

Agency Contributions to USDA Water Mission

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

- Conducts research and develops best practices that helps ensure a safe, abundant, clean water supply.
 - [Water Availability and Watershed Management](#)
 - [Long-Term Agroecosystem Research \(LTAR\) Network](#)
- The National Agricultural Library (part of ARS), advances access to global information on water and agriculture.
 - [Water Quality Information Center](#)

Economic Research Service (ERS)

- Provides high-quality research and data that support policy and program development for protecting water resources cost effectively.
- Addresses the interactions between agriculture and the quantity and quality of water supplies.
- ERS assesses USDA policies and economic incentives that affect technology choices on the farm and the impact of those choices on farm profitability and water quality and water use.
 - [ERS Water Quality Information](#)

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Administers conservation programs that improve water quality and keep 200 million tons of soil, 600 million pounds of nitrogen and 100 million pounds of phosphorus from entering America's waterways.
- Preserves our Nation's streams and rivers through conservation programs that provide incentives to landowners to adopt best management practices.

Forest Service (FS)

- Manages National Forests and Grasslands as the Nation's largest source of fresh water, fish habitat and water-based recreation.
- Conducts research and provides technical assistance to protect, conserve and restore our Nation's water resources and aquatic ecosystems.
- Provides technical assistance and funding to conserve and enhance water resources on state and private lands.

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

- Coordinates and leads USDA international assistance and development activities to support U.S. national security and foreign policy goals—may include agricultural issues such as improved water management and watershed rehabilitation for agriculture.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

- Provides reliable statistical information to support research, programs and policies needed to sustain our Nation's water resources.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

- Funds research, education and extension programs to solve water quality and quantity problems in rural, agricultural, and urban watersheds.
- Supports creation, dissemination and implementation of knowledge to improve water quality and expand water availability.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Increases the productivity of water on agricultural land.
- Improves the quality of water in the environment.
- Helps farmers and ranchers manage their water resources wisely.

Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)

- Advises the Secretary on the economic implications of water policies and programs affecting the U.S. food and fiber system and rural areas.

Office of Environmental Markets (OEM)

- Provides leadership in developing emerging markets for water quality, wetlands and biodiversity.
- Supports regional market innovation and fosters collaboration around market-based conservation within USDA and across the federal government by building national environmental market infrastructure.

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

- Ensures stability for American agricultural producers by providing tools and resources for risk management solutions that support conservation practices, which follow recognized good farming practices to improve water resources.

Rural Development (RD)

- Provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less.
 - [Water and Environmental Programs](#)

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