office of the Secretary, Under Secretary, Administrator and other Agency officials in planning, developing, and administering overall program, policies and operations in accordance with USDA's objectives and general policies.
- Address commodity and special interest groups and international representatives concerning policy issues, program decisions, and commodity situation and outlook.
- Develop and maintain close working relationships with the public, other Government agencies, and research institutes by serving as a liaison in providing economic and statistical information and analyses.
- Develop and maintain databases used in forecasting, analyzing, and summarizing policy decision impacts on farms, commodities, and natural resources.
- Prepare correspondence, press announcements, Fact Sheets, statistical reports, and public remarks regarding programs for policy makers and for Agency release.
- Prepare briefing papers addressing industry questions concerning program provisions, supply/use issues, or trade developments for the Secretary or Under Secretary.

- Provide ad hoc reports to the Administrator, Deputy Administrators, and other officials for use in planning and program decisions.
- Provide Regulatory Review functions for the drafting, clearance, and codification of regulations covering the activities administered by FSA to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Federal Register Act, Administrative Procedures Act, Paperwork Reduction Act and other regulatory review procedures mandated by the Department and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).