



How To Get Information
From the United States Department of Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Communications

August 2009



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Mailing address for USDA and its agencies:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

USDA Employee Locator: Washington, DC

202-720-USDA (8732)

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USDA Information Response Team:

202-720-2791

(general and subject-matter information)
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USDA Visitor Centers:

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<http://www.usda.gov/da/oss/>

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MAIL-ocpm@usda.gov

1-877-617-7857

USDA Sign Language Interpreter

202-720-3515

TTD/TTY 202-720-8372

GSA Relay Service

1-800-877-8339

USDA HOTLINES:

Food and Nutrition Service:

Food Stamp Hotline

1-800-221-5689

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion:

Publication Hotline

202-606-8000

Food Safety and Inspection Service:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

Meat & Poultry Hotline

Inspector General's Hotline:

Toll Free 1-888-MPHotline (888-674-6854)
TTY 1-800-256-7072
202-690-1622
Toll Free 202-690-1202
Toll Free 1-800-424-9121

**National Agricultural Statistics Service:
Information Hotline**

1-800-727-9540

USDA Graduate School

202-314-3300
<http://www.grad.usda.gov>

**USDA News Releases(AgNewsFax):
(call from any FAX machine and follow
voice prompts)**

202-690-3677

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**For Updates Contact:
(202) 720-4623**

Lori Ross
MAIL-lori.ross@usda.gov

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Office of the Secretary

Office of Communications

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_2E5?navid=OC_HOME

Office of Communications is integral to the historical and current mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This office coordinates and assists with the flow of public information from USDA program agencies, reviewing all publications and audiovisuals, evaluating new information technology, maintaining availability of current information from the Office of the Secretary, ensuring operation of adequate and appropriate channels for dissemination of information to the public, and optimizing public access to USDA information through the news media. OC administers USDA home page on the Internet World Wide Web. OC also provides departmental coordination of responses under the Freedom of Information Act.

Office of the Director

Director of Communications

Chris Mather	202-720-4623	Rm 402-A, Whitten Building
chris.mather@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Assistant Director for Communications Operations

Larry Quinn	202-720-4623	Rm 425-A, Whitten Building
larry.quinn@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Deputy Director

David Sandretti	202-720-4623	402-A Whitten Bldg.
david.sandretti@oc.usda.gov	202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250

Press Secretary

Caleb Weaver	202-720-4623	Rm 403-A, Whitten Building
caleb.weaver@oc.usda.gov	202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Deputy Press Secretary

Justin DeJong	202-720-4623	403-A, Whitten Bldg
justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov	202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250

Confidential Assistant

Orrin Evans	202-720-4623	404-A Whitten Building
orrin.evans@oc.usda.gov	202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250

Press Assistant

Stephanie Chan	202-720-4623	403-A Whitten Building
stephanie.chan@oc.usda.gov	202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250

Director, Speechwriting and Research

Bobby Gravitz	202-720-4623	Rm 404-A, Whitten Building
bobby.gravitz@oc.usda.gov	202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Speechwriter

Cheryl Normile	202-720-4239	423-A Whitten Building
cheryl.normile@usda.gov	202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250

Communications Coordination

Communications Coordinator for Research/Research, Education & Economics/Staff Offices / National Agricultural Statistics Service

Vacant		Rm 407-A, Whitten Building
	FAX 202-690-3611	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Energy/Natural Resources & Environment/Rural Development

Jim Brownlee	202-720-4623	Rm 411-A Whitten Building
jim.brownlee@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator Avian Influenza/Disease/Marketing & Regulatory Programs/Homeland Security

Angela Harless	202-720-4623	406-A, Whitten Building
angela.harless@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5402	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Trade/Farm & Foreign Agricultural Services/ Staff Offices

Marci Hilt marci.hilt@usda.gov	202-720-4623 202-720-5402	Room 407-A Washington, DC 20250
Communications Coordinator for Food Safety & Nutrition		
Jerry Redding jerry.redding@usda.gov	202-720-4623 202-720-5402	409-A, Whitten Building Washington, DC 20250-1301
Constituent Services		
Constituent Outreach		
Kathryn Hill kathryn.hill@usda.gov	202-690-4750 FAX 202-690-2164	Rm 415-A, Whitten Building Washington, DC 20250-1330
Constituent Outreach		
Mocile Trotter mocile.trotter@usda.gov	202-720-6935 FAX 202-690-2164	Rm 418, Whitten Building Washington, DC 20250-1330
Administrative and Information Services		
Information Response Team		
Barbara Robinson barbara.robinson@usda.gov	202-690-4069 FAX 202-690-0228	Rm 420-A, Whitten Building Washington, DC 20250-1352
General Information Hotline - 202-720-2791		
Web Services		
Acting Director for Web Services		
Amanda Eamich amanda.eamich@oc.usda.gov	202-720-4623 202-720-5402	405-A Whitem Building Washington, DC 20250-1330
Deputy Director for Web Services		
Samuel Goodson sam.goodson@usda.gov	202-720-8167 FAX 202-720-0539	Rm 460-A, Whitten Building Washington, DC 20250-1330
Broadcast, Media and Technology Center		
Director		
David Black david.black@usda.gov	202-720-6072 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 1618-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Multimedia Manager		
Anthony Bouldin anthony.bouldin@usda.gov	202-720-5368 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 1617-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Production Manager		
Garth Clark garth.clark@usda.gov	202-720-5376 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 1614-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Multimedia Specialist		
Mansy Pullen mansy.pullen@usda.gov	(202) 720-2029 (202) 720-5773	Rm. 1615-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Television Producer		
Patrick O'Leary pat.o'leary@usda.gov	202-720-7039 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 0095-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Television Producer		
Bob Ellison bob.ellison@usda.gov	202-720-6445 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 1610-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Senior Radio Producer/Reporter		
Gary Crawford gary.crawford@usda.gov	202-720-7068 FAX 202-690-2165	Rm 1623-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Radio Center Reporter		
Rod Bain rod.bain@usda.gov	202-720-7884	

Radio Producer

Susan Carter
susan.carter@usda.gov

202-720-7079
FAX 202-690-2165

Rm 1623-S
Washington, DC 20250-1360

Creative Services Center**Director, Creative Services Center**

Carolyn O'Connor
carolyn.oconnor@usda.gov

202-720-6641
FAX 202-720-7484

Rm 517-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1380

Deputy Director

Tom Witham
thomas.witham@usda.gov

202-720-4339
FAX 202-720-8939

Rm 501-A, Whitten Building
Washington,, DC 20250-1380

Design Branch Chief

Howard Clare

202-720-4337
202-720-8197

Rm 518-A Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1380

Photography Branch Chief

Alice M. Welch
alice.welch@usda.gov

202-720-0901
202-720-0902

Room 535A Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1380

Printing Branch Chief

Al Senter
al.senter@usda.gov

202-720-7175
FAX 202-720-8939

Rm 501-A, Whitten Building
Washington,, DC 20250-1370

Editorial Services

Carrie Pollard
Carrie.Pollard@usda.gov

202-720-6046
202-690-1176

Room 515-A
Washington, DC 20250

Editorial Services Editor "USDA NEWS"

Ron Hall
ron.hall@usda.gov

202-720-5747
202-690-2164

Room Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250

Information Technology Resources Management**Agency Chief Information Officer**

Wayne Moore
wayne.moore@usda.gov

202-720-3989
FAX 202-720-0539

Rm 430A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Farm Service Agency administers farm commodity and conservation programs for farmers and ranchers and makes farm ownership and operating loans. FSA programs are primarily directed at agricultural producers or, in the case of loans, at those with farm experience. Through the Commodity Credit Corporation, the agency provides financing for the purchase, storage, and shipment of commodities in federal stocks. FSA also provides emergency conservation and assistance programs to farmers.

