

eGov@USDA - eAuthentication

A monthly update from the **USDA eGovernment – eAuthentication Team**

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USDA Launches Online Customer Statement

The new electronic USDA Customer Statement was launched at the 2004 Commodity Classic March 1-4, 2004, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Secretary Veneman stated, in a press release on March 3, 2004, that the USDA Customer Statement makes "available a wide range of USDA services and programs through a single report at the fingertips of agricultural producers."

The USDA Customer Statement allows users to access many of their financial transactions with USDA in one consolidated location. Customers can also view their:

- Application, participation, and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs;
- Consolidated and detailed information on farm loans, and
- Conservation plans and land unit information.

In the future, customers will have the ability to look at their financial information and relate it to their operations with interactive maps using geographic information systems (GIS) technology with overlays for roads, soil types, water, and other geographic features. The Statement will be expanded to include similar information from other agencies that provide services for these customers.

USDA eAuthentication Service Release 2 Implemented

On March 10, 2004, USDA released an enhanced USDA eAuthentication service. This second release of USDA's eAuthentication service targeted improving the overall user experience. The new version of the service addresses input from various agencies and incorporates new requirements from USDA's recently published Web Style Guide.

The www.eauth.egov.usda.gov Web site, including the registration pages, was redesigned and reorganized to implement the new USDA Web Style Guide standards

and the new look and feel. The site creates a more consistent presentation of information.

The eAuthentication team also ensured that the new USDA eAuthentication service pages were Section 508 compliant. The Section 508 compliant Web pages allow customers with disabilities (specifically the visually impaired) to access all of the USDA eAuthentication service protected sites.

The new version of the eAuthentication service included many changes to improve the user experience. The eAuthentication Team is dedicated to continually improving the eAuthentication service for USDA users and customers. Please submit any questions, comments, or suggested changes to egov@usda.gov.

Employee Registration Is Coming

USDA's eAuthentication service will expand to include all USDA employees over the course of the next several months. With a single credential, employees will be able to access numerous Internet-based resources across USDA and, in the future, across the Federal government.

In order to access this service, employees will be required to self-register by obtaining an eAuthentication credential. Employees will be able to find most of the information needed to self-register in Personnel Action Forms and Earning Statements — documents that normally only the employee could access. Further information about the Employee Registration process will follow in the coming weeks.

In the Next Issue

- **Integrated Reporting Tool Release 2**
- **Help Desk Update**
- **Application of the Month**

For more information or questions, contact the eGovernment – eAuthentication Team at:

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