



**United States Department of Agriculture
Open Government Plan
Version 2.0**

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Change Log

Version	Date	Comments
Version 1.0	4/7/2010	Initial Release
Version 1.1	6/25/2010	The plan includes updates based on public comments on the plan, self-evaluation, and independent plan assessment. This includes details on congressional requests, declassification management, open standards, dataset calendar, program task schedule and additional editorial updates. Key sections updated include: Addition of New Sections 2.7,6.4, 6.5 Updates to Sections 2.0, 3.0, 6.0, 8.0 Addition of New Appendices C, D
Version 2.0	4/9/2012	Major Revision. Version 2.0 extends Version 1.1 from FY 2012 through FY 2014. The OGP v2.0 replaces the introductory narrative sections in OGP v1.1 with new narrative sections on: What We Learned (1.0); Current OpenGov Culture at USDA (2.0); and OGP 2.0 New Initiatives (3.0). Appendix A: USDA Open Government Program Schedule includes major revisions that show current progress status on work begun in OGP v1.1, and adds significant milestones for new work planned in OGP v2.0.

Introduction

In 2012, the USDA commemorates the 150th anniversary of our founding in 1862, when President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an act of Congress establishing the United States Department of Agriculture, referred to as the "The People's Department." Although only about 2 percent of Americans today live on a farm, our work on food, agriculture, economic development, science, natural resource conservation and a host of issues still touches the lives of every American, every day, fulfilling Lincoln's vision even today.

This plan reflects the work of our entire Department, lessons learned and explores the path forward. It is in this spirit of serving the nation through USDA's mission as "The People's Department" that we continue to fulfill Open Government principles.

1.0 What we learned

USDA has made great strides in each of the OpenGov Principles of Transparency, Participation and Collaboration since the initial plan was issued in 2009.

Transparency promotes accountability by providing the public with information about what the government is doing.

Participation allows members of the public to contribute ideas and expertise so that their government can make policies with the benefit of information that is widely dispersed in society.

Collaboration improves the effectiveness of government by encouraging partnerships and cooperation within the federal government, across levels of government, and between the government and private institutions.

In 2011, USDA redesigned its public website to make content more accessible, user friendly and relevant to a wider variety of audiences. An inter-agency team of communicators and web professionals worked collaboratively to define the information architecture, design elements and web content. The results have been significant. Agencies are now redesigning their websites to support the *One USDA* experience and provide better customer service through streamlined web presence and content strategies that are informed through analytics and stakeholder feedback.

The [USDA.gov/Open](https://www.usda.gov/open) website has offered a platform for users to share their thoughts and comments about USDA's broad range of issues. However, as our online community engagement matures through communication channels such as the [USDA Blog](https://www.usda.gov/blog), virtual town halls, and social media forums, we intend to refine our USDA.gov/Open platform in the coming fiscal year. Our OpenGov and communications teams will coordinate with agencies to hold topic-specific idea and feedback sessions.

The USDA Data Stewardship Working Group was formed in December 2009 in response to the Open Government Directive. To date, USDA has published a total of 183 datasets, including 29 deemed high-value and 2 on the Top Ten Most Downloaded Datasets of all time. Several of the datasets received very positive public responses, particularly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation and Cost Data, Quick Stats, and MyFood-A-pedia. Additionally, USDA was asked by CNN cable network to submit a dataset on the Farmers Market Search. This dataset provided the location of Farmers Markets in the United States. As a result of the publication of this dataset on Data.gov, the public now has the capability to quickly and easily find the location(s) of the nearest Farmers Market.

USDA was explicitly asked by the White House to submit a specific dataset entitled “MyPyramid Food Raw Data” for use in The [Apps for Healthy Kids](#) competition. This collaboration activity supported directly First Lady Michelle Obama’s *Let’s Move!* Campaign to end childhood obesity within a generation. The Apps for Healthy Kids competition was a resounding success, bringing together new partners to provide game and app solutions for informing healthier lifestyles. Game developers, university students and health organizations collectively designed 95 games and apps using USDA’s high value dataset of nutritional values and sparking a national conversation about the importance of healthy eating habits and active lifestyles. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Health and Human Services (HHS), First Lady Michelle Obama’s *Let’s Move!* Initiative, and the NFL’s Fuel Up to Play 60 all played a role in this challenge that resulted in 95 submitted games and apps and saw nearly 45,000 individuals participate.

