

# Quicksilver Initiatives Progress Report

*Prepared by the  
eGovernment Program  
Office of the Chief Information Officer*

*February 2002*



United States Department of Agriculture



## ***Quicksilver Initiatives: Progress Report of USDA Participation***

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## Executive Summary

*Expanding Electronic Government* is one of the five key elements in the President's Management Agenda. The key goals of this element are to improve IT planning through the budget process and champion citizen-centered electronic government that will result in a major improvement in the federal government's value to the citizen.

A government-wide eGovernment task force (Quicksilver) was convened by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the President's Management Council (PMC), in July 2001. Quicksilver participants identified eGovernment projects that can deliver significant productivity and performance gains across the entire federal government. USDA is identified as a partner in 12 of the 23<sup>1</sup> Quicksilver initiatives.

Each of the 23 initiatives has a designated managing partner agency that is responsible for working in cooperation with other partner agencies across the federal government that have a vested interest in the business area. USDA is not a managing partner of any initiative, but has been formally designated as a supporting partner in 12 of these efforts. As business cases for each of the initiatives are developed, it is anticipated that USDA will participate in 15 of the 24. For these projects, the Deputy Secretary has committed that the Department will provide human and financial resources to support the efforts and will forego pursuing any separate initiatives that are not integrated with the overall project plans.

Each of the Quicksilver initiatives is at a different stage of development. The variation in progress is reflected in the level of detail reported by USDA representatives. For a subset of initiatives, resource requirements have been documented. The remaining initiatives are still being fully refined; therefore, the full spectrum of resource requirements may not become apparent for some time. The table on the following page provides a synopsis of key information for each initiative in which USDA participates.

Building upon the foundation laid by the President's Management Agenda and the work of the eGovernment task force, USDA established its own eGovernment Program. Our vision is to make USDA programs, services, and information electronically available any place, any time. To achieve that vision, the eGovernment Program is undertaking a broad range of activities that will transform and enhance the delivery of USDA's services and information resulting in a fundamental change in our business processes. A significant product of this effort will be the identification of "smart choices" - projects that are similar to the Quicksilver initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup> On January 23, 2002, an additional Quicksilver initiative to address an integrated payroll system was added as the 24th initiative. USDA plans to be a supporting partner agency in this eGovernment activity.

# Overview of Quicksilver Initiatives

## President's Management Agenda

*Expanding Electronic Government* is one of the five key elements in the President's Management Agenda. The key goals of this element are to improve IT planning through the budget process and champion citizen-centered electronic government that will result in a major improvement in the federal government's value to the citizen.

## Quicksilver Task Force

A government-wide eGovernment task force (Quicksilver) was convened by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the President's Management Council (PMC), in July 2001. The task force was challenged to identify opportunities to:

- Create easy-to-find single points of access to government services for individuals.
- Reduce the reporting burden on businesses – businesses should not have to file the same information over and over because the government fails to reuse the data appropriately or fails to take advantage of commercial electronic transaction protocols.
- Share information more quickly and conveniently between the federal and state, local, and tribal governments. We must also do a better job of collaborating with foreign governments and institutions.
- Automate internal processes to reduce costs internally, within the federal government, by disseminating best practices across agencies.

Quicksilver participants identified eGovernment projects that can deliver significant productivity and performance gains across the entire federal government. USDA is identified as a partner in 12 of the 23<sup>1</sup> Quicksilver initiatives. The initiatives are divided into four project portfolios according to the area that would realize the greatest benefit:

- **Government to Citizen (G2C)** – Initiatives that focus on building easy to find one-stop-shops for citizens – creating single points of easy entry to access high quality government services.
- **Government to Business (G2B)** – Initiatives that reduce burden on businesses through use of Internet protocols and by consolidating myriad redundant reporting requirements.
- **Government to Government (G2G)** – Initiatives which make it easier for states to meet reporting requirements, while enabling better performance measurement and results, especially for grants.

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<sup>1</sup> On January 23, 2002, an additional Quicksilver initiative to address an integrated payroll system was added as the 24th initiative. USDA plans to be a supporting partner agency in this eGovernment activity.

- **Internal Efficiency and Effectiveness (IEE)** – Initiatives that reduce costs for federal government administration by using best practices in areas such as supply chain management, financial; management, and knowledge management.

