

■ Office of Chief Financial Officer

USDA, through the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, publishes annual financial statements to inform the general public, Congress, and others about its financial operations. As trustee for substantial public monies, the Department has a fiduciary responsibility to tell taxpayers how well it has met its objectives, how well the current year's performance compares to previous years, and what plans the Department has to improve or maintain its operations.

USDA is the third largest civilian department of the U.S. Government, overseeing a variety of agencies, Government corporations, and other entities that employ more than 108,000 people at over 15,000 locations in all States and 80 countries. Budget authority for Departmental programs in FY 1994 totaled \$65.3 billion.