



HOW TO GET INFORMATION

From the United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Communications

August 2001

This directory lists sources of information in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its various agencies. USDA agencies listed in this publication are encouraged to send updated information as soon as possible to the Editor, Shirley E. Adams, Office of Communications, Communications Coordination and Review Center, at either the Home Page address listed below, mail to Room 438-A, Whitten Building, or FAX to 202-690-3611. Hard copy version will be updated by the Editor and will be printed semiannually. All updates received by the Editor will be forwarded immediately to OC's Electronic Information Coordinator to incorporate on USDA's Home Page.

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Office of Communications

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's home page on the Internet World Wide Web. **OC** also provides departmental coordination of responses under the Freedom of Information Act.

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Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

FARM SERVICE AGENCY administers farm commodity, crop insurance, and conservation programs for farmers 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. Additionally, FSA provides emergency conservation and assistance programs to farmers.

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 marke

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.

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 unavoidable 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.

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Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE 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.

CENTER FOR NUTRITION POLICY AND PROMOTION provides direction and coordination for USDA's nutrition research and policy activities. The Center publishes the *Family Economics and Nutrition Review* and *Expenditures on Children by Families*, and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, develops and publishes the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

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Food Safety Services

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

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Marketing and Regulatory Programs

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 recordkeeping program activities.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE 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.

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 Programs, ensures open and competitive markets for livestock, meat, and poultry. The other, the Federal Grain Inspection Service, facilitates the marketing of U.S. grain and related agricultural products by providing the market with Federal quality standards and a uniform system for applying them.

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Natural Resources and Environment

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.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE provides leadership and administers programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment. Working with landowners and operators in local conservation districts, NRCS addresses this country's natural resource problems as they affect private lands in agriculture and other uses. NRCS is the lead agency in USDA for conservation and administers several programs including, the environmental quality incentives programs, wetlands reserve program, wildlife habitat incentives program, and watershed protection and flood prevention program; leads the national cooperative soil survey and national resource inventory; and provides USDA leadership in assisting landowners and local groups in resource conservation and development projects.

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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 three main categories: Animal Production, Product Value and Safety; Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems; and Crop Production, Product Value and Safety.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY is a part of **ARS**. **NAL** provides information on agricultural research and related subjects to scientists, educators, and farmers; coordinates and is primary resource for a national network of State land-grant university and field libraries; and serves as the U.S. center for the international agriculture information system.

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE is pledged to meeting the country's needs for research knowledge and educational programs that will enable people to make better informed decisions. Through partnership with the system of State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES), land-grant universities, other colleges and universities along with other public and private research and education organizations, **CSREES** is USDA's principal link to the university system for the initiation and development of agricultural research and education programs. **CSREES** is the federal partner in the Cooperative Extension System, a nationwide public-funded nonformal education network that combines the expertise and resources of Federal, State, and local governments through USDA, 103 land-grant universities, and 3,150 county Extension units. **CSREES** also administers the National Research Initiative, a competitively awarded grants program targeted to fundamental and mission-linked research.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE conducts research in domestic and foreign agricultural economics; analyzes factors affecting agriculture, farm productivity, financing, use of resources and potentials of rural areas; evaluates marketing potentials and development and marketing costs; studies U.S. trade in agricultural products and the role of agriculture in economic development of other nations; and reports situation and outlook, commodity projections, price spreads, and analysis of U.S. farm commodity programs. Office of Energy coordinates USDA's energy policy, including all issues dealing with agricultural energy use and agricultural impacts of energy development and use; coordinates the energy activities of all USDA agencies; and identifies information resource personnel in other agencies.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE The mission of **NASS** is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. **NASS** conducts weekly, monthly, and annual surveys and prepares official USDA reports of production, supply, prices, and other information necessary to maintain orderly agricultural operations. Through the Agricultural Statistics Board, about 400 National reports are released to the public every year with estimates covering about 120 crops and 45 livestock items. **NASS** also conducts the census of agriculture every 5 years. The most recent census of agriculture was conducted for 1997. The census is a complete accounting of U.S. agricultural production and is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the Nation. The 1997 census of agriculture contains data on land use and ownership, operator characteristics, crops, machinery and equipment, livestock, fertilizer, poultry, chemicals, market value of products, energy expenditures, irrigated land, production expenses, type of organization, farm programs, and corporate structure. **NASS** has a network of 45 State Statistical Offices and a field office in Puerto Rico.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

REPORTS AND DATA PRODUCTS:

There are a variety of ways to obtain NASS reports and data products.

Internet World Wide Web: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>
(Free electronic subscription service available.)

Printed Reports/Publications Sales Order Desk 800-999-6779
(Free catalog available upon request.)

NASSFax (Autofax) 202-720-2000

To obtain current U.S. summary pages and highlights of selected reports, pick up the receiver on your facs machine, dial the number, listen and follow the voice prompts. Ask for Document Number 0411 for a con listing of NASS reports/highlights available from the autofax.

NASS INFORMATION AND SERVICES:

Information **Hotline** 800-727-9540 FAX 202-690-2090
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M-F E-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov

CONTACTS:

Marketing and Information Services Office

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Census and Survey Division

Statistical Consulting and Surveys 202-720-4557

Reimbursable Public Agricultural Surveys 202-720-2248

Census Planning and Analysis 202-690-8747

Forecasts and Estimates

U. S. and State Crop Statistics 202-720-2127

U. S. and State Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Statistics 202-720-3570

U. S. and State Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Statistics 202-720-6146

Statistical Research 703-235-7511

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State-Specific Agricultural Statistics nass-**@nass.usda.gov
(Replace asterisks with State code, such as AL for Alabama)

State and Telephone No.