The task force prepared a plan to create multi-agency teams to develop and deploy the eGovernment initiatives (described in the attached table). The 23 eGovernment initiatives cut across many federal agencies and reflect partnership with state and local governments. The initiatives are designed to maximize federal government productivity gains from technology, eliminate redundant systems, and significantly improve government's quality of service for citizens and businesses over the next 18 to 24 months. As a result of simplifying business processes and unifying government operations around citizen needs, each eGovernment initiative creates an order of magnitude improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of government operations. Overall, the initiatives represent an opportunity to free-up billions of dollars of federal spending, while accelerating government response times from weeks down to minutes.

### **USDA Participation in Quicksilver Initiatives**

Each Quicksilver initiative has a designated managing partner agency that is responsible for working in cooperation with other partner agencies across the federal government that have a vested interest in the business area. USDA is not a managing partner of any initiative, but has been formally designated as a supporting partner in 12 of these efforts. As business cases for each of the initiatives are developed, it is anticipated that USDA will participate in 15 of the 24. For these projects, the Deputy Secretary has committed that the Department will provide human and financial resources to support the efforts and will forego pursuing any separate initiatives that are not integrated with the overall project plans.

Generally speaking, the Quicksilver initiatives are at various stages of evolution. While some project managers are still working to strengthen their business case, others are picking up speed rapidly and already have significant deliverables planned for the near future. Accordingly, the level of progress reported by USDA representatives on the initiatives for which the Department is involved is also varied. For some initiatives such as Eligibility Assistance Online and Geospatial Information One-Stop, a high-degree of project activity is occurring and resource requirements have already been stated or are in the process of being defined. Other initiatives including Online Rulemaking and Integrated Human Resources offer solid opportunities for USDA participation, but are not as far as long.

### **USDA's eGovernment Program**

In response to the FY 2003 passback, the eGovernment Program is also evaluating several proposed information technology (IT) investments that may overlap or duplicate Quicksilver initiatives. As projects progress and resource requirements are identified, a more thorough evaluation of how these projects can support government-wide eGovernment objectives will be completed. This reflects a fundamental belief within

USDA that agencies should not engage in competing investments; rather focus on leveraging investments through greater collaboration.

Building upon the foundation laid by the President's Management Agenda and the work of the eGovernment task force, USDA established its own eGovernment Program. Our vision is to make USDA's programs, services, and information electronically available any place, any time. To achieve that vision, the eGovernment Program is undertaking a broad range of activities that will transform and enhance the delivery of USDA's services and information resulting in a fundamental change in our business processes. A significant product of this effort will be the identification of "smart choices" - projects that are similar to the Quicksilver initiatives.

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>MANAGING PARTNER</b>	<b>PROPOSED PARTNER AGENCIES</b>	<b>USDA REPS</b>
<b>Government to Citizen (G2C)</b>			
USA Service	GSA	SSA VA, HHS, ED, <b>USDA</b> , FEMA, DOL, SBA	
EZ Tax Filing	Treasury/IRS		
Online Access for Loans	Education	SBA, HUD, VA, <b>USDA</b> , FEMA, HHS, and FDIC	Grady Bilberry, FSA Pandor Hadjy, RD Harold Connor, FSA
Recreation One Stop	DOI	<b>USDA</b> , Corp of Engineers, TVA, DOT, Smithsonian	Larry Warren, FS
Eligibility Assistance Online	Labor	SSA, VA, HUD, <b>USDA</b> , State/INS, HHS, FEMA, DOE, and ED	Dennis Egan, OCIO
<b>Government to Business (G2B)</b>			
Federal Asset Sales	GSA	VA, Treasury, FDIC, HUD, SBA, DOD, and ED	
Online Rulemaking Management	DOT	EPA, <b>USDA</b> , GSA, HHS, DOL, and FCC	Mike Poe, OBPA Julie Heterick, OBPA
Simplified and Unified Tax and Wage Reporting	Treasury	SSA, DOL, HHS	
One Stop Business Compliance	SBA	EPA, IRS, DOL/OSHA, DOT, EEOC, DOC, FERC, SEC	
International Trade Process Streamlining	Commerce	Treasury/Customs, DOJ, Import/ Export Bank, participants in the International Trade Database System, <b>USDA</b>	Rand Ruggieri, FAS
<b>Government to Government (G2G)</b>			
Geospatial Information One-Stop	DOI	FEMA, NASA, DOC, HUD, EPA, DOT, NIMA, and <b>USDA</b>	Dennis Lytle, NRCS Christine Clarke, NRCS
Disaster Assistance and Crisis Response	FEMA	SBA, DOC/NOAA, <b>USDA</b> , HHS, and HUD	Diane Sharp, FSA Carolyn Cooksie, FSA Leona Dittus, NDPC Scott Thompson, FAS
e-Grants	HHS	NSF, DOD/ONR, HHS, ED, HUD DOT, and DOJ	
Wireless Networks for Emergency Communications	Treasury	<b>USDA /Forest Service</b> , DOC/NTIA, DOD and DOI	Tim Quinn, FS
<b>Internal Effectiveness and Efficiency (IEE)</b>			
Recruitment One Stop	OPM	DOD, EPA, DOI/USGS, NASA, DOT/FAA, <b>USDA</b>	Joe Colantuoni, DA
Integrated HR	OPM	HHS, EPA, NASA, DOI, Treasury, VA, GSA, HUD, and <b>USDA</b>	Joe Colantuoni, DA
Integrated Acquisition	GSA	DOD, DOC, DOI, SBA, and <b>USDA</b>	Judith Dudley, DA Tish Tucker, DA
e-Records Management	NARA	GSA, DOE/NRC, DOC/NOAA & PTO, VA	
e-Authentication	GSA	DOD, Treasury, DOJ, <b>USDA/NFC</b> , PTO, NASA, and DOC/NIST	Ken Koenig, NFC Mark Liegy, OCFO
e-Clearance	OPM		
e-Travel	GSA		
e-Training	OPM	DOT, DOD, GSA, and DOL	
e-Payroll	OPM	OPM, <b>USDA</b>	NFC
<b>Business Case Only</b>			
Consolidated Health Informatics	HHS	SSA, VA, DoD, HHS, and GSA.	
e-Vital	SSA	VA, HHS, OPM, <b>USDA</b> , DOD, and State Dept/INS	Rep. Requested from FNS