The Department also took significant strides to enhance participation with stakeholders and partners. As part of the USDA’s Open Gov Flagship Initiative, the Forest Service invited the general public to participate in an innovative way in the development of an upcoming land management planning rule. The Agency created a blog that gave people updates on the planning rule process and allowed them to make comments; over 300 comments were made as of 1/27/10. The Agency also held public meetings all over the country. Over 700 people, who weren’t able to attend the meetings in person, viewed the national public meetings through a webcast on the planning rule website. These new methods for public involvement were created to get insight from the public before the standard formal comment period took place. The proposed planning rule was released for standard public comment in early 2011. The Forest Service continues to use the blog and webcasts, along with traditional formal comments and public meetings, to further promote public participation.

2.0 Current OpenGov Culture at USDA

Throughout the Department OpenGov principles continue to be infused in our normal lines of business. Policy teams are looking beyond their typical organizational boundaries for feedback on key issues. Data stewards are identifying new uses for sources of information provided by the Department as high-value datasets. Moreover, we are seeking to improve the quality and utility of data through feedback from users, much like we have done with

the annual [Farmers Market Directory](#). As the communication and information landscape evolves, USDA is keeping pace by continually reviewing our business programs and outreach efforts to improve user experience and satisfaction. Our *One USDA* approach unifies and coordinates the work of the Department and its agencies to deliver timely, relevant and valuable content in places and ways preferable to the public.

Our partnerships continue within USDA and across Government, identifying opportunities to share content, add value to programs and raise awareness of critical issues that involve multiple agencies.

To counteract decreased funding that faces all of government, USDA is taking a close look at the way it does business. As a result, the Secretary's [Blueprint for Stronger Service](#) aims to build a modern and efficient service organization that is closely timed with technological innovations; and thus, better suited to respond to 21st century agricultural challenges. As our work continues, we embrace the principles of open government to continue supporting the work of our Department and its many stakeholders.

3.0 Open Government Plan 2.0 New Initiatives

The following items represent OpenGov initiatives recently launched or planned through fiscal year 2014. They represent programs and activities in support of the Department's [Strategic Plan](#), [Blueprint for Stronger Service](#) and principles of OpenGov. USDA believes each of them provides better customer service, makes a significant impact on communities and stakeholders nationwide and facilitates stronger relationships with partners.

3.1 Data-Driven Agriculture Community (FY14) – Flagship Initiative

In an effort to stimulate innovation and impact progress based on available data or tools, USDA intends to develop a central clearinghouse for Agriculture focused communities. This collection will provide a single-entry point to access published datasets, geospatial products, web and mobile apps. Those interested in agriculture related data and resources will benefit from streamlined access to a comprehensive view of the many inputs and products of USDA's programs, policies and activities. This web space would be hosted at the 'Department' level, eliminating the need for stakeholders to know in advance which agency has what data, providing a single destination for all audiences including, but not limited to, Congress, researchers, developers, etc.

Once developed, USDA intends to engage with developers and designers to visualize the Department's key strategic objectives and identify opportunities for rural economic development, locate start-up resources for beginning farmers and ranchers and list support services for renewable energy programs, for example. These relationships and resulting apps or visualizations will be achieved through a series of focused *Hack Days* and challenges. USDA is currently evaluating development options for an Agriculture and Food community of interest on Data.gov.

3.2 Virtual Office Hours (FY12)

USDA will launch a new initiative to better engage with stakeholders on specific issues, providing opportunities to ask questions, provide input and share ideas with Department leadership.

Monthly Virtual Office Hours, a live open question and answer series, will allow USDA leadership and subject matter experts to engage directly with stakeholders through Twitter and, potentially, video. Sessions will be focused on a specific mission, issue or program, as aligned with the Department's strategic goals and based on stakeholder interests.