State and Telephone No.

Alabama (Montgomery, AL) 800-832-4181	Nebraska (Lincoln, NE) 800-582-6443
Alaska (Palmer, AK) 800-478-6079	Nevada (Reno, NV) 888-456-7211
Arizona (Phoenix, AZ) 800-645-7286	New Hampshire (Concord, NH) 800-642-9571
Arkansas (Little Rock, AR) 800-327-2970	New Jersey (Trenton, NJ) 800-328-0179
California (Sacramento, CA) 800-851-1127	New Mexico (Las Cruces, NM) 800-530-8810
Colorado (Lakewood, CO) 800-392-3202	New York (Albany, NY) 800-821-1276
Connecticut (Concord, NH) 800-642-9571	North Carolina (Raleigh, NC) 800-437-8451
Delaware (Dover, DE) 800-698-4537	North Dakota (Fargo, ND) 800-626-3134
Florida (Orlando, FL) 800-344-6277	Ohio (Reynoldsburg, OH) 800-858-8144
Georgia (Athens, GA) 800-253-4419	Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK) 800-525-9226

Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)	800-804-9514	Oregon (Portland, OR)	800-338-2157
Idaho (Boise, ID)	800-691-9987	Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, PA)	800-498-1518
Illinois (Springfield, IL)	800-622-9865	Puerto Rico (San Juan, PR)	787-723-1190*
Indiana (West Lafayette, IN)	800-363-0469	Rhode Island (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571
Iowa (Des Moines, IA)	800-772-0825	South Carolina (Columbia, SC)	800-424-9406
Kansas (Topeka, KS)	800-258-4564	South Dakota (Sioux Falls, SD)	800-338-2557
Kentucky (Louisville, KY)	800-928-5277	Tennessee (Nashville, TN)	800-626-0987
Louisiana (Baton Rouge, LA)	800-256-4485	Texas (Austin, TX)	800-626-3142
Maine (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571	Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)	800-747-8522
Maryland (Annapolis, MD)	800-675-0295	Vermont (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571
Massachusetts (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571	Virginia (Richmond, VA)	800-772-0670
Michigan (Lansing, MI)	800-453-7501	Washington (Olympia, WA)	800-435-5883
Minnesota (St. Paul, MN)	800-453-7502	West Virginia (Charleston, WV)	800-535-7088
Mississippi (Jackson, MS)	800-535-9609	Wisconsin (Madison, WI)	800-789-9277
Missouri (Columbia, MO)	800-551-1014	Wyoming (Cheyenne, WY)	800-892-1660
Montana (Helena, MT)	800-835-2612	*NASS Field Office	

Rural Development

USDA's Rural Development mission area helps to overcome the problems and fulfill the promise of rural America. Rural Development programs improve the quality of life for rural residents by creating quality housing, a vibrant rural business sector and by ensuring that rural areas are served by utilities and the Information Superhighway. This USDA mission area is comprised of the **RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE (RBS)**, **RURAL HOUSING SERVICE (RHS)**, **RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE (RUS)**, and the **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OCD)**. RBS' emphasis is on making loan guarantees or direct loans for projects that preserve or create quality jobs and/or promote a clean rural environment. The Cooperative Services program of RBS provides technical assistance, research and educational materials to strengthen the Nation's rural cooperatives and to help develop new cooperatives. RHS provides loans and grants that help more than 65,000 moderate-, low-, or very-low-income families secure quality housing each year. The Community Facilities Loan program of RHS builds or improves facilities that provide health care, public safety or other vital public services in rural communities. RUS helps to finance electric, telecommunications, water and wastewater facilities that serve rural areas. The RUS distance learning and medical link programs offer improved education and health services to isolated rural areas. OCD administers the Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program, which provides revitalization for economically depressed rural areas.

Acting Director, Legislative

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EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST 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 benefit and cost benefit analysis, global climate change, sustainable development, energy policy, and new uses for farm products.

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.

OFFICE OF RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS reviews and approves risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses associated with major human health, safety, and environmental regulations. It also serves as a focal point for risk assessment issues and methods in USDA.

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 five USDA agencies and acts as a liaison to other governmental bodies.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR coordinates USDA policies and programs in sustainable development for agriculture, forestry, and rural communities.

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 the Chief Economist

Public Information Office 202-720-5447 Rm 5143-S Washington, DC 20250-3812

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Agricultural Labor Affairs 202-720-4737 Rm 112-A Washington, DC 20250-3810

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Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis

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NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

NATIONAL APPEAL DIVISION, operating as an independent entity, makes final determinations on administrative appeals of USDA program decisions.

Freedom of Info Act Officer	703-305-1164Rm 1113	Park Office Center
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		FAX 703-305-2825

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

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.

Freedom of Info Act Officer	202-720-1272Rm 118-E	Washington, DC 20250
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Other USDA Offices

OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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.

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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL provides legal counsel and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and all USDA agencies.

Freedom of Info Act Attorney	202-720-5565	Rm 1547-S	Washington, DC 20250
Kenneth Cohen			FAX 202-720-5837

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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.

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DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

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.

Freedom of Info Act Liaison	202-720-8468	Rm 0612-S	Washington, DC 20250
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OFFICE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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.

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