Welcome to the Forum
The U.S. Department of Agriculture welcomes you to Agricultural Outlook Forum 2002. We hope you enjoy the Forum and your visit to the Nation’s Capital. If you need assistance, ask a volunteer wearing a staff ribbon.

Facilities
The Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel is a Three Diamond Hotel, with several restaurants, an indoor pool, and a fitness facility. The Hotel is convenient to underground shops and to the Fashion Center Mall at Pentagon City. Check your portfolio for shopping guides.

Parking
Parking will be discounted to $8.00 per day for hotel guests and $9.00 for other Forum attendees. When you exit the garage, inform the parking attendant that you attended the Outlook Forum.

Registration
The Forum registration desk will be located in the Arlington Ballroom Foyer.

If you did not pay the advance registration fee, you will be asked to pay an on-site registration fee of $250 for full registration, or $175 for partial registration. The registration fee covers conference materials including speech texts, a portfolio, a copy of new long-term baseline projections, and refreshment breaks.

Dinner and Luncheon Tickets
Prepaid tickets are required for the Thursday networking luncheon and dinner, and the luncheons on Friday. If you preregistered and ordered meals, your tickets will be with your name badge.

A limited number of unreserved tickets may be available for purchase on Thursday and Friday – check at the conference registration desk.

Cell Phone Users Please Note
As a courtesy to other guests, please turn cell phones off during sessions and refrain from placing calls outside of meeting rooms. The Grand Ballroom foyer in front of the Exhibit Hall, by the windows, has good cell phone reception.

Calls to the Conference
Telephone calls to the Forum should be directed to the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel at (703) 920-3250; ask the operator for the Outlook Forum registration desk.

Speech Texts and Proceedings
Copies of advance texts provided by speakers will be placed on tables outside of the Arlington Ballroom. Speeches will be available on the day they are given. Copies of any late speeches received will be placed on the tables as they become available. After the Forum, speeches will be posted on the Internet. See page 11 for instructions.

All speeches submitted by speakers will be published after the Forum in an electronic Proceedings. See page 11 for more information.

Exhibit Hall
Take a break at the Exhibit Hall, located in Salons F, G and H of the Grand Ballroom. Network or visit over complimentary refreshments, and watch the Beagle Brigade in action.

Seventeen agencies are displaying information about their programs and demonstrating Internet resources. See page 9 for details. The Exhibit Hall is open Thursday afternoon and evening, and Friday.

Press Room
An equipped and staffed press room for journalists covering the Forum is located in the Alexandria Room, one floor above the Ballroom.

Give Us Your Feedback
We appreciate your candid assessment of the Outlook Forum. Complete the evaluation form in your portfolio and return it on Friday to the registration desk for a thank-you gift.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Registration
Preorganized guests: Arlington Ballroom, Salon II
Oslo registration: Arlington Ballroom
Registration Desk

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Keynote Address by the Secretary of Agriculture
Arlington Ballroom
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Market and Policy Prospects for 2002
Arlington Ballroom
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Coffee Break
Arlington Ballroom

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Exhibit Hall Open
Grand Ballroom, Salons E, G, and H
1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Networking Luncheon
Arlington Ballroom, Salons I and II
Grand Ballroom, Salons J and K
1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Food Price Briefing
Grand Ballroom, Salon A

2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions
A Farm Policy Principles and Proposals
Arlington Ballroom, Salon I
B Competing in Global Markets for Processed Products
Arlington Ballroom, Salon I
C U.S. Farm Women: Leaders in Rural Prosperity
Arlington Ballroom, Salon Y
D Farm Finance Outlook: Changing Farmer-Lender Relationships
Arlington Ballroom, Salon VI
E Agriculture's Role in Offsetting Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Grand Ballroom, Salon A

3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Refreshment Break
Arlington Ballroom Foyer and Exhibit Hall

4:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions
A A New Role for Conservation in U.S. Farm Policy
Arlington Ballroom, Salon I
B Economic Growth and New Middle-Class Consumers in Developing Nations
Arlington Ballroom, Salon IV
C Feasibility and Cost of Marketing Identity-Preserved Crops
Arlington Ballroom, Salon I
D Promoting Value-Added Marketing as a Means to Sustainable Rural Development
Arlington Ballroom Salon VI
E Seasonal Climate Forecasts in Agriculture
Grand Ballroom, Salon A

