

■ Office of the Chief Economist

The Office of the Chief Economist advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and programs affecting U.S. agriculture and rural areas. This advice includes assessments of USDA program proposals, legislative proposals, and economic developments of importance to agriculture and rural areas. In addition, the Office of the Chief Economist is responsible for four programs, described below, that coordinate activities across USDA agencies.

The WorldWide Web address for the Office of the Chief Economist is:

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

World Agricultural Outlook Board

The World Agricultural Outlook Board is USDA's focal point for forecasts and projections of global commodity markets. Each month the Board brings together interagency committees of experts to forecast the supply, use, and prices of major commodities in the United States and abroad. The committees also clear agricultural forecasts published by other USDA agencies. This teamwork assures that USDA forecasts are objective and consistent.

Because the weather is vital to crop forecasts, specialists from the Board work side-by-side with weather forecasters from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to monitor the weather and assess its effect on crops. Their work provides timely information on potential changes in global production. In related work, the Board also coordinates department-wide activity on long-term economic projections, remote sensing, and climate.

The WorldWide Web address for the World Agricultural Outlook Board is:
<http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/waob.htm>

Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis

This office is responsible for coordinating, reviewing, and approving all risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses of mitigation measures associated with major regulations of the Department. Major regulations are economically significant (with an impact of at least \$100 million each year) and have a primary effect on human health, human safety, or the environment. The office provides direction to USDA agencies on appropriate methods for these analyses and serves as a focal point on matters relating to risk assessment in interagency reviews.

The WorldWide Web address for the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis is : *<http://www.usda.gov/oce/oracba/oracba.htm>*

Agricultural Labor Affairs

The coordinator of agricultural labor affairs is a focal point for agricultural labor policy in USDA. Areas of concern include immigration, the H-2A temporary agricultural worker program, worker protection standards for pesticide use, farm labor supply, and agricultural employment issues.

The World Wide Web address for this office is:
<http://www.usda.gov/oce/oce/labor-affairs/affairs.htm>

Sustainable Development

The director of sustainable development coordinates USDA policies and programs in sustainable development, including sustainable agriculture, forestry, and rural communities. The director chairs a sustainable development council within USDA and serves as a liaison for Federal sustainable development activities.

The World Wide Web address for this office is:
<http://www.usda.gov/oce/oce/sustainable-development/sustain.htm>

U.S. Department of Agriculture Headquarters Organization