Virtual Office Hours will provide our stakeholders direct access to USDA officials whom they may not otherwise have an opportunity to engage and connect. These sessions will facilitate deeper community engagement, understanding and awareness of vital programs, policies and issues that impact individuals nationwide. They provide the Department with an opportunity to clarify issues and reinforce key messaging directly, without the filter of media reporting or difficulty of attending in-person events.

3.3 Local and Regional Foods Outreach and Community Mobilization (FY12)

The [*Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food \(KYF\) Compass*](#) was released in February 2012, offering a digital guide that explains our recent work in local and regional food systems. These include resources that create opportunities for new markets and farmer production, facilitate local employment, support disadvantaged farmers, and that boost healthy food access. Additionally, a [*KYF Mapping Tool*](#) will be published that visualizes opportunities realized through 27 programs that support our local and regional food initiatives.

Other components of this long-term outreach strategy seek to mobilize a diverse community interested in local and regional food systems as consumers, business owners, farmers or producers and community members, to name a few. The KYF Compass engagement plan will encourage students to develop strategies for market creation and farm or production marketing, generally raise awareness of programs and seek opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers to establish our next generation of producers.

3.4 Rural Council Engagement and Strategic Planning (FY13)

USDA continues to lead efforts through the Rural Council to strengthen the American agricultural economy and revitalize rural communities. USDA is committed to fostering innovation and supporting small business development for the continued strength of small towns and rural areas. Secretary Vilsack will call upon key stakeholders, communities and our federal partners to provide input and recommendations in developing strategic areas of focus for upcoming Rural Council sessions. A national dialogue will be facilitated through social media channels and ideation platforms for a set duration after which Secretary

Vilsack and other government leaders will determine what issues or topics should be addressed in Council sessions, as well as what strategic planning needs are identified by the public.

A series of virtual chats and other outreach opportunities will be scheduled throughout the year based on the community's feedback on what are the greatest areas of need. These sessions will provide another forum by which our nation can help craft and inform the future of rural revitalization efforts and economic stimulus.

3.5 FSA's Disaster Assistance Eligibility Tool (FY13)

The Farm Service Agency is developing a web tool to determine eligibility for various disaster assistance programs. Through a simple questionnaire, applicants can determine which disaster program is appropriate, simplifying the process for understanding programs and helping individuals efficiently obtain assistance.

3.6 Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (FY13)

The Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI) focuses on establishing a common USDA framework for producer commodity reporting in support of USDA programs. This effort will enable the producer to report common data once and for USDA agencies to share the data among themselves; thus, eliminating duplicate reporting by producers. The approved data standards will be published on the [National Information Exchange Model](#) (NIEM) to support their adoption in private sector agriculture service systems and technologies as well. Ultimately, this will assist producers to meet USDA program participation requirements.

Appendix A: USDA Open Government Program Schedule (OGP v2.0 Update)

Appendix A (OGP v2.0 Update) reports the status or progress of activities identified in USDA's earlier OpenGov Plans 1.0 and 1.1. Also, Appendix A, **Section 1.12, Open Government Plan 2.0 -- NEW INITIATIVES**, details the activities planned for implementation during the period FY 2012 through FY 2014. These are described in the narrative sections of OGP v2.0.

Most of the activities in the earlier plans (1.0 and 1.1) have been completed, initiated or are ongoing. A small number of earlier activities have not yet been started, but are included in the OGP Implementation Plan associated with this update. A still smaller number of earlier activities are being removed from the plan; because they were either addressed through alternative activities or modified approach, or they were originally dependent upon an external condition which never materialized.

The reported states of completion or progress shown in this program schedule include:

- **Completed.** An activity that has successfully concluded.
- **Ongoing.** An activity that has successfully started and has fully reached its intended purpose, and is expected to continue into the future.
- **In Progress.** An activity that has successfully started, but has not yet fully reached its intended purpose.
- **Not Started.** An activity that has not yet successfully started.
- **Removed – External Dependency.** An activity that is removed from the plan, because an assumed external pre-condition for its launch did not materialize.

Appendix A: USDA Open Government Program Schedule (OGP v 2.0 Update)

Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1	USDA Open Government Program Schedule		
1.1	USDA Open Government (OG) Organization		
1.1.1	Establish Open Government Steering Committee	USDA CIO	Completed
1.1.2	Establish Open Government Advisory Committee	Open Gov Steering Committee	Completed
1.1.3	Establish Open Government Working Groups		
1.1.3.1	Establish the Open Gov Data Stewardship Working Group	Open Gov Steering Committee	Completed
1.1.3.2	Establish the Open Gov Planning Working Group	Open Gov Steering Committee	Completed
1.1.3.3	Establish the Open Gov Communications Working Group	Open Gov Steering Committee	Completed
1.1.3.4	Establish the Open Gov Cross-Agency Working Group	Open Gov Steering Committee	Completed
1.1.3.5	Establish additional Open Gov Working Groups as needed	Open Gov Steering Committee	Completed
1.1.4	Capture plan input from OG Steering Committee	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Steering Committee, Open Government Advisory Council	Completed
1.1.5	Develop plan approach for Steering Committee approval	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Steering Committee, Open Government Advisory Council	Completed
1.1.7	Develop a process for OG Steering and Advisory Committee reviews and approvals (post OG planning phase)		Completed

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.2	Open Government Planning		
1.2.1	Establish Open Gov Plan Working Group Sessions	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.2	Prepare materials, gather data	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.3	Develop Open Government Plan		
1.2.3.1	Develop plan outline	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.3.2	Publish outline to USDA.gov/open	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.3.3	Develop draft plan	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.3.4	Ensure alignment of the Management Initiatives identified in the USDA Strategic Plan	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Completed
1.2.3.5	Ensure alignment with the Open Government Directive	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Completed
1.2.3.6	Review draft plan	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council, Open Gov Steering Committee	Completed
1.2.3.7	Publish draft plan	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.3.8	Plan updates, incorporate feedback	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.4	Publish Open Government Plan	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.5	Develop a process for capture, sharing, and integration of ideas into Open Gov Plan	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Ongoing
1.2.6	Develop an Open Gov Project Schedule (Work Breakdown Structure)		
1.2.6.1	Develop Open Government activities spreadsheet identifying tasks, schedules, and resources	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.6.2	Publish Open Gov project schedule (per plan; including project schedules, milestones and specific deliverables)	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.2.7	Update / Maintain Open Government Plan	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.2.8	Update / Maintain Open Government Project Schedule (WBS)	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.2.9	Resolve location of record (Data.gov vs. USA Spending vs. Recovery.gov)	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Completed
1.3	Cultural Transformation		
1.3.1	Incorporate Secretary's cultural transformation activities into Open Gov Plan	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.3.2	Identify possible Open Gov cultural activities not currently in Secretary's initiative	Open Gov Plan WG	In Progress
1.3.4	Maintain links to the activities of the USDA cultural transformation task force	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.3.5	Develop a method to integrate departmental and Agency/Mission Area Open Gov cultural activities	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.3.6	Make USDA policy environment, technical environment & management process more open (per OG Plan)		Ongoing
1.4	High Value Data		
1.4.1	Identify 3 high value data sets	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Completed
1.4.2	Publish 3 high value data sets on Data.gov	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Completed
1.4.3	Develop process for idea capture, identification, approval of new data sets	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Ongoing
1.4.3.1	Develop a calendar of new data sets and tools	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Completed
1.4.3.2	Publish calendar of new data sets and tools	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Ongoing

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.4.3.3	Post new datasets	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Ongoing
1.5	Outreach		
1.5.1	Develop Open Gov Communication Plan	Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.5.2	USDA Open Government Website		
1.5.2.1	Create USDA Open Government Web site (www.usda.gov/open)	Open Gov Communication WG	Completed
1.5.2.2	Develop a process for responding to public input received on the Open Gov Web site	Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.5.2.3	Update / Maintain Open Government Web site	Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.5.2.4	Develop / Implement Open Gov Dashboard or other progress reporting mechanism (TBD)	Open Gov Communication WG	Completed
1.5.2.5	Develop a solution for integration of Open Gov progress data into Open Gov dashboard or reporting mechanism	Open Gov Plan WG	Removed— External Dependency
1.5.2.6	Post Open Gov Dashboard data (as applicable, monthly/quarterly?)	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Removed— External Dependency
1.5.3	Develop a process for capturing external business improvement ideas	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.5.4	Identify opportunities for education and awareness relating to Open Government (internal / external)		Ongoing
1.5.5	Update education and outreach Web site and integrate with Open Gov online presence	Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.5.6	Participate in Open Gov workshops	Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing

Department of Agriculture -- Appendix A: USDA Open Government Program Schedule (OGP v2.0 Update)

Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.6	Cross-Agency		
1.6.1	Establish a USDA advocate serving as a contact for Cross-Agency collaboration (per OG Directive)	USDA CIO	Completed
1.6.2	Identify opportunities for Cross-Agency collaboration (new programs, publishing data sets, etc)		
1.6.2.1	Participate in Cross-Agency Open Government efforts	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.6.2.2	Provide data set containing cross-agency information or provision of information developed from a cross-agency collaboration	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Ongoing
1.6.3	Lead or participate in a cross-agency Open Government activity relating to improving the health of Citizens (Healthy Kids)	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.6.4	Promote cross-agency Open Gov discussion / participation	USDA CIO, Open Gov Steering Committee, Open Government Advisory Council, Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.6.5	Provide intellectual capital from USDA Rule Making and Policy initiatives to other agencies	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Ongoing
1.6.6	Participate in White House Open Government Working Group	USDA CIO, Open Gov Steering Committee, Open Government Advisory Council, Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.6.7	Lead the Open Government Green Affinity effort	Open Gov Plan WG	Removed— External Dependency
1.6.7.1	Subtask 1		
1.6.7.2	Subtask 2		
1.6.7.3	Subtask 3		

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.6.8	Participate in the Open Government Jobs Creation Working Group	Open Gov Plan WG,	Removed- External Dependency
1.7	Transparency		
1.7.1	Develop and utilize state-of-the-art, user-friendly technology to monitor, stimulate, and incorporate innovative uses of information		
1.7.1.1	Publish and Maintain information on eRulemaking and Recovery.gov	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.7.2	Identify information to be made available that can reduce the need for FOIA request (possible ref - High value Dataset tasks/Calendar)	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.7.3	Identify and develop improvement to USDA Web sites including enhanced search capabilities	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.7.4	Identify ways to improve the provision of information on USDA's planning and decision-making processes	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.7.5	Continually educate the public by hosting public events about USDA programs, town hall meetings, and roundtable discussions	Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.7.6	Provide information regarding USDA programs and daily activities		
1.7.6.1	Publish Secretary / Deputy Sec calendar	Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.7.7	Develop a process for continuously educating the American public about the Department's programs and decision-making processes	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.8	Participation		
1.8.1	Identify methods to expand and improve the participation processes and mechanisms		

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.8.1.1	MyPyramid for Kids, Web-based participation strategies, Social technologies / New media	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Completed
1.8.2	Increase public participation using a more modern planning rule		
1.8.2.1	Forest Service Planning Rule Website, Planning Rule Initiatives	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.8.2.2	Encourage employees with policy or rulemaking roles to receive training in public participation processes	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.8.3	Identify ways to build on existing outreach efforts and expand those efforts to all constituencies and key stakeholders		
1.8.3.1	Farmers Market and People's Garden, Food Safety Mobile, Know Your Farmer/Food, Tribal Relations/Consultation	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.8.4	Identify Improvements to education for employees on the public participation processes		
1.8.4.1	Develop / Implement AgLearn participation training	Open Gov Plan WG	Not Started
1.8.5	Identify and develop Web-based communication to extend call to participation	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.8.6	Identify and develop face-to-face strategies to extend call to participation		
1.8.6.1	USDA Listening Sessions intended to collect and convey information	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.8.7	Identify and utilize technologies like Webinars, and hosting listening sessions, to ensure the Department hears from a wide and diverse audience	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.8.8	Promote USDA Service Centers and producer group forums and incorporate feedback		
1.8.8.1	USDA-OCIO / Farm Service Agency visits several USDA Service Centers and producer group forums		Completed

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.8.9	Identify and incorporate new participation technologies, including more user-friendly tools to reduce barriers to participation	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.9	Collaboration		
1.9.1	Develop a cultural, technical and policy environment that fosters partnerships in program and service delivery		
1.9.1.1	GovDelivery.com	Open Gov Plan WG	Completed
1.9.1.2	Workforce development (Collaboration Performance Measures, Incentives, Awards...)	Open Gov Plan WG	Not Started
1.9.1.3	Develop ways to collect and share a library of collaboration successes	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.9.2	Harness the innovative ideas and know-how of the private and public sector as well as citizens to achieve our shared objectives and improve the lives of Americans		
1.9.2.1	Food Safety Working Group	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.9.3	Create incentives for employee and organizational collaboration		
1.9.3.1	Proposed incentives for employees		Not Started
1.9.4	Harness the power of technology to support collaboration to enhance efficiencies and reduce process redundancies		
1.9.4.1	Apps for Healthy Kids	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.9.4.2	New media tools for collaboration (details??)	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.9.4.3	Quick Stats is USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) online self-service tool to access complete results ...		Ongoing
1.9.4.4	Establishing an electronic/virtual clearinghouse on the Department Web site	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Removed— Internal Re-design

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.9.4.5	Geospatial tools		Ongoing
1.9.5 1.9.5.1	Utilize communication tools to reach out to a large customer / audience base GovDelivery.com	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Completed
1.9.6 1.9.6.1	Promote Cross-Agency collaboration The Food Safety and Inspection Service and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration merged subscriber lists		Ongoing
1.9.7 1.9.7.1	Seek new partnerships and leverage existing relationships for collaboration The President's Food Safety Working Group. This working group is a partnership between USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.9.8 1.9.8.1	Maximize the use of social media tools and technologies to increase collaboration amongst employees and across agencies Online self-service meeting space reservations, tool would employ Intranet resources to provide a list of all conference rooms available to employees for meetings, including their locations, reservation contact point, size, communications resources	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Completed
1.9.9	Create an environment where collaboration is understood and encouraged	USDA CIO, Open Gov Steering Committee, Open Government Advisory Council, Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.9.10	Develop and Improve the skills and abilities of its workforce to more fully utilize existing and emerging collaborative tools.	USDA CIO, Open Gov Steering Committee, Open Government Advisory Council, Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.9.11	Establish processes to formalize departmental standards, expectations, and	USDA CIO, Open Gov Steering	Ongoing

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
	policies for collaboration with all stakeholders	Committee, Open Government Advisory Council, Open Gov Plan WG	
1.9.12	Develop methods to engage communities using Web-enhanced communications whenever possible to enhance collaborative working opportunities across agencies or with other stakeholders	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.9.13	Broaden the use of collaboration and discussion tools to actively engage stakeholders and maintain open lines of communication	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.9.14	Adopt a more proactive communications focus and framework to enable the department to collaborate more efficiently with the public and across government agencies	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.9.15	Investigate best uses for new media and social technologies to improve collaboration.	Open Gov Steering Committee, Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.10	Information Sharing		
1.10.1	Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)		
1.10.1.1	Maintain USDA's existing FOIA Web site	Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.10.1.2	Maintain USDA electronic reading room for the public to view reports and records	Open Gov Communication WG	Ongoing
1.10.1.3	Review all existing internal policy guidance and regulations relating to the dissemination of information to the public.	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Ongoing
1.10.1.4	Consider public comment, This review will consider current legal interpretations of laws applicable to USDA that require special safeguarding of certain information	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.10.1.5	Continue annual reports submitted to Department of Justice	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Ongoing
1.10.1.6	Identify and pursue Open Gov efforts that could reduce the FOIA backlog or the need for FOIA requests	Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.10.2 1.10.2.1	Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) TBD		Removed— Internal Re- design
1.10.3 1.10.3.1	Section 508 Ensure that customers and employees with disabilities have equity in the use of electronic and information technology	USDA CIO, Open Gov Steering Committee, Open Government Advisory Council, Open Gov Plan WG	Ongoing
1.10.4 1.10.4.1	Records Management Maintain all policies and procedures for the department's records management processes	Open Gov Data Stewardship WG	Ongoing
1.10.5 1.10.5.1	Congressional Request Review and document the existing Congressional correspondence approach and procedures and make that information accessible to the public.	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	In Progress
1.10.5.2	Solicit public feedback from the public on its process and procedures and incorporate improvements	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Not Started
1.10.6 1.10.6.1	Classified Information Review and improve the publically available information about the program and accessing declassified artifacts	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Not Started
1.10.6.2	Provide the public with a way to submit feedback regarding USDA's prioritization of information for declassification	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Not Started
1.10.6.3	Open the dialog across the department and with the public towards the goal of improving the declassification program and improving access to declassified information	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Not Started
1.11	Governance		
1.11.1	Develop the idea sharing and discovery models and incorporate to achieve	Open Gov Plan WG, Open	Completed

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
	and Governance process that meets the intent of Open Government	Government Advisory Council	
1.11.2	Review and develop processes and capabilities that are required to facilitate these idea generating mechanisms	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	In Progress
1.11.3	Develop new processes and capabilities that enable ideas to flow across communities and agencies resulting in improved ideas as candidates	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Ongoing
1.11.4	Develop idea discovery processes and capabilities that support feedback, reaching conclusions, and community response	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council	Ongoing
1.11.5	Enable program processes to receive validation and allow the community to see the idea take shape toward real improvement	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Government Advisory Council, Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.11.6	Integrate the Open Government Steering Committee into the process to ensure the Open Government objectives are continually addressed	Open Gov Plan WG, Gov Steering Committee, Open Government Advisory Council	Ongoing
1.11.7	Develop a mechanism for participants to see their good ideas become valuable services	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.12.	Open Government Plan 2.0 -- NEW INITIATIVES		
1.12.1	Develop a Data-Driven Agriculture Community online resource to serve as a central clearinghouse for agriculture-focused individuals, groups and organizations	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.12.1.1	Provide Agriculture Community website hosting arrangements	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	Not Started
1.12.1.2	Engage developers and designers to “visualize” the Department’s key strategic objectives and identify opportunities for rural economic, employment, and energy development	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG, Agencies	Not Started

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
1.12.2	Implement a Virtual Office Hours initiative to better engage stakeholders on specific issues, providing them opportunities to ask questions, provide input and share ideas with Department leadership.	Office of Communications	In Progress
1.12.2.1	Leverage social media outlets – Twitter, possibly video – to conduct monthly Virtual Office Hour sessions	Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.12.2.2	Conduct one Virtual Office Hour session per month after launch	Office of Communications, Agencies	Not Started
1.12.3	Launch the Know you Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF) Compass , a digital guide to local and regional food systems that create opportunities for new markets, new farmers, increased employment and assistance for disadvantaged farmers	Know Your Farmer Task Force, Agencies	In Progress
1.12.3.1	Develop a KYF Mapping Tool that “visualizes” opportunities realized through 27 USDA programs supporting local and regional food initiatives	Know Your Farmer Task Force, Agencies	Ongoing
1.12.3.2	Implement a KYF engagement plan that encourages students to develop strategies for new market creation and farm production marketing	Know Your Farmer Task Force, Agencies, Office of Communications	Not Started
1.12.4	Lead efforts through Rural Council Engagement and Strategic Planning to strengthen the American agricultural economy and revitalize rural communities	Open Gov Plan WG, Open Gov Communication WG	In Progress
1.12.4.1	Facilitate through social media channels and ideation platforms a national dialogue to generate input for later discussion at Rural Council sessions	Office of Communications, Agencies	Not Started
1.12.4.2	Conduct a series of virtual chats and other outreach opportunities as forums by which citizen input will inform future rural revitalization efforts	Office of Communications, Agencies	Not Started
1.12.5	Assist FSA develop a Disaster Assistance Eligibility Tool that will applicants determine which disaster program is appropriate for their particular situation	FSA, Open Gov Plan WG	In Progress
1.12.6	Implement the Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRPSI)	Open Gov Plan WG	In Progress

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Task ID	Task Name	Responsible Organization	Completed
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that will enable farm producers to report common data once and service agencies to use many