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2002

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Registration
Arlington Ballroom Foyer

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Reception, Cash Bar
Arlington Ballroom Foyer
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration
Arlington Foyer Registration Desk

7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
Arlington Ballroom Foyer and Exhibit Hall

8:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions
Changing World Dairy Markets
Arlington Ballroom, Salon I
Grains and Oilseed Outlook
Arlington Ballroom, Salon II
Bio-Security: A National Priority in a New Era
Arlington Ballroom, Salon IV
Issues and Strategies for Rural and Community Prosperity
Arlington Ballroom, Salon V
Broadening Government for Today's Marketplace: Techniques and Stories from USDA's Commodity Re-engineering Project
Grand Ballroom, Salon C

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Refreshment Break
Arlington Ballroom Foyer and Exhibit Hall

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
A Clemens and Fibers Outlook
Arlington Ballroom, Salon I
Tracking Food Products for Quality, Safety, and Efficiency
Arlington Ballroom, Salon I
Meat Sector Outlook at a Time of Uncertainty
Arlington Ballroom, Salon V
Future Effects of the U.S. Sugar Program
Arlington Ballroom, Salon I
Producer Initiatives To Deal with Production Contracts
Grand Ballroom, Salon C

11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Break

12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Concurrent Commmodity Luncheons
Grains and Oilseeds Luncheon
Arlington Ballroom, Salons I and II
Livestock and Poultry Luncheon
Arlington Ballroom, Salon IV
Sugar and Sweeteners Luncheon
Arlington Ballroom, Salon V
Cotton and Fibers Luncheon
Arlington Ballroom, Salon VI
Fruit and Vegetables Luncheon
Grand Ballroom, Salons J and K

2:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions
The Economic Outlook for Bio-fuels
Arlington Ballroom, Salon III
Protecting U.S. Consumers, Herds, and Crops from Import-Related Diseases
Arlington Ballroom, Salon IV
The U.S. Horticulture Sector's Future in an Era of Globalization
Arlington Ballroom, Salon V
Outlook for Tobacco
Grand Ballroom, Salon C

4:00 p.m.
Adjourn
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2002

7:00 - 7:15 a.m. WELCOME
Arlington Ballroom Foyer
Moderator
Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Moseley

7:15 - 8:15 a.m. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Arlington Ballroom Foyer

8:15 a.m. REGISTRATION
Arlington Ballroom Foyer

9:00 - 9:45 a.m. MARKET AND POLICY PROSPECTS FOR 2002
Arlington Ballroom
Moderator
Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Moseley

U.S. Trade and Agricultural Policy
J. B. Peiris, Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA

9:45 - 10:15 a.m. COFFEE BREAK
Arlington Ballroom Foyer

10:15 - 10:45 a.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Arlington Ballroom
Moderator
Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Moseley

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Arlington Ballroom
Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman

10:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. ACCEPTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY IN WORLD TRADE
Arlington Ballroom Foyer
Moderator
Julian Morris, Co-Director, International Policy Network, and Research Fellow at the Institute of Economic Affairs, London, England

A South American Perspective
Cristina de Albuquerque Passos, Executive Secretary, National Commission on Biosecurity, Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil, Brazil

An African Perspective
Florence Wambogo, Executive Director, A Harvest Bioethics Foundation International, Nairobi, Kenya

A European Perspective
Helena von Troo, Secretary, Nordic Committee on Bioethics and Consultant on Biotechnology Communication, Helsinki, Finland

U.S. Diplomacy and Worldwide Biotechnology Issues
Alan P. Jarrett, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State

12:30 - 1:15 p.m. NETWORKING LUNCHEON
Arlington Ballroom, Salons I and II

12:30 - 1:15 p.m. FOOD PRICE BRIEFING
Grand Ballroom, Salons F, G and H

2:30 - 5:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Arlington Ballroom, Salons III, IV and V
Moderator
Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

1:15 - 5:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Arlington Ballroom, Salon III
Moderator
Thomas Hunt Shipman, USDA, Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Commodity Program Principles and Proposals, a Farm View
G. Chandler Keys III, Vice President, Public Policy, National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Commodity Program Principles and Proposals, a View from Congress
Craig Jagger, Chief Economist, Majority Staff, House Committee on Agriculture

Trade Program Principles and Proposals
Charles O'Mara, President, O'Mara Farm Credit

Rural Development Programs and Proposals
Michael E. Burnside, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, USDA

COMPETING IN GLOBAL MARKETS FOR PROCESSED PRODUCTS
Arlington Ballroom, Salons IV

1:45 p.m. FARM POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PROPOSALS
Arlington Ballroom, Salon III
Moderator
Thomas Hunt Shipman, USDA, Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

1:15 - 5:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Arlington Ballroom, Salons III, IV and V
Moderator
Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Wednesday, February 20-Thursday, February 21
**FORUM PROGRAM**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2002**

**NEW-GENERATION COOPERATIVES; PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY**
- Rodney Christiansen, CEO, South Dakota Soybean Processors

**DIRECT MARKETING TO CHEFS IN UPSCALE RESTAURANTS**
- Doyle Freeman, Farmer and Manager, Pete's Corner Farm Alliance

**SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS IN AGRICULTURE**
- Grand Ballroom, Salom A

**MODERATOR**
- Vito T. Divino, Director, General, International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, Columbia University

**CLIMATE PREDICTIONS AND THEIR APPLICATION: THE IBI AND ITS MISSION**
- Steve Zebulak, Director, Modeling and Prediction Research, International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, Columbia University

**PRIMER ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FLUCTUATIONS**
- Steve Zebulak, Director, Modeling and Prediction Research, International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, Columbia University

**THE USE OF CLIMATE FORECASTS IN AGRICULTURE: EXPERIENCE IN THE AMERICAS**
- James Hansen, Associate Research Scientist, International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, Columbia University

**CONCLUSIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE, POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT**
- Reid Barthe, Director, Application, International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, Columbia University

**5:30 P.M.**
- RECEPTION AND CASH BAR
  - Arlington Ballroom, Salom B

**6:30 P.M.**
- FORUM DINNER
  - Arlington Ballroom, Salom B, II and III

**MODERATOR**
- Keith Collins, Chief Economist, USDA

**THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**
- Lawrence Chimeri, President, Radnor International Consulting, Inc.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2002**

**7:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M.**
- REGISTRATION
  - Arlington Ballroom Registration Desk

**7:15 - 8:00 A.M.**
- CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
  - Arlington Ballroom, Foyer and Exhibit Hall

**7:15 - 2:15 P.M.**
- EXHIBIT HALL OPEN
  - Grand Ballroom, Salons F, G and H

**8:15 - 10:00 A.M.**
- CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**CHANGING WORLD DAIRY MARKETS**
- Arlington Ballroom, Salon I

**MODERATOR**
- John R. Mengel, Chief Economist, Dairy Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

**OUTLOOK FOR MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS**
- James Miller, Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA

**THE OUTLOOK FOR WORLD MILK POWDER AND PROTEIN TRADE**
- Robert Feit, Manager, Americas & Caribbean International Trade Development Group, Australian Dairy Corporation

**STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE U.S. DAIRY COOPERATIVE SECTOR**
- Carolyn Lehoard, Agricultural Economist, Rural Business Cooperative Service, USDA

**GRAINS AND OILSEEDS OUTLOOK**
- Arlington Ballroom, Salon III

**MODERATOR**
- Keith Mensa, Oilseeds Analyst, World Agricultural Outlook Board, Office of the Chief Economist, USDA

**INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AND OILSEEDS OUTLOOK FOR 2002**
- Robert Riemschneider, Director, Grain and Feed Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA

**IMPACT OF CHINA'S WTO ACCESSION ON GRAINS AND OILSEEDS TRADE**
- Neal Cooklin, Director, Marketing and Trade Economics Division, Economic Research Service, USDA

**INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE ON THE USDA GRAIN OUTLOOK**
- Nancy DeVore, Vice President, Belcamp Community Trade Analysis, Inc.

**GRAIN MARKETS: A SOUTH AMERICAN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE**
- Andrea Pesoua, Director, Agroconsult

**BIOPRODUCTS: A NATIONAL TRADITION IN A NEW ERA**
- Arlington Ballroom, Salon IV

**MODERATOR**
- Bobby R. Accord, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

**A FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE PERSPECTIVE ON BIOSECURITY AND SAFE FOOD**
- Karen Hufeldt, Senior Advisor for Scientific Affairs, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

**FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION**
- RP. Dan Sowards, Chief of Food and Drug Safety and Biosecurity, Texas Department of Public Health

**AN INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE ON BIOSECURITY**
- Rhona S. Applebaum, Executