

## **USDA Issues Departmental Regulation For Climate Change Adaptation**

WASHINGTON, June 3, 2011 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released the USDA Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation (Departmental Regulation 1070-001) that will assist USDA in identifying how climate change is likely to affect its ability to achieve mission, operations, policy, and program objectives.

“Climate stresses have real consequences for food production, affecting the yields of staple food crops and threatening livelihoods,” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. “The effects of climate change are complex and far-reaching, and while the scope, severity, and pace of future climate change impacts are difficult to predict, it is clear that potential changes could have important impacts on the ability of USDA to fulfill its core mission.”

Departmental Regulation 1070-001 implements sections of Executive Order 13514. It is consistent with the 2010-2015 USDA Strategic Plan and with guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality and the Federal Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force.

Through the adaptation planning measures described in the regulation, USDA will:

- identify how climate change is likely to affect its ability to achieve USDA mission, operations, and policy and program objectives;
- analyze Departmental vulnerabilities to climate change;
- consider potential climate change impacts when undertaking long-term planning exercises, setting priorities for scientific research and investigations, and making decisions affecting agency resources, programs, and operations;
- prioritize actions; and
- develop and maintain an adaptation plan for managing the challenges and taking advantage of any opportunities afforded by climate change.

By integrating climate change adaptation strategies into USDA’s programs and operations, USDA better ensures that taxpayer resources are invested wisely and that its services and operations remain effective in current and future climate conditions.

The regulation can be found at: <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/directives/doc/DR1070-001.pdf>

For more information on USDA’s Climate Change activities, please visit:

[http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate\\_change/index.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/index.htm).

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).