## Quicksilver Project Summary

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Project Intent</i>	<i>Impacted Agencies</i>	<i>Resources Requested</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Geospatial Information One Stop</b>	Standardize the way geospatial data is collected, accessed, delivered and used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FS</li> <li>• FSA</li> <li>• NRCS</li> </ul>	<b>Staff:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25-50 FTEs in FY 02 and FY 03 to service as State Coordinators</li> <li>• 1 FTE in FY 02 and FY 03 to service as a project manager</li> <li>• 6 FTEs in FY 02 to serve on standards development teams</li> </ul> <b>Funding:</b> FY 02 - \$135,000 FY 03 - \$135,000	USDA is playing a major role in the development of the initiative. Supports USDA's geodata business plan.
<b>Eligibility Assistance Online</b>	Provide citizens with instant access to information on eligibility for all government programs and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FNS</li> <li>• FS</li> <li>• FSA</li> <li>• NRCS</li> <li>• REE</li> <li>• RMA</li> </ul>	<b>Staff:</b> 4 FTEs spread across impacted agencies in FY 02 <b>Funding:</b> FY 02 - \$500,000 (in-kind contributions will be accepted)	Significant impact on FNS (food stamps program); FSA and RD (loan programs).
<b>Online Access for Loans</b>	Create a single point of access for citizens to access benefits, loans, and educational materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSA</li> <li>• RD</li> </ul>	<b>Staff:</b> 1 business person each from FSA and RD 60%-100% percent of their time in FY 02 and FY 03 <b>Funding:</b> Funding requirements undetermined at this time.	Active participation to date by FSA; limited participation by RD. Requires modifications to FSA and RD current electronic service delivery plans. Parallels a USDA eGovernment "Smart Choice" candidate.
<b>Recreation One Stop</b>	Expand and enhance the interagency web site now providing information on federal outdoor recreation opportunities (recreation.gov).	FS	Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	FS involved with the Recreation.Gov effort since 1997; participated in developing the business case for initiative.
<b>International Trade Process Streamlining</b>	To streamline the process of export/import commerce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APHIS</li> <li>• FAS</li> <li>• FSA</li> <li>• FSIS</li> </ul>	Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	USDA has content and systems in development that could be tied to a central site. Dependent upon FY 02 CCC funds for GSM system development.

