



How To Get Information
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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Communications

December 2009



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Washington, DC 20250

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USDA Information Response Team:

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(general and subject-matter information)
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202-720-4197

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(emergency programs information)

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Food Stamp Hotline

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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)**

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How To Get Information From USDA:

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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.

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Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

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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 - November 27, 2009

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Foreign Agricultural Service

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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

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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

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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

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Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

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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

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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 - November 25, 2009

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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

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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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

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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.

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Natural Resources and Environment

Forest Service

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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.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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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.

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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.

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National Agricultural Library

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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

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

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture, established by the 2008 Farm Bill, impacts the lives of millions of Americans each day by supporting exemplary research, education and extension that addresses many challenges facing our nation. From agricultural production, nutrition, and food safety to energy independence and the sustainability of our natural resources, NIFA's investment in science secures America's future. It combines national program leadership and sound administration of Federal assistance in supporting research to find innovative solutions to global problems. NIFA's partners 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, NIFA information: www.nifa.usda.gov Telephone: (202) 720-4651

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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

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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)
 Alaska (Palmer, AK)
 Arizona (Phoenix, AZ)
 Arkansas (Little Rock, AR)
 California (Sacramento, CA)
 Colorado (Lakewood, CO)
 Connecticut * (Concord, NH)
 Delaware (Dover, DE)
 Florida (Orlando, FL)
 Georgia (Athens, GA)
 Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)
 Idaho (Boise, ID)
 Illinois (Springfield, IL)
 Indiana (West Lafayette, IN)

800-832-4181
 800-478-6079
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 800-327-2970
 800-851-1127
 800-392-3202
 800-642-9571
 302-698-4537
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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
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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
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South Carolina (Columbia, SC)	800-424-9406	nass-sc@nass.usda.gov
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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>

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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
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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Office of Energy Policy and New Uses

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