Farm Service Agency - May 1, 2007

Director, Office of External Affairs

Patricia Klintberg	202-720-9933	Rm 3615-S
Patricia.Klintberg@wdc.usda.gov	FAX 202-720-4034	Washington, DC 20250

Communication Services Section Chief

Kent Politsch	202-720-7163	Rm 3624-S
kent.politsch@wdc.usda.gov	FAX 202-720-2979	Washington, DC 20250

Web Manager

Jeff Kerby	202-720-1593	Rm. 3631-S
jeff.kerby@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-2979	Washington, DC 20250

FOIA Coordinator

Norma Ferguson	202-720-5534	Rm. 3621-S
norma.ferguson@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-2828	Washington, DC 20250

Farm Service Agency State Public Affairs Contacts - December 6, 2005

West Region (CA, OR, NV, UT, AZ, HI)

Erica Szlosek	530-792-5537	430 G Street #4161
erica.szlosek@ca.usda.gov	FAX 530-792-5555	Davis, CA 95616-4161

South East Region (GA, SC, NC, FL, PR, VI)

Cynthia M. Portalatin	352-379-4562	4440 NW 25th Place, Suite 1
cynthia.portalatin@fl.usda.gov	FAX 352-379-4580	Gainesville, FL 32606

Chief, Public Affairs Branch Chief & Acting Chief, Field Services Section

Vacant	202-720-7809	Rm 3624-S
	FAX 202-720-2979	Washington, DC 20250

North Central Region (MN, WI, ND, SD)

Jim Meisenheimer	651-602 7719	375 Jackson Street, Suite 400
jim.meisenheimer@mn.usda.gov	FAX 651-602-7744	St Paul, MN 55101

Gulf Region (MS, AR, LA, TN, AL)

Murray Dale Watts	615-277-2602	579 US Court House
murray.watts@tn.usda.gov	FAX 615-277-2659	801 Broadway
		Nashville, TN 37203-3816

Northeast Region (NY, ME, VT, MA, CT, RI) & Mid Atlantic Region (VA, PA, DE, MD, WV)

Dann Stuart	304-263-7547	Berkeley County FSA 151 Aikens Ctr., Suite 5 Edw
dan.stuart@usda.gov	FAX 304-267-9172	Martinsburg, WV 25401

Lakes Region (OH, MI, IN, KY)

Mike Kauffman	614- 255-2442	Room 540, Federal Building
mike.kauffman@oh.usda.gov	FAX 614- 255-2542	200 North High Street
		Columbus, OH 43215

Southwest Region (TX, NM, OK, CO)

Brenda Carlson	979-680-5213	Compass National Bank Bldg.
brenda.carlson@tx.usda.gov	FAX 979-680-5236	2405 Texas Avenue South
		College Station, TX 77840

Northwest Region (WA, AK, MT, ID, WY)

Patricia McAuley
patricia.mcauley@wa.usda.gov

509-323-3003
FAX 509-323-3074

West 316 Boone Avenue
Suite 568
Spokane, WA 99201-2350

Foreign Agricultural Service

<http://www.fas.usda.gov>

Foreign Agricultural Service represents U.S. farmers and the food and agricultural sector abroad through a network of overseas offices. FAS collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about global supply and demand, trade trends, and market opportunities. FAS seeks improved market access for U.S. products, administers export financing and market development programs, provides export services, carries out food aid and market-related technical assistance programs, and provides linkages to world resources and international organizations.

Foreign Agricultural Service - February 7, 2008**Director, Public Affairs Division**

Sally Klusaritz
Sally.Klusaritz@fas.usda.gov

202-720-7115
FAX 202-720-1727

Rm 5074-S
Washington, DC 20250-1004

Deputy Director (Acting)

Harold Kanarek
Harold.Kanarek@usda.gov

202-720-0328
FAX 202-720-3229

Rm 5719-S, South Building
Washington, DC 20250-1004

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Sally Klusaritz
Sally.Klusaritz@fas.usda.gov

202-720-3448
FAX 202-720-1727

Rm 5074-S
Washington, DC 20250-1004

Risk Management Agency

<http://www.rma.usda.gov>

Risk Management Agency improves the economic stability of agriculture by providing producers a sound system of crop insurance. Federal crop insurance covers losses due to natural causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects, and disease. Currently over 100 major crops are insurable. Crop insurance is available from crop insurance agents. Insurance protection must be purchased prior to sales closing dates that vary by crop and region.

Risk Management Agency - March 18, 2009**Secretary to Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors**

Cindy Spoor
cindy.spoor@rma.usda.gov

202-720-2014
FAX 202-720-6665

Washington, DC 20250-0801

Director External and of Public Affairs

Shirley Pugh
shirley.pugh@usda.gov

202-690-0437
FAX 202-690-2002

Washington, DC 20250-0801

Michelle Bouchard
Michelle.Bouchard@rma.usda.gov

202-720-5846

Web Content Manager

Debbie Haugan
debbie.haugan@rma.usda.gov

202-690-4271
202-690-2002

Washington, DC 20250-0801

Deputy Administrator, Insurance Services

William Murphy
william.murphy@rma.usda.gov

202-690-4494
202-690-2095

Washington, DC 20250-0801

Deputy Administrator, Risk Compliance

Michael Hand michael.hand@usda.gov	202-720-0642 FAX 202-690-2818	Washington, DC 20250-0801
Director, Risk Management Services Heyward Baker heyward.baker@usda.gov	202-720-4286 FAX 202-690-2818	Washington, DC 20250-0801
Deputy Administrator, Project Management Tim Witt timwitt@rma.usda.gov	816-926-7394 816-926-1803	Kansas City, MO 64141-0801
Freedom of Info Act Officer Terrie Ray terrie.ray@usda.gov	202-690-5701 FAX 202-690-1899	Rm 6606-S Washington, DC 20250-0801

Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

Food and Nutrition Service

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns>

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers federal food assistance programs including food stamps, food distribution, supplemental food for women, infants and children, school lunch, school breakfast, special milk, child care, summer feeding, and other child nutrition and family food assistance programs.

Food and Nutrition Service - March 23, 2009

Director, Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs

Susan Siemietkowski	703-305-2281	3101 Park Center Dr.#926POC
susan.siemietkowski@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-2312	Alexandria, VA 22302

Deputy Director

vacant	703-305-2281	3101 Park Center Dr.#926POC
	FAX 703-305-2312	Alexandria, VA 22302

Director, Governmental Affairs

Scott Carter	703-305-2010	3101 Park Center Dr. #930POC
scott.carter@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-2312	Alexandria, VA 22302

Director, Public Affairs

Jean Daniel	703-305-2286	3101 Park Center Dr.#918POC
jean.daniel@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Public Affairs Specialist

Susan Acker	703-305-1492	3101 Park Center Dr. #918 POC
susan.acker@fns.usda.gov	703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Public Affairs Specialist

Hans Billger	703-305-2061	3101 Park Center Dr. #918 POC
hans.billger@fns.usda.gov	703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Public Affairs Specialist

Jack Currie	703-305-2294	Park Center Drive # 918 POC
Jack.currie@fns.usda.gov	703-305-1117	Alexandria,, VA 22302

Public Affairs

Regan Hopper	703-305-2293	Park Center Drive #918 POC
Regan.hopper@fns.usda.gov	703-305-1117	Alexandria,, VA 22302

Public Affairs Specialist

Pat Seward	703-305-2428	3121 Park Center Dr. #918
pat.seward@fns.usda.gov	703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Public Affairs Specialist

Adriana Zorrilla	703-305-2385	Park Center Drive # 918 POC
Adriana.zorrilla@fns.usda.gov	703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Publishing Team

Chris Kocsis	703-305-2290	3101 Park Center Dr.#914 POC
chris.kocsis@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Freedom of Info Act Officer

Sara Bradshaw	703-305-2685	3101 Park Center Dr.# 3rd floor POC
sara.bradshaw@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-605-0793	Alexandria, VA 22302

FNS Regional Public Information Offices - March 23, 2009

Northeast Region Public Affairs Director

Vacant	617-565-6418	10 Causeway Street, Rm 501
	FAX 617-565-6472	Boston, MA 02222-1068

Mid-Atlantic Region Public Affairs Director

Margarita Maisterrena	609-259-5011	Mercer Corp. Park,
-----------------------	--------------	--------------------

margarita.maisterrena@fns.usda.gov

FAX 609-259-5147

300 Corporate Blvd
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

Southeast Region Acting Public Affairs Director

Debbie Haston-Hillger

404-562-1810

61 Forsyth St., SW, Suite 8T36

debbie.haston-hillger@fns.usda.gov

FAX 404-527-4502

Atlanta, GA 30303

Midwest Region Public Affairs Director (Acting)

Alan Shannon

312-353-1045

77 W. Jackson Blvd., 20th Flr

alan.shannon@fns.usda.gov

FAX 312-353-0171

Chicago, IL 60604

Mountain Region Public Affairs Director (Acting)

Wendy Henry-Moraskie

303-844-0312

1244 Speer Boulevard Room 903

wendy.henry-moraskie@fns.usda.gov

303-844-6203

Denver, CO 80204

Mountain Plains Region Public Affairs Director (Acting)

Anjali Budhiraja

303-844-0313

1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 903

anjali.budhiraja@fns.usda.gov

303-844-6203

Denver, CO 80204

Southwest Region Public Affairs Director

Patricia Mancha

214-290-9834

1100 Commerce Street, Room 5A16

patricia.mancha@fns.usda.gov

FAX 214-767-6249

Dallas, TX 75242

Western Region Public Affairs Director

Cordelia Fox

415-705-1311 ext 534

90 Seventh Street, Ste. 10-100

Cordelia.Fox@fns.usda.gov

FAX 415-705-1364

San Francisco, CA 94103

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov>, www.mypyramid.gov

The Center and Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) provides direction and coordination for USDA's nutrition research and policy activities. The Center, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other USDA agencies, publishes the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Dietary Guidelines are the basis for the nation's nutrition policy, and the foundation for all Federal nutrition education and promotion efforts. CNPP also developed and promotes the MyPyramid food guidance system, which motivates behavior changes consistent with the Guidelines. In addition the Center publishes the Thrifty Food Plan, the Nutrient Content of the U.S. Food Supply and the annual report on Expenditures on Children by Families. Go to My Pyramid at <http://www.mypyramid.gov>

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion - May 9, 2007

Information Director

John Webster

703-305-7600

3101 Park Center Drive

john.webster@cnpp.usda.gov

703-305-3300

10th Floor, Room 1032

Alexandria, VA 22302

Food Safety

Food Safety and Inspection Service

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

Food Safety and Inspection Service administers the federal meat and poultry inspection program to assure safety, wholesomeness and truthful labeling of these food products, and conducts food safety consumer education program.

Food Safety and Inspection Service - June 16, 2008

Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs

Carol Blake	202-720-9113	Rm 1175-S
carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5704	Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Director, Congressional and Public Affairs

Vacant		Rm 1175-S
	202-720-5704	Washington,, DC 20250

Senior Press Officer

Amanda Eamich	202-720-9113	Rm 1180-S
amanda.eamich@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0460	Washington, DC 20250

Senior Legislative Analyst

Chris Gould	202-720-3897	Rm 1180-S
christ.gould@fsis.usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5704	Washington, DC 20250

(Acting) Director, Food Safety Education

Barbara O'Brien	301--344-4755	Rm 2-L290, 5601 SunnySide ave.
Barbara.O'Brien@fsis.usda.gov	FAX- 301-504-0203	Beltsville,, MD 20705

(Acting Manager) Meat and Poultry Hotline

Kathy Bernard	301-344-4755	Rm 2-L290, 5601 Sunnyside Ave.,
Kathy.bernard@fsis.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-2092	Beltsville, MD 20705

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Jeff Ovall	202-720-8215	Rm 1140-S
jeff.ovall@fsis.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-3023	Washington, DC 20250

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Agricultural Marketing Service

<http://www.ams.usda.gov>

Agricultural Marketing Service provides market news reports; develops quality grade standards for agricultural commodities; provides voluntary grading services for livestock, meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, cotton and tobacco; administers marketing regulatory programs, marketing agreements and orders, and research and promotion programs; administers national organic standards activities; administers USDA's laboratory accreditation program; administers federal-state marketing improvement programs, wholesale facilities research programs, and food purchases for USDA food assistance programs; and is the coordinator for USDA's pesticide data program and pesticide record keeping program activities.

Agricultural Marketing Service - June 25, 2008

Director, Public Affairs

Billy Cox	202-720-8998	Rm 2632-S
billy.cox@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Director/Webmaster

Becky Unkenholz	202-720-8998	Rm 2632-S
becky.unkenholz@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Specialist

Joan Shaffer	202-720-8998	Room 2632-S
joan.shaffer@usda.gov	202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Specialist

Jimmie Turner	202-720-8998	Rm. 2632-S, South Building
jimmie.turner@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Specialist

Hakim Fobia	202-720-8998	Room 2632-S
hakim.fobia@usda.gov	202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Specialist

Clara Lau	202-720-8998	Room 2632-S
clara.lau@usda.gov	202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Assistant

Nadine Wilkins	202-720-8998	Rm 2632-S
nadine.wilkins@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Maria Sanders	202-720-2498	Rm 2622-S
maria.sanders@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-1362	Washington, DC 20250

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) administers regulatory programs to control or eradicate animal and plant pests and diseases; enforces domestic and port-of-entry agricultural quarantines; licenses and assures safety and effectiveness of veterinary biological products; ensures the safety of agricultural products of biotechnology; enforces the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts; administers programs providing protection to livestock and crops from depredation by rodents, birds and predatory animals; and conducts cooperative programs to eradicate animal and plant pests and diseases in other countries.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - November 28, 2008

Deputy Administrator, Legislative & Public Affairs

Bethany Jones	202-720-2511	Rm 1147-S
bethany.x.jones@aphis.usda.gov	FAX 202-720-3982	Washington, DC 20250

Associate Deputy Administrator, Legislative & Public Affairs

James Ivy 202-720-2511 Rm 1147-S
james.c.ivy@aphis.usda.gov FAX 202-720-3982 Washington, DC 20250

COLORADO

Lyndsay Griffin, Public Affairs Specialist 970-494-7410 2150 Centre Ave., Building B, Mailstop #3W9
lyndsay.m.griffin@aphis.usda.gov FAX 970-494-7455 Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

Director, Public Affairs

Ed Curlett 301-734-3256 4B-08D
ed.c.curlett@aphis.usda.gov FAX 301-734-5221 Riverdale, MD 20737

Director, Executive Communications

Christina Myers 301-734-8297 2A-021
christina.myers@aphis.usda.gov FAX 301-734-5387 Riverdale, MD 20737

Director, Freedom of Info Act Officer

Tonya Woods 301-734-5267 2B-02E
tonya.g.woods@aphis.usda.gov 301-734-5941 Riverdale, MD 20737

APHIS Regional Information Offices - November 28, 2008**MICHIGAN**

Sharon Lucik, Public Affairs Specialist 810-844-2713
Sharon.E.Lucik@aphis.usda.gov FAX 810-844-0583

CALIFORNIA

Larry Hawkins, Public Affairs Specialist 916-930-5509
lawrence.e.hawkins@aphis.usda.gov FAX 916-857-6269

COLORADO

Lyndsay Griffin, Public Affairs Specialist 970-494-7410 Centre Ave., Building B, Mailstop #3W9
lyndsay.m.griffin@aphis.usda.gov 970-494-7455 Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

NORTH CAROLINA

Nolan Lemon, Public Affairs Specialist 919-855-7008 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200
nolan.lemon@aphis.usda.gov FAX 919-855-7016 Raleigh, NC 27606

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

<http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. One of GIPSA's programs, the Packers and Stockyards Program (P&SP), promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries for the benefit of American Agriculture. P&SP uses three actionable strategies; education, regulation, and investigation to promote fair and competitive markets through enforcement and administration of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921. The Agency's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) facilitates the marketing of U.S. grain and related agricultural products through the establishment of standards for quality assessments, regulation of handling practices, and management of a network of Federal, State, and private laboratories that provide impartial, user fee funded official inspection and weighing services under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. These activities promote fair and transparent markets, increase crop value by aligning crop quality with specific consumer demands, reducing trade disputes resulting from conflicting descriptions of crop quality and value, and minimizing the cost of transactions between buyer and seller, both in the domestic and global market.

Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration - May 1, 2007**Assistant to the Deputy Administrator**

Dana Stewart 202-720-5091 Room 2063-S
Dana.b.stewart@usda.gov 202-690-2333 Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Joanne Peterson
Joanne.c.peterson@usda.gov

202-720-8087
FAX 202-690-2173

Rm 1640-S Stop 3642
Washington, DC 20250

Natural Resources and Environment

Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

Forest Service administers programs for applying sound conservation and utilization practices to natural resources of the national forests and national grasslands, for promoting these practices on all forest lands through cooperation with states and private landowners and for carrying out extensive forest and range research.

National Press Office

Director

Stana Federighi sfederighi@fs.fed.us	202-205-8333 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Yates Washington, DC 20250
---	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Program Manager-Visual Information & Publishing Services

Mary Jane Senter msenter@fs.fed.us	202-205-1719 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Yates Washington, DC 20250
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Program Manager-Communication Planning & Management

Thiery Curtis tc Curtis@fs.fed.us	202-205-8521 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Yates Washington, DC 20250
--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Program Manager-Corporate Communications

Christine Murray cmurray@fs.fed.us	202-205-1545 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Yates Washington, DC 20250
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

National Press Officer - Office of Chief

Dan Jiron djiron@fs.fed.us	202-205-0896 FAX 202-205-1765	4 NW-Yates Washington, DC 20250
-------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Program Manager-Press Office

Joseph Walsh jwalsh@fs.fed.us	202-205-1294 FAX 202-205-1765	4 NW-Yates Washington, DC 20250
----------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Media Officer - Office of Chief

Heidi Valetkevitch hvaletkevitch@fs.fed.us	202-205-0914 FAX 202-205-1765	4 NW-Yates Washington, DC 20250
---	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Rita Morgan rmorgan@fs.fed.us	703-605-4910 FAX 703-605-5104	1012-RPE Arlington, VA 22209
----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Regional Communication Offices - December 8, 2004

Northern Region

Ed Nesselroad enesselroad@fs.fed.us	406-329-3089 FAX 406-329-3411	P.O.Box 7669 Federal Building Missoula, MT 59807
--	----------------------------------	---

Rocky Mountain Region

Terri Gates tgates@fs.fed.us	303-375-5427 FAX 303-275-5366	P.O.Box 25127 Lakewood, CO 80225
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Southwest Region

Carl Holguin cholguin@fs.fed.us	505-842-3497 FAX 505-842-3106	333 Broadway SE Albuquerque, NM 87102
------------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

Intermountain Region

Erin O'Connor eoconnor@fs.fed.us	801-625-5347 FAX 801-625-5240	324 25th St. Federal Building Ogden, UT 84401
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

Pacific Southwest Region

Rick Alexander rale Alexander@fs.fed.us	707-562-9014 FAX 707-562-9053	1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592
--	----------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Pacific Northwest Region

Al Matecko amatecko@fs.fed.us	503-808-2240 FAX 503-808-2229	P.O.Box 3623 333 S. First St Portland, OR 97208
Southern Region Angela Coleman acoleman@fs.fed.us	404-347-7226 FAX 404-347-3808	1720 Peachtree Rd NW, Ste 760s Atlanta, GA 30309
Eastern Region Sherry Wagner swagner01@fs.fed.us	414-297-3640 FAX 414-297-3700	310 E Wisconsin Ave Milwaukee, WI 53202
Alaska Region Pamela Finney pfinney@fs.fed.us	907-586-8803 FAX 907-586-7840	P.O.Box 21628 Federal Bldg Juneau, AK 99802-1628
Research Stations Communications Offices - December 8, 2004		
Forest Products Laboratory		
Gordon Blum gblum@fs.fed.us	608-231-9257 FAX 608-231-9592	One Gifford Pinchot Drive Madison, WI 53726
North Central Research Station		
Debra Dietzman ddietzman@fs.fed.us	651-649-5031 FAX 615-649-5285	1992 Folwell Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108
Northeastern Research Station		
Lynn Wingert lynn.c.wingert@fs.fed.us	610-557-4253 FAX 610-557-4095	11 Campus Boulevard Suite 200 Newtown Square, PA 19073
Pacific Northwest Research Station		
Cindy Miner clminer@fs.fed.us	503-808-2135 FAX 503-326-2455	333 SW First Ave Portland, OR 97204
Pacific SW Research Station		
Marilyn Hartley mhartley@fs.fed.us	510-559-6324 FAX 510-559-6441	800 Buchanan St. W. Annex Bldg. Albany, CA 94710-0011
Rocky Mountain Research Station		
Rick Fletcher (Ft. Collins) cfletcher@fs.fed.us	970-295-5920 FAX 970-498-1660	2150 Centre Ave, Bldg A Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098
Dave Tippets (Ogden) dtippets@fs.fed.us	801-625-5434 FAX 801-625-5129	324 25th Street Federal Building Ogden, UT 84401
Southern Research Station		
Carol Whitlock cwhitlock@fs.fed.us	828-257-4389 FAX 828-257-4838	P.O.Box 2680 Asheville, NC 28802

Natural Resources Conservation Service

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

With the mission of "Helping People Help the Land" the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. With our help, people are better able to conserve, maintain, or improve their natural resources. As a result of our technical and financial assistance, land managers and communities take a comprehensive approach to the use and protection of natural resources in rural suburban, urban, and developing areas.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Director Public Affairs Division

Dianne Guidry dianne.guidry@wdc.usda.gov	202-720-2182 FAX 202-720-1564	14th & Independence Avenue SW Room 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
---	----------------------------------	---

Program Assistant

Joyce Hawkins
joyce.hawkins@wdc.usda.gov

202-720-3210
FAX 202-720-1564

14th & Independence Avenue SW Room 6121-S
Washington,, DC 20013

Team Leader-Product Development

Suzanne Pender
suzanne.pender@wdc.usda.gov

202-720-4649
FAX 202-720-1564

14th & Independence Avenue SW Room 6121-S
Washington,, DC 20013

Public Affairs Specialist

Fred Jacobs
fred.jacobs@wdc.usda.gov

202-720-4772
FAX 202-720-1564

14th & Independence Avenue SW
Washington,, DC 20013

Printing Specialist

Doug Wilson
doug.l.wilson@wdc.usda.gov

202-720-6243
FAX 202-720-1564

14th & Independence Avenue SW Room 6121
Washington,, DC 20013

Visual Information Specialist

Jennifer Oh
jennifer.oh@wdc.usda.gov

202-690-3149
202-720-1564

14th & Independence Avenue SW
Washington,, DC 20013

Visual Information Specialist

Devie Perry
devie.perry@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov

817-509-3618
FAX 817-509-3568

501 W. Felix Street Buildig 23
Ft. Worth,, TX 76115

Visual Information Specialist

Ervin Ricks
ervin.ricks@ffw.nrcs.usda.gov

817-509-3555
817-509-3568

501 W. Felix Street Building 23
Ft. Worth,, TX 76115

Team Leader- LANDCARE

Michele Eginore
michele.eginore@ia.usda.gov

515-289-0325 x102
515-289-4561

5140 Park Ave , Suite C,
Des Moines,, IA 50321

Earth Team Liaison

Bonnie Allely
bonnie.allely@ia.usda.gov

515-289-0325x105
FAX 515-289-4561

5140 Park Avenue Suite C.
Des Moines,, IA 50321

Team Leader - Media & Events

Terry Bish
terry.bish@wdc.usda.gov

202-720-5974
FAX 202-720-1564

Room 6116-S
Washington,, DC 20013

Public Affairs Specialist - Speech Writer

Mary Elder
mary.elder@one.usda.gov

202-720-7881
202-720-1564

14th & Independence Avenue SW Room 6112-S
Washington, DC 20013

Public Affairs Specialist

Sylvia Rainford
sylvia.rainford@wdc.usda.gov

202-720-2536
202-720-1564

Room 6112-S 14th & Independence Ave SW
Washington,, DC 20013

Public Affairs Specialist

Brad Fisher
brad.fisher@wdc.usda.gov

202-720-4024
202-720-1564

Room 6112-S 14th & Independence Ave SW
Washington,, DC 20013

Natural Resources Conservation Service State Public Affairs Contacts**Alabama**

Julie Best
julie.best@al.usda.gov

334-887-4549
FAX 334-887-4552

P.O. Box 311
3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830

Alaska

Cassandra Stalzer
cassandra.stalzer@ak.usda.gov

907-761-7749
FAX 907-761-7790

800 W. Evergreen Ste 100
Palmer, AK 99645-6539

Arizona

Renee Bodine
renee.bodine@az.usda.gov

602-280-8778
FAX 602-280-8809

230 N. First Avenue Suite 509
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706

Arkansas

Molly Voeller molly.voeller@ar.usda.gov	501-301-3133 FAX 501-301-3189	700 West Capitol Avenue Room 3416 Little Rock, AR 72201-3228
California Anita Brown anita.brown@ca.usda.gov	530-792-5644 FAX 530-792-5791	430 G Street Suite 4164 Davis, CA 95616-4164
Colorado Petra Barnes petra.barnes@co.usda.gov	720-544-2808 FAX 720-544-2965	655 Parfet Street Room E200C Lakewood, CO 80215-5517
Connecticut Carol Donzella carol.donzella@ct.usda.gov	203-389-6925 FAX 203-389-6946	1 Bradley Road Suite 103 Woodbridge, CT 06525
Delaware Stuart Lee stuart.lee@de.usda.gov	302-678-4179 FAX 302-678-0843	1203 College Park Drive Suite 100 Dover, DE 19904-8713
Florida Bob Stobaugh bob.stobaugh@fl.usda.gov	352-338-9565 FAX 352-338-9574	2614 N.W 43rd Street Gainesville, FL 32606-6611
Georgia Mary Ann McQuinn mary.mcquinn@ga.usda.gov	706-546-2069 FAX 706-546-2120	Federal Building Box 13 355 East Hancock Avenue Athens, GA 30601-2769
Hawaii Jolene Lau jolene.lau@hi.usda.gov	808-541-2600 Ext. 118 FAX 808-541-1335	300 Ala Moana Boulevard Room 4-118 Honolulu, HI 96850-0002
Idaho Dastina Johnson dastina.johnson@id.usda.gov	208-685-6978 FAX 208-378-5735	9173 W. Barnes Drive, Suite C Boise, ID 83709-1574
Illinois Paige Buck paige.buck@il.usda.gov	217-353-6606 FAX 217-353-6676	2118 W. Park Court Champaign, IL 61821
Indiana Michael McGovern mike.mcgovern@in.usda.gov	317-290-3222 Ext. 324 FAX 317-290-3225	6013 Lakeside Boulevard Indianapolis, IN 46278-2933
Iowa Laura Greiner laura.greiner@ia.usda.gov	515-323-2207 FAX 515-284-4394	693 Federal Building 210 Walnut Street Des Moines, IA 50309-2180
Kansas Mary Shaffer mary.shaffer@ks.usda.gov	785-823-4571 FAX 785-823-4540	760 South Broadway Salina, KS 67401
Kentucky Lois Jackson lois.jackson@ky.usda.gov	859-224-7372 FAX 859-224-7399	771 Corporate Drive Suite 210 Lexington, KY 40503-5479
Louisiana Herb Bourque herb.bourque@la.usda.gov	318-473-7762 FAX 318-473-7682	3737 Government Street Alexandria, LA 71302-3727
Maine		

Elaine Tremble elaine.tremble@me.usda.gov	207-990-9569 FAX 207-990-9599	967 Illinois Ave., Suite #3 Bangor, ME 04401
Maryland Carol Hollingsworth carol.hollingsworth@md.usda.gov	443-482-2902 FAX 410-757-0687	John Hanson BC 339 Bucsh's Frontage Road Suite 301 Annapolis, MD 21401-5534
Massachusetts Diane Baedeker Petit diane.petit@ma.usda.gov	413-253-4371 FAX 413-253-4375	451 West Street Amherst, MA 01002-2995
Michigan Brian Buehler brian.buehler@mi.usda.gov	517-324-5244 FAX 517-324-5171	3001Coolidge Road, Suite 250 East Lansing, MI 48823-5243
Minnesota Julie MacSwain julie.macswain@mn.usda.gov	651-602-7859 FAX 651-602-7914	375 Jackson Street Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101-1854
Mississippi Jeannine May jeannine.may@ms.usda.gov	601-965-4337 FAX 601-965-4536	Federal Building Suite 1321 100 West Capitol Street Jackson, MS 39269-1399
Missouri Sharon Small Sharon.small@mo.usda.gov	573-876-9360 FAX 573-876-0913	Parkade Center Suite 250 601 Business Loop 70 West Columbia, MO 65203-2546
Montana Robert Moler Robert.moler@mt.usda.gov	406-587-6942 FAX 406-587-6761	Federal Building Room 443 10 East Babcock Street Bozeman, MT 59715-4704
Nebraska Pat McGrane pat.mcgrane@ne.usda.gov	402-437-5328 FAX 402-437-5327	Federal Building Room 152 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, NE 68508-3866
Nevada Liz Warner liz.warner@nv.usda.gov	775-857-8500 ext. 105 FAX 775-857-8524	1365 Corporate Boulevard Reno, NV 89502
New Hampshire Lynn Howell lynn.howell@nh.usda.gov	603-868-9931 EXT. 104 FAX 603-868-5301	2 Madbury Road Durham, NH 03824-1499
New Jersey Barbara Phillips barbara.phillips@nj.usda.gov	732-537-6044 FAX 732-537-6095	220 Davidson Ave, 4th Fl Somerset, NJ 08873
New Mexico Barbara Garrett barbara.garrett@nm.usda.gov	505-761-4406 FAX 505-761-4463	6200 Jefferson NE Suite 305 Albuquerque, NM 87109-3734
New York Kristen Skopeck kristen.skopeck@ny.usda.gov	315-477-6524 FAX 315-477-6550	441 South Salina Street 5th Floor Suite 354 Syracuse, NY 13202-2450
North Carolina Andrew Smith andy.smith@nc.usda.gov	919-873-2107 FAX 919-873-2156	4405 Bland Road Suite 205 Raleigh, NC 27609-6293
North Dakota		

Arlene Deutscher arlene.deutscher@nd.usda.gov	701-530-2099 FAX 701-530-2112	Federal Building Room 278 220 East Rosser Avenue Bismarck, ND 58502-1458
Ohio Christina Coulon chris.coulon@oh.usda.gov	614-255-2471 FAX 614-255-2552	200 North High Street Room 522 Columbus, OH 43215-2748
Oklahoma Terri Daniel terri.daniel@ok.usda.gov	405-742-1244 FAX 405-742-1201	100 USDA Suite 206 Stillwater, OK 74074-2655
Oregon Sara Magenheimer sara.magenheimer@or.usda.gov	503-414-3250 FAX 503-414-3103	1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard Suite 900 Portland, OR 97204-3221
Pacific Islands Area Jolene Lau jolene.lau@hi.usda.gov	808-541-2600 Ext. 135 FAX 808-541-1335	300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 4-118 Honolulu,, HI 96850-0002
Pennsylvania Molly McDonough molly.mcdonough@pa.usda.gov	717-237-2208 FAX 717-237-2238	1 Credit Union Place Suite 340 Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993
Puerto Rico/Caribbean Area Juan Martinez, Director juan.martinez@pr.usda.gov	787-766-5206 EXT. 237 FAX 787-766-6563	IBM Bldg., Suite 604 654 Munoz Rivera Ave. Hato Rey, PR 00918-4123
Rhode Island Jeanne Comerford jeanne.comerford@ri.usda.gov	401-822-8816 FAX 401-828-0433	60 Quaker Lane Suite 46 Warwick, RI 02886-0111
South Carolina Amy Maxwell amy.maxwell@sc.usda.gov	803-765-5402 FAX 803-253-3670	Strom Thurmond FB 1835 Assembly Street Room 950 Columbia, SC 29201-2489
South Dakota Jeff McGuire jeffrey.mcguire@sd.usda.gov	605-352-1228 FAX 605-352-6615	Federal Building 200 4th Street SW Rm 203 Huron, SD 57350-2475
Tennessee Perry Stevens perry.stevens@tn.usda.gov	615-277-2533 FAX 615-277-2577	675 U S Courthouse 801 Broadway Nashville, TN 37203-3878
Texas Lori Valadez lori.valadez@tx.usda.gov	254-742-9811 FAX 254-742-9819	W R Poage Federal Building 101 South Main Street Temple, TX 76502
Utah Ron Francis ron.francis@ut.usda.gov	801-524-4557 FAX 801-524-4403	WF Bennett Federal Building 125 S State St., Rm 4 Salt Lake City, UT 84138
Vermont Anne Hilliard anne.hilliard@vt.usda.gov	802-951-6795 FAX 802-951-6327	356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105 Colchester, VT 05446
Virginia Pat Paul pat.paul@va.usda.gov	804-287-1681 FAX 804-287-1737	Culpeper Building Suite 209 1606 Santa Rosa Road

Richmond, VA 23229-5014

Washington

Ron Nichols
ron.nichols@wa.usda.gov

509-323-2912
FAX 509-323-2909

Rock Pointe Tower II
W. 316 Boone Avenue
Suite 450
Spokane, WA 99201-2348

West Virginia

Carol Lagodich
carol.lagodich@wv.usda.gov

304-284-4826
FAX 304-284-4839

75 High Street Room 301
Morgantown, WV 26505

Wisconsin

Renae Anderson
renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov

608-662-4422 EXT. 227
FAX 608-662-4430

8031 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53717-2906

Wyoming

Nancy Atkinson
nancy.atkinson@wy.usda.gov

307-261-6482
FAX 307-233-6753

Federal Building
100 East B Street
Room 3124
Casper, WY 82601-1911

Research, Education, and Economics

Agricultural Research Service

<http://www.ars.usda.gov>

Agricultural Research Service is the principal in-house research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ARS has a mission to conduct research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. ARS plans and coordinates its research in multiple National Programs that fall into four main areas: Nutrition, Food Safety and Quality; Crop Production and Protection; Animal Production and Protection; and Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems.

Agricultural Research Service - May 21, 2009

Director Information Staff

Sandy Miller Hays	301-504-1638	5601 Sunnyside Ave
Sandy.MillerHays@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1648	Bldg. 1 Rm 2251
		Beltsville, MD 20705-5128

Current Information Branch Chief

Sean Adams	301-504-1622	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
Sean.Adams@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1486	Rm 2210
		Beltsville, MD 20705-5129

Chief Information Products and Services Branch

Tara T. Weaver-Missick	301-504-1663	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
tara.weavermissick@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1641	Rm 2234
		Beltsville, MD 20705-5130

National Visitor Center Head

Jennifer Woodward - Greene	301-504-9403	Bldg 302 BARC-E
Jennifer.Woodward-Greene@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-8069	Beltsville, MD 20705

Freedom of Information Act Officers

Valerie Herberger	301-504-1640	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
Valerie.Herberger@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1648	Rm 2248b
		Beltsville, MD 20705-5128

National Agricultural Library

<http://www.nal.usda.gov>

USDA's National Agricultural Library is the world's largest and most accessible agricultural research library and the principal source in the United States for information about food, agriculture, and natural resources. The library's expert staff, leadership role in information services and technology applications, accessibility via the World Wide Web, collection of more than 50 million items, and close working relationship with Land-Grant and other agricultural libraries worldwide combine to make it the world's foremost agricultural library.

National Agricultural Library

Public Affairs Officer

Marcia Wood	301-504-1662	402-NAL
maecia.woos@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1486	Beltsville, MD 20705

Technical Information Specialist

Deborah Richardson	301-504-5779	404-NAL
deborah.richardson@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-7042	Beltsville, MD 20705

Information Service Desk - Beltsville

Karl Schneider agref@ars.usda.gov	301-504-5755 202-720-6110	1st Fl.-NAL Washington, DC 20705
D.C. Reference Center		
Kathie Beane agref@ars.usda.gov	202-720-3434 202-720-0342	Rm 1052-S Washington, DC 20250
NAL TDD/TTY		
	301-504-6856	
Alternative Farming Systems Information Center		
William Thomas william.thomas@ars.usda.gov	301-504-5724 FAX 301-504-7098	122-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Animal Welfare Information Center		
Jean Larson jean.larson@ars.usda.gov	301-504-5215 FAX 301-504-7125	4th Floor-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Food and Nutrition Information Center		
Shirley King Evans shirley.evans@ars.usda.gov	301-504-5255 FAX 301-504-6409	109-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Food Safety Information Center		
Yvette Alonso-Haire yvette.haire@ars.usda.gov	301-504-7374 301-504-7680	3rd Floor, NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
National Invasive Species Information Center		
Susan McCarthy susan.mccarthy@ars.usda.gov	301-504-5510 301-504-6951	4th Floor, NAL Beltsville, Maryland 20705
Rural Information Center		
Louise Reynnells louise.reynnells@ars.usda.gov	301-504-5293 FAX 301-504-5181	304-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Rural Information Center DC area and International		
	301-504-5547	304-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
All other U.S. calls		
	1-800-633-7701	304-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Special Collections Program		
Susan Fugate susan.fugate@ars.usda.gov	301-504-6503 FAX 301-504-7593	3rd Floor-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Water Quality Information Center		
Joseph Makuch joseph.makuch@ars.usda.gov	301-504-6077 FAX 301-504-6409	115-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov>

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), is charged with managing Federal resources to advance knowledge of agriculture, the environment, and human health. CSREES works through partnerships--with Federal, university-based, and citizen partners. It combines national program leadership and sound administration of Federal assistance in supporting research to achieve safer, cleaner water, food, and air; responsible stewardship of natural resources; and a healthy, stable, and affordable food supply.

CSREES accomplishes these goals by supporting the base programs of State Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Cooperative Extension system nationwide at Land-Grant universities. The wide-ranging CSREES partnerships include over 130 colleges of agriculture; 59 agricultural experiment stations; 57 cooperative extension services; 63 schools of forestry; Tuskegee University and the other 17 historically Black colleges and universities; 27 colleges of veterinary medicine; 42 schools and colleges of family and consumer sciences; 33 Native American land-grant institutions; 17 Alaskan Native-Serving and Hawaiian Native-Serving Institutions, over 160 Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and numerous institutions and organizations that qualify for support under various competitive grant authorities.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Director Communications Staff

Janet Allen	202-720-2677	Waterfront Center 800 9th St., S.W.
jallen@csrees.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Rm 4231
		Washington,, DC 20250-2207

Senior Public Affairs Specialist/Web-Site Chief Editor

John Snyder	202-720-2047	Waterfront Center, 800 9th St., S.W., Rm 4234
jsnyder@csrees.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Washington,, DC 20250-2207

National Media Specialist

Jennifer Martin	202-720-8188	Waterfront Center 800 9th St., S.W.
jmartin@csrees.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Rm 4238
		Washington,, DC 20250-2207

Cooperative Extension System Communication and Collaboration Specialist

Judy Rude	202-720-4242	Waterfront Center 800 9th St., S.W. Rm 4236
jrude@csrees.usda.gov	202-690-0289	Washington, DC 20024-2207

Public Inquiries

Valeria Best	202-720-4651	Waterfront Center 800 9th St., S.W.
vbest@csrees.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Rm 4248
		Washington, DC 20250-2207

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Stasia Hutchison	301-504-1655	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
shutchison@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1647	Rm 2248A
		Beltsville, MD 20705

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Valerie Herberger	301-504-1640	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
vherberger@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1647	Rm 2248B
		Beltsville, MD 20705

Economic Research Service

<http://www.ers.usda.gov>

The Economic Research Service (ERS) is USDA's main source of economic information and research on issues related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. ERS helps decisionmakers probe the issues of the day with peer-reviewed social science research. The agency brings the perspective of economic analysis to critical issues facing farmers, agribusiness, consumers and policymakers. The ERS program encompasses research, market and policy analysis, and development of economic and statistical indicators. ERS provides decisionmakers with the information they need to conduct business, formulate policy, or learn about the farm, rural, and food sectors. ERS maintains a dynamic website that provides timely and comprehensive economic analysis and research. The agency publishes a magazine, *Amber Waves*, five times annually, covering the full range of ERS work and available in print and on the ERS website.

Economic Research Service

Public Affairs Officer

Adrie Custer acuster@ers.usda.gov	202-694-5115 FAX 202-694-5638	1800 M St., NW, Rm S2015 Washington, DC 20036-5831
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Publishing and Communications Branch Chief

Thomas McDonald thomasm@ers.usda.gov	202-694-5129 FAX 202-694-5638	1800 M St., NW, Rm 2075 Washington, DC 20036-5831
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Public Affairs Team

Mary Reardon mreardon@ers.usda.gov	202-694-5136 FAX 202-694-5638	1800 M Street, NW, Room S2015 Washington, DC 20036-5831
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Public Affairs Team

Nancy McNiff nmcniff@ers.usda.gov	202-694-5106 FAX 202-694-5638	1800 M Street , NW Room S2015 Washington, DC
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Public Affairs Team

Michael Illenberg millenberg@ers.usda.gov	202-694-5448 FAX 202-694-5638	1800 M Street, NW Room S2015 Washington, DC 20036-5831
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Information Center

Donnell Royster InfoCenter@ers.usda.gov	202-694-5059 FAX 202-694-5638	1800 M Street, NW Room N-3051 Washington,, DC 20036-5831
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Freedom of Information Act Officer

Stasia Hutchison shutchison@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1655 FAX 301-504-1647	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1 Rm 2248A Beltsville, MD 20705
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Freedom of Information Act Officer

Valerie Herberger vherberger@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1640 Fax 301-504-1647	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1 RM 2248B Beltsville,, Maryland 20705
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National Agricultural Statistics Service

<http://www.nass.usda.gov>

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) collects and disseminates a vast array of data on every facet of U.S. Agriculture, including production, economics, demographics, and the environment. The agency conducts hundreds of surveys each year and, through the Agricultural Statistics Board, issues nearly 500 national reports annually. NASS also conducts the Census of Agriculture every 5 years, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

Washington DC Office

State-Specific Agricultural Statistics

Field Offices Alabama (Montgomery, AL)	800-832-4181	nass-al@nass.usda.gov
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Alaska (Palmer, AK)	800-478-6079	nass-ak@nass.usda.gov
Arizona (Phoenix, AZ)	800-645-7286	nass-az@nass.usda.gov
Arkansas (Little Rock, AR)	800-327-2970	nass-ar@nass.usda.gov
California (Sacramento, CA)	800-851-1127	nass-ca@nass.usda.gov
Colorado (Lakewood, CO)	800-392-3202	nass-co@nass.usda.gov
Connecticut * (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571	nass-nh@nass.usda.gov
Delaware (Dover, DE)	302-698-4537	nass-de@nass.usda.gov
Florida (Orlando, FL)	800-344-6277	nass-fl@nass.usda.gov
Georgia (Athens, GA)	800-253-4419	nass-ga@nass.usda.gov
Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)	800-804-9514	nass-hi@nass.usda.gov
Idaho (Boise, ID)	800-691-9987	nass-id@nass.usda.gov
Illinois (Springfield, IL)	800-622-9865	nass-il@nass.usda.gov
Indiana (West Lafayette, IN)	800-363-0469	nass-in@nass.usda.gov
Iowa (Des Moines, IA)	800-772-0825	nass-ia@nass.usda.gov
Kansas (Topeka, KS)	800-258-4564	nass-ks@nass.usda.gov
Kentucky (Louisville, KY)	800-928-5277	nass-ky@nass.usda.gov
Louisiana (Baton Rouge, LA)	800-256-4485	nass-la@nass.usda.gov
Maine (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571	nass-nh@nass.usda.gov
Maryland (Annapolis, MD)	800-675-0295	nass-md@nass.usda.gov
Massachusetts*(Concord,NH)	800-642-9571	nass-nh@nass.usda.gov
Michigan (Lansing, MI)	800-453-7501	nass-mi@nass.usda.gov
Minnesota (St. Paul, MN)	800-453-7502	nass-mn@nass.usda.gov
Mississippi (Jackson, MS)	800-535-9609	nass-ms@nass.usda.gov
Missouri (Columbia, MO)	800-551-1014	nass-mo@nass.usda.gov
Montana (Helena, MT)	800-835-2612	nass-mt@nass.usda.gov
Nebraska (Lincoln, NE)	800-582-6443	nass-ne@nass.usda.gov
Nevada (Reno, NV)	888-456-7211	nass-nv@nass.usda.gov
New Hampshire* (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571	nass-nh@nass.usda.gov
New Jersey (Trenton, NJ)	800-328-0179	nass-nj@nass.usda.gov
New Mexico (Las Cruces, NM)	800-530-8810	nass-nm@nass.usda.gov
New York (Albany, NY)	800-821-1276	nass-ny@nass.usda.gov
North Carolina (Raleigh, NC)	800-437-8451	nass-nc@nass.usda.gov
North Dakota (Fargo, ND)	800-626-3134	nass-nd@nass.usda.gov
Ohio (Reynoldsburg, OH)	800-858-8144	nass-oh@nass.usda.gov
Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK)	888-525-9226	nass-ok@nass.usda.gov
Oregon (Portland, OR)	800-338-2157	nass-or@nass.usda.gov
Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, PA)	800-498-1518	nass-pa@nass.usda.gov
Puerto Rico (San Juan, PR)	787-723-3773*	nass-pr@nass.usda.gov
Rhode Island* (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571	nass-nh@nass.usda.gov
South Carolina (Columbia, SC)	800-424-9406	nass-sc@nass.usda.gov
South Dakota (Sioux Falls, SD)	800-338-2557	nass-sd@nass.usda.gov
Tennessee (Nashville, TN)	800-626-0987	nass-tn@nass.usda.gov
Texas (Austin, TX)	800-626-3142	nass-tx@nass.usda.gov
Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)	800-747-8522	nass-ut@nass.usda.gov
Vermont* (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571	nass-nh@nass.usda.gov
Virginia (Richmond, VA)	800-772-0670	nass-va@nass.usda.gov
Washington (Olympia, WA)	800-435-5883	nass-wa@nass.usda.gov
West Virginia (Charleston, WV)	800-535-7088	nass-wv@nass.usda.gov
Wisconsin (Madison, WI)	800-789-9277	nass-wi@nass.usda.gov
Wyoming (Cheyenne, WY)	800-892-1660	nass-wy@nass.usda.gov

*The New England Field Office, located in NH, services the following states: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

Rural Development

Rural Development

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development, and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

Rural Development

Rural Business-Cooperative Program

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs>

Rural Housing Program

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/index.html>

Rural Utilities Program

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rus/index.html>

Director, Legislative and Public Affairs

Tim McNeilly

202-720-1019
FAX 202-690-4083

4801-S
Washington, DC 20250

Acting Assistant Director, Legislative and Public Affairs

Jay Fletcher

Jay.fletcher@wdc.usda.gov

202-690-0498
FAX 202-690-4083

Rm 4170-S
Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Public Affairs Director

Dan Campbell

Dan.Campbell@usda.gov

202-720-6483
FAX 202-690-4083

Rm 4809-S
Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Legislative Director

Dick Kasting

dick.kasting@wdc.usda.gov

202-720-2296
FAX 202-690-0311

Rm 4175-S
Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Joseph Shunk

joseph.shunk@wdc.usda.gov

202-692-0032
FAX 202-692-0013

Reporters Bldg
Washington, DC 20250

Executive Operations

Agricultural Labor Affairs

The Agricultural Labor Affairs Office serves as USDA's focal point for agricultural labor issues, including regulations and immigration issues, and is responsible for coordinating activities with other federal agencies.

Agricultural Labor Affairs

James Hrubovcak jhrubovcak	202-720-4737	Room 112-A Washington, DC 20250
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Office of the Chief Economist

<http://www.usda.gov/oce>

Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and programs affecting U.S. agriculture and rural areas, and informs the Secretary on related economic developments. The Office also is a focal point for farm labor issues within USDA. Units under the OCE coordinate the Department's work in economic forecasting, meteorology, remote sensing, risk assessment and cost benefit analysis, global climate change, sustainable development, energy policy, and new uses for farm products.

Office of the Chief Economist

Public Information Officer

Brenda Chapin bchapin@oce.usda.gov	202-720-5447 FAX 202-690-3160	Rm 4426-S Washington, DC 20250-3812
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World Agricultural Outlook Board

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity>

World Agricultural Outlook Board coordinates USDA's supply and use commodity forecasts and agricultural situation and outlook forecasts, issues monthly U.S. and world supply and demand estimates; leads department meteorology and remote sensing activities; assesses the impact of weather on agriculture; and coordinates USDA's annual Outlook Forum. The Board operates a Joint Agricultural Weather Facility with the National Weather Service.

World Agricultural Outlook Board

Public Information Officer

Brenda Chapin bchapin@oce.usda.gov	202-720-5447 FAX 202-690-3160	Rm 4426-S Washington, DC 20250-3812
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Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis

http://www.usda.gov/oce/risk_assessment

Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis reviews and approves risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses associated with major regulations that affect human health, safety, and the environment. It also serves as a focal point for risk assessment issues and methods in USDA.

Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis

Director Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis

Jim Schaub jschaub@oce.usda.gov	202-720-8022 FAX 202-720-1815	Rm 4032-S Washington, DC 20250-3811
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Global Change Program Office

http://www.usda.gov/oce/global_change

Global Change Program Office serves as USDA's focal point for climate change issues affecting agriculture, rural areas, and forestry. The Office coordinates global change issues among USDA agencies and acts as a liaison to other governmental bodies.

Global Change Program Office

William G Hohenstein
whohenst@oce.usda.gov

202-720-6698
FAX 202-401-1176

Rm 4407-S
Washington, DC 20250-3814

Sustainable Development

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/sustainable>

Sustainable Development Director coordinates USDA policies and programs in sustainable development for agriculture, forestry, and rural communities.

Sustainable Development - April 9, 2007

Adela Backiel
adela.backiel@usda.gov

202-720-2456
FAX 202-690-4915

Rm 112-A
Washington, DC 20250-3810

Office of Energy Policy and New Uses

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/oeptu/index.htm>

Office of Energy Policy and New Uses provides economic analysis on energy policy issues, coordinates USDA energy-related activities within and outside the Department, and studies the economic feasibility of new uses of agricultural products.

Office of Energy Policy and New Uses

Director

Roger K. Conway
rconway@oce.usda.gov

202-720-0461
FAX 202-401-0533

Rm 4059-S
Washington, DC 20024-0130

National Appeals Division

<http://www.nad.usda.gov/>

National Appeals Division, operating as an independent entity, makes final determinations on administrative appeals of USDA program decisions.

National Appeals Division

Freedom of Info Act Officer & External Affairs Officer

Larry Shrum
larry.shrum@usda.gov

703-305-1164
FAX 703-305-2825

Park Office Center, Rm 1113
Alexandria, VA 22302

Office of Budget & Program Analysis

<http://www.usda.gov/agency/obpa/Home-Page/obpa.html>

Office of Budget and Program Analysis provides direction and administration of the Department's budgetary functions; reviews program and legislative proposals for program and budget related implications; analyzes program and resource issues and alternatives; and provides departmentwide coordination for and participation in the presentation of budget related matters to the committees of Congress, the press and publics. OBPA also provides departmentwide coordination of the preparation and processing of the legislative program and legislative reports, and departmentwide coordination and processing of regulations.

Office of Budget and Program Analysis

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Julie Hetrick

jmh@obpa.usda.gov

202-720-1269

FAX 202-690-3673

Rm 118-E

Washington, DC 20250

Weather and Climate

USDA's World Board and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration formed the joint Agricultural weather facility (JAWF) in 1977, JAWF monitors the weather and assesses its likely impact on crops around the world.

Weather and Climate

Other USDA Offices

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

<http://www.usda.gov/ocfo>

Office of Chief Financial Officer, under the direction of USDA's Chief Financial Officer, provides direction, leadership and coordination of USDA programs in finance, accounting, federal assistance, occupational safety and health, productivity, management improvement and administrative systems; oversees activities of the National Finance Center and fulfills the comptrollership function of the working capital fund; and provides budget, accounting and fiscal services to USDA staff offices and the Office of the Secretary.

Office of Chief Financial Officer

Freedom of Info Act Officer

Kathleen Donaldson
kathy.donaldson@usda.gov

202-720-1011
FAX 202-205-3759

Rm 4088-S
Washington, DC 20250

Office of the General Counsel

<http://www.usda.gov/AgenciesandOffices/indexOGC.html>

Office of the General Counsel provides legal counsel and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and all USDA

Office of the General Counsel

Freedom of Information Act Attorney

L. Benjamin Young, Jr.
benjamin.young@usda.gov

202-720-5565
FAX 202-720-5837

Rm 3311-S
Washington, DC 20250

Office of the Inspector General

<http://www.usda.gov/oig/index.html>

Office of Inspector General conducts and supervises audits and investigations relating to USDA's programs and operations; provides leadership and coordination and recommends policies for activities designed to prevent and detect fraud and abuse and to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in USDA programs and operations; and keeps the Secretary and Congress fully informed of problems and deficiencies relating to administration of USDA programs, operations and actions designed to correct such problems and deficiencies.

Office of Inspector General

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Deidre MacNeil

202-720-8112
FAX 202-690-1528

Rm 24-E
Washington, DC 20250

Departmental Administration

<http://www.usda.gov/da/>

Departmental Administration contributes to accomplishing USDA's mission through leadership and service in administrative management activities, including human resources, property, procurement, civil rights, and small and disadvantaged businesses and competition advocacy.

Departmental Administration

Freedom of Information Act Liaison

Rita Morgan
ritam.morgan@usda.gov

202-720-8164
FAX 202-720-8098

Rm
Washington, DC 20250

Office of Chief Information Officer

<http://www.ocio.usda.gov/>

Office of Chief Information Officer is responsible for assuring that information technology is acquired and information resources are managed effectively; for developing and maintaining a sound and integrated information technology architecture for USDA; and for monitoring the performance of USDA's information technology programs.

Office of Chief Information Officer