Legend:  Fully Applicable to USDA/Initiative Underway   
 Limited Applicability or Just Initiated   
 Not Yet Initiated or No USDA Involvement To Date

## Quicksilver Project Summary

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Project Intent</i>	<i>Impacted Agencies</i>	<i>Resources Requested</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Integrated Acquisition</b>	Consolidate common acquisition functions through a shared services environment.	USDA-wide	Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	Being supported by Departmental Administration resources. Is being integrated with USDA's Integrated Acquisition System (IAS) project. Parallels a USDA eGovernment "Smart Choice" candidate.
<b>Online Rulemaking</b>	Provide online access to the rulemaking process.	USDA-wide	Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	OBPA is representing USDA. Limited activity to date by the managing partner.
<b>Disaster Assistance and Crisis Response</b>	Provide online access to all disaster preparedness and response information/services through a common web interface.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APHIS</li> <li>• FAS</li> <li>• FSA</li> <li>• FSIS</li> <li>• RD</li> </ul>	Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	This initiative is fully applicable to USDA. Limited activity to date by the managing partner.
<b>Recruitment One Stop</b>	Provide a government-wide automated service providing job/career opportunities; automated resumes; streamlined hiring.	USDA-wide	<b>Staff:</b> 1 part-time representative from HRM to lead best practices study. <b>Funding:</b> Funding requirements undetermined at this time.	This initiative is fully applicable to USDA. This initiative is just getting started.
<b>Integrated HR</b>	Streamline and automate the exchange of Federal employees' HR information.	USDA-wide	<b>Staff:</b> 1 part-time representative from HRM to lead best practices study. <b>Funding:</b> Funding requirements undetermined at this time.	This initiative is fully applicable to USDA. This initiative is just getting started.
<b>Wireless Networks</b>	Develop a wireless interoperability national strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APHIS</li> <li>• FS</li> </ul>	Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	This initiative is just getting started.
<b>e-Authentication</b>	Create interoperability among government-wide public key infrastructure (PKI) solutions.	USDA-wide	<b>Staff:</b> 1 part-time representative from NFC in FY 02. <b>Funding:</b> Funding requirements undetermined at this time.	Leverages OCFO/NFC's public key infrastructure and certificate authority initiative. Parallels a USDA eGovernment "Smart Choice" candidate.

Legend:  Fully Applicable to USDA/Initiative Underway    
 Limited Applicability or Just Initiated    
 Not Yet Initiated or No USDA Involvement To Date

## Quicksilver Project Summary

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Project Intent</i>	<i>Impacted Agencies</i>	<i>Resources Requested</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Payroll</b>	Standardize information for transportability	USDA-wide	Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	This initiative was just announced.
<b>USA Service</b>	Improve citizen service by centralizing basic contact information for reuse across government.		Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	No USDA involvement to date
<b>e-Vital</b>	Collecting, verifying, and sharing vital records across Federal, State, and local governments.		Staff and funding requirements undetermined at this time.	Limited applicability to USDA; no USDA involvement to date

Legend: ■ Fully Applicable to USDA/Initiative Underway    ■ Limited Applicability or Just Initiated    ■ Not Yet Initiated or No USDA Involvement To Date

**Initiatives Fully Applicable to USDA  
and/or Underway**

## **Geospatial Information One Stop**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The Geospatial Information One Stop initiative will significantly enhance the implementation of e-Government by making geospatial data more accessible and usable. This initiative builds upon existing capabilities to accelerate the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), technology, policies, and standards that support “one-stop” access to the Federal government’s spatial data assets. It will benefit all spatial data customers including federal, state, local, and other governments, as well as private citizens, by providing a common, consistent source of spatial data.

The implementation of the Geospatial One-Stop in the near-term will:

- Standardize the way geospatial data is collected, accessed, delivered and used to serve as the geographic backbone to spatially enable electronic government services;
- Provide an interactive index to spatial data holdings; and
- Initiate interaction between agencies about planned spatial data collections.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

The business case makes sense for USDA and rates a Green level of applicability. USDA has played a significant role in geospatial information science for nearly thirty years. From the early Federal-wide data coordination efforts to the evolution of Presidential Executive Orders (E.O. 12906), USDA has been involved in the development of GIS policy, data, software, and standards development. USDA agencies have a long history of inter-agency collaborative partnerships to facilitate geodata development. These include the National Aerial Photography Program, National Digital Orthophotography Program, National Digital Elevation Program, and the National Cooperative Soil Survey. USDA has recently become the largest single user of geospatial technology in the federal government.

In February of 2001, USDA created the “USDA Geospatial Data Business Plan.” The purpose of this plan is to provide strategies to achieve a common geodata vision for coordinated discovery, acquisition, integration, maintenance, long-term archiving, and delivery of geodata and information. To be successful, each agency must fully adopt the concept of a USDA-wide cooperative partnership and maintain a cooperative environment. This E-Government initiative will help USDA achieve the vision outlined in this plan.



Fully Applicable to USDA

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

The project plan for the Geospatial Information One Stop initiative reflects a series of activity modules. Resource requirements for each module have been identified and are documented in the table on the following pages.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

Dennis Lytle and Christine Clark of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Barry Napier and Betsy Banas of the Forest Service (FS) have directly participated in the development and review of the Geospatial Information One Stop business case. The document has been circulated to individuals in the Farm Service Agency, NRCS and FS for review and comment.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

Dennis Lytle and Christine Clark, NRCS, serve as USDA's representatives on the initiative. Other staff and management within FSA, NRCS, FS, and the Service Center Initiative have been briefed.

## Summary of USDA Estimated Resources Required

<u>Activity</u>	<u>USDA –wide (detail)</u>	<u>Agency Staff</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
1. <b>Standards Development</b>		FSA – 0.5 FTE NRCS – 1.5 FTE FS – 3 FTEs (3 FTEs annual effort--spread across several individuals)  Other USDA?	
2. <b>Data Inventory and Documentation</b>	0.25 FTE	FS – 0.2 FTEs (0.2 FTE total effort--spread across several individuals. Assumes 60 day, one-time effort) NRCS -- 1 to 2 FTE FSA – 0.5 FTE Other USDA?	
3. <b>Document Planned Acquisitions</b>	0.25 FTE	Included in #2	
4. <b>Web Mapping Standards and Software</b>		NRCS – 1 FTE Other USDA? FS – 2 FTEs (2 FTEs annual effort--spread across several	\$50,000 USDA in FY 02 and 03

individuals)

**5. Deploy Portal Services**

NRCS – 1 FTE \$65,000 USDA  
Other USDA? in FY 02 and 03  
FS – 1 FTE (1 FTE annual effort--spread across  
several individuals

**6. Project Management Team Support 1 FTE**

FS – 0.2 FTE (02 FTE, agency point-of-contact to  
facilitate coordination between Forest Service and USDA)

**7. Coordinate State Level Data Plans 1 FTE  
(I-Teams)**

NRCS, FS, FSA  
Other USDA – 25 to 50 FTE

## **Eligibility Assistance Online**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The Eligibility Assistance Online (EAO) initiative is envisioned to provide citizens with instant access to information on eligibility for all government programs and services. Accessed by potential beneficiaries and their agents through FirstGov and USA Services, EAO will significantly reduce citizen search time to identify and access relevant information on government benefit programs, directly link citizens to specific programs of interest, and facilitate beneficiary data sharing among government benefit providers.

In its initial Phase 1 implementation, EAO will provide description of benefits and contact information for those benefits programs whose eligibility criteria match with the information provided by the user. For users accessing EAO via the FirstGov web portal, EAO will also provide links to benefit provider web sites for further information and applications. EAO will not replace eligibility determination information already available on specific agency web sites; rather, in concert with FirstGov and USA Services, EAO will provide a focused search capability and an alternate channel to these resources which minimizes citizen search time to determine eligibility for all government benefit programs.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

The business case makes sense for USDA and rates a Green level of applicability. Eligibility Assistance Online is consistent with the Secretary's vision, as outlined in "Food and Agricultural Policy: Taking Stock for the New Century", for:

- A strong commitment to ensuring the access of all Americans to a healthy and nutritious food supply must continue, with particular attention to improvements in the delivery of food assistance to low-income families; and
- Systems which are integrated to assure coordinated and collaborative delivery of food and farm programs and to citizen access to public services.



Fully Applicable to USDA

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

Dollars requested:

- \$500,000

Staff requested:

- The managing partner agency estimates that a total of 40 FTEs are required from the partner agencies in order to meet the April 2002 milestones. Four of the 40 FTEs are requested from USDA agencies.

Other In Kind:

- None requested at this time.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

USDA has been actively involved in the development of the EAO business case. An OCIO representative participated in two business case development meetings in October and November 2001 and conducted ongoing research which was provided to the business case team. OCIO and FNS staff have also been involved in reviewing and editing the business case.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

Management from the Department of Labor, the EAO Managing Partner Agency, met with senior program representatives of the Food and Nutrition Service on January 30, 2002 to further explain EAO and identify opportunities for cooperation. EAO is focusing on the Food Stamp Program because of the number of citizens served (over 17 million) and the value of benefits delivered (over \$17 billion). Working through the USDA eGovernment Executive Council, USDA has provided information for over 80 assistance programs to EAO.

## **Online Access for Loans**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The intent of the e-Loan initiative is to alleviate the confusion and intimidation many citizens currently experience by the complexity and variation of loan processes among government Agencies. In the short term, this process will create a single point of access for citizens to use the Internet to access benefits, loans, and related educational materials. In the long term, the process is expected to result in better service to citizens and create cost savings opportunities for Agencies as resources and data are made accessible from a common data repository.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

The business case makes sense for USDA and rates a Green level of applicability. The approach is particularly applicable to the USDA work units represented on the e-Loan team which includes the Price Support Division (PSD) and Farm Loan Programs (FLP) of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Rural Development (RD) mission area. The business case provides for a central electronic repository for common producer data that would be accessible by applicable agencies.



Fully Applicable to USDA

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

Dollars Requested:

- No funds requested at this time

Staff Requested:

- One business person from each loan making agency to spend 60-100 percent of their time for two years
- Additional staff may be required to review 300 submissions to OMB and/or work in a Joint Program Office

Other In Kind:

- None requested at this time

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

To develop the business case, a kickoff meeting was held on November 1. Conference calls and meetings were held throughout November and early December. All Agency reps were given the opportunity to edit, rewrite, or revise problematic areas of the business case before it was finalized and submitted to OMB. None of the information included in the business case conflicted with existing USDA policies.

**Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

Harold Connor of the Farm Service Agency, Price Support Division has been the lead representative on this initiative. He has assimilated information about USDA loan programs from a variety of sources as requested by the managing partner agency. Additionally, he has provided copies of the business case to a variety of individuals and briefed senior agency and program management on the initiative.

## **Recreation One Stop**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

This project proposes to expand and enhance the interagency web site recreation.gov that currently provides one-stop information on federal outdoor recreation opportunities. The Forest Service has been an active partner in this interagency project since its inception in 1997. This initiative would expand participation to other federal and non-federal partners, add a map-based interface for navigation and search capabilities, and provide on-line access to recreation-related transaction services. The initiative specifically builds on the National Association of State Chief Information Officers' (NASCIO) Government Without Boundaries (GWOB) pilot to utilize effective database management to design and implement capabilities applying appropriate standards. The project also utilizes the National Atlas of the United States where 20 federal agencies have partnered to offer mapping services for over 400 federal data layers. The end results will provide a single, comprehensive "national" source for recreation information (parks, museums, forests, lakes, monuments, etc.); linkages to transaction services for reservations, passes, maps, and related services; data standards for federal and state partners; and associated services with private and non-profit sectors.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

The business case makes sense for USDA, especially the Forest Service - a major provider of outdoor recreation opportunities, and rates a Green level of applicability. This initiative is a logical proposal for the Forest Service and aligns well with internal agency proposed eGovernment projects to provide "recreation services and information" within a web content management structure.



Fully Applicable to USDA

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

Dollars Requested:

- No funds requested at this time

Staff Requested:

- None staff requested at this time

Other In Kind:

- None requested at this time

**Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

The agency representative has been involved with the development and management of recreation.gov since 1997 as well as the development of the business case for Recreation One Stop. The managing partner, Department of Interior (DOI) has been the primary author of the business case with input from all partners.

**Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

There have been extensive discussions and briefings within Forest Service regarding recreation.gov and the Recreation One Stop initiative. This has included the Chief Information Officer, IRM managers, National Forest Systems (NFS) leadership and program managers, and various field managers.

## **International Trade Process Streamlining**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

A single customer-focused web site for new and existing exporters, especially small and medium-sized business enterprises (SMEs), enabling the user to “walk through” and complete the entire export process.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

The business case makes sense for USDA and rates a Green level of applicability. The Department of Agriculture can integrate links with existing content and/or systems with little or no effort. Applications under development can be linked to the export.gov web site with minimal difficulty.



Fully Applicable to USDA

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

Dollars requested:

- No funds requested at this time

Staff requested:

- No staff requested at this time

Other In Kind:

- None requested at this time.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

USDA recently joined this initiative as a supporting partner agency. Rand Ruggieri of the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) has represented the Department at one meeting to date. The Department of Commerce is having a facilitated planning session on February 6th to discuss the project. Another meeting is also scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for these meetings, Mr. Ruggieri facilitated a meeting of the agencies impacted by this project to develop a list of potential collaboration opportunities for USDA.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

In developing a list of potential integration points across USDA, Rand Ruggieri met with representatives from the Food Safety and Inspection Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Foreign Agriculture Service, Economic Research Service, and the World Agriculture Outlook Board.

## **Integrated Acquisition**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The Integrated Acquisition initiative proposes to migrate current systems toward an environment where data moves freely among acquisition systems within and among agencies. It supports compliance with the GPEA and other government mandates to move to an electronic business transaction environment instead of paper-based processes. Acquisition systems support finance, procurement, logistics, and program management functions. The long-term goal is to allow information to be entered once by the data owner, stored in databases and maintained by the data owners, yet shared with all others who need the data.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

USDA has had minimal involvement with the initiative to date. The degree to which the initiative applies to USDA has not yet been determined.

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

USDA has had minimal involvement with the initiative to date. The type or amount of resources that may be necessary to support the initiative have not yet been determined.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

Judith Dudley and Tish Tucker of Departmental Administration serve as USDA's representatives for this initiative. Involvement to date has been limited to a review of the business case.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

None

**Initiatives With Limited Applicability to USDA  
or Just Initiated**

## **Online Rulemaking Management**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

Businesses and citizens should be able to easily and quickly learn what proposed regulations may impact them, without having to know which agencies are developing those regulations. To this end, the Online Rulemaking initiative will transform the current rulemaking process into one that provides for a single access point to proposed rules, organized by topic, key word, and agency; and provides a simple way for the public to comment on the proposed rules. The initiative also includes activities aimed at changing internal government processes to create a seamless, integrated, electronic process for developing, reviewing and publishing proposed rules.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

The business case makes sense for USDA and rates a Green level of applicability. A solution already implemented by the Department of Transportation, the initiative's managing partner, is currently being piloted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Applicability of this pilot to all of USDA is likely.



Fully Applicable to USDA

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

Dollars requested:

- No funds requested at this time

Staff requested:

- No staff requested at this time

Other In Kind:

- None requested at this time.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

USDA representatives have participated in one meeting to date led by the managing partner agency. Participating agencies were asked to coordinate resources and develop a plan for implementing DOT's Online Rulemaking solution. USDA is awaiting further guidance on resource requirements to support the overall initiative.

**Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

Mike Poe and Julie Heterick of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA) represented the Department in a December meeting and serve as USDA's points of contact. Immediate management in OBPA have been briefed on the information obtained thus far for the initiative.

## **Disaster Assistance and Crisis Response**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The Disaster Assistance and Crisis Response initiative involves a public one-stop portal containing information from applicable public and private organizations involved in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date. The degree to which the initiative applies to USDA has not yet been determined.

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date. The type or amount of resources that may be necessary to support the initiative have not yet been determined.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

None

## **Recruitment One Stop**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

Through the Recruitment One Stop initiative, the Federal government will follow commercial best practices to provide: an automated resource for Federal government job information and career opportunities; automated resume and assessment tools to develop and route resumes, assess candidates, and streamline the hiring process; and an up-to-the-minute application status for job seekers. Citizens will have the convenience of 24/7 accessibility to Federal job openings and related information and Federal managers will have their jobs filled more quickly with quality candidates.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

USDA has had minimal involvement with the initiative to date. The degree to which the initiative applies to USDA has not yet been determined.

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

USDA has had minimal involvement with the initiative to date. The type or amount of resources that may be necessary to support the initiative have not yet been determined.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

Joe Colantuoni of the Office of Human Resources Management is the USDA representative for this initiative. Mr. Colantuoni has met with the initiative's project manager from the Office of Personnel Management to discuss general information about the initiative. Mr. Colantuoni has been asked to lead a set of tasks focused on identifying best practices for recruitment in the public and private sectors.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

None

## **Integrated Human Resources**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

Through the Integrated Human Resources initiative, the Federal government will follow commercial best practices to provide electronic access, exchange, and storage of human resources (HR) data from a variety of agencies via a middleware solution.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

USDA has had minimal involvement with the initiative to date. The degree to which the initiative applies to USDA has not yet been determined.

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

USDA has had minimal involvement with the initiative to date. The type or amount of resources that may be necessary to support the initiative have not yet been determined.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

Joe Colantuoni of the Office of Human Resources Management is the USDA representative for this initiative. Mr. Colantuoni has met with the initiative's project manager from the Office of Personnel Management to discuss general information about the initiative. Mr. Colantuoni has been asked to lead a set of tasks focused on identifying best practices for the management of human resource information in the public and private sectors.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

None

## **Wireless Networks for Emergency Communications**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The Wireless Public SAFETY Interoperable COMMUNICATIONS Program, known as Project SAFECOM, has been designed to address critical public safety wireless communications shortcomings. Project SAFECOM's goal is to implement a Wireless Interoperability National Strategy to improve interoperability throughout the Nation. The project has two components. The first is an effort to coordinate implementation of a right-sized number of spectrally efficient systems and the improvement of federal-to-federal interoperability where appropriate. The second component represents expansion of the ongoing, successful Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN) Program to include more aggressive assistance to federal and state agencies and the implementation of federal-to-state interoperability links.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

The business case makes sense for USDA and rates a Green level of applicability. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Forest Service (FS) require coordination of wireless public safety programs with other federal and state agencies. Moreover, both agencies have taken active roles participating in past interagency wireless sharing initiatives to support mission critical programs such as fire fighting for the Forest Service.



**Fully Applicable to USDA**

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

Dollars Requested:

- No funds requested at this time

Staff Requested:

- None staff requested at this time

Other In Kind:

- None requested at this time

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

Tim Quinn, FS, USDA's representative on the Wireless Networks for Emergency Communications initiative, and other FS management have participated in several meetings with Tom Wiesner, the initiative's project manager. No USDA staff have participated in drafting or reviewing of the business case.

**Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

No briefings have been provided to other USDA staff at this time.

## **e-Authentication**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The E-authentication initiative is an enabling solution for many other e-Government initiatives. A major challenge facing e-Government is the need to develop a consolidated approach to authentication that balances the individual requirements of initiatives with the need to eliminate redundant activities. Once a range of authentication solutions from low to medium to high assurance are identified and calibrated, they can be leveraged across the proposed e-Government initiatives in a streamlined fashion. Among the more compelling reasons to consolidate authentication is the leveraging of security best practices. A consolidated approach can ensure that each initiative is drawing upon the best authentication solutions to ensure proof of identify and to protect the confidentiality and sensitivity of data.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

The business case makes sense for USDA and rates a Green level of applicability. The National Finance Center (NFC) already provides public key infrastructure (PKI)/certificate authority (CA) to a variety of customers (USDA and non-USDA). Expanding these capabilities to other parts of the Federal government is consistent with current plans.



Fully Applicable to USDA

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

Dollars Requested:

- No funds requested at this time

Staff Requested:

- One FTE from the National Finance Center on a part-time basis

Other In Kind:

- None requested at this time

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

Ken Koenig of the National Finance Center participated in reviewing and commenting on the e-Authentication initiative business case.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

NFC staff have briefed the Associate Chief Financial Officer for Systems and has had extensive interaction with staff from the Office of the Chief Information Officer. NFC already provides PKI/CA services to FSA and RD.

**Initiatives Not Yet Initiated or  
With No USDA Involvement to Date**

## **e-Payroll**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The e-Payroll initiative will improve government service by eliminating redundant systems.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date. The degree to which the initiative applies to USDA has not yet been determined.

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date. The type or amount of resources that may be necessary to support the initiative have not yet been determined.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

None

## **USA Service**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The USA Service initiative will use best practices in customer relationship management to enable citizens to quickly obtain services online, while improving the responsiveness and consistency across government agencies. If selected by an individual, citizens would be able to save time by providing basic contact information that would be reused as assistance is provided. This will enable citizens to personalize the combination of services they obtain across multiple programs and agencies in a privacy-protected environment.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date. The degree to which the initiative applies to USDA has not yet been determined.

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date. The type or amount of resources that may be necessary to support the initiative have not yet been determined.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

USDA has had little involvement with the initiative to date.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

None

## **e-Vital**

### **Project Description and Expected Results:**

The e-Vital initiative will expand the existing vital records on-line data exchange efforts between Federal agencies and state governments.

### **Is the Business Case Applicable for USDA?**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date. The degree to which the initiative applies to USDA has not yet been determined.

### **What Resources Have Been Requested?**

USDA has had no involvement with the initiative to date. The type or amount of resources that may be necessary to support the initiative have not yet been determined.

### **Description of USDA Involvement To Date:**

USDA has had little involvement with the initiative to date.

### **Individuals Involved In or Briefed On the Initiative:**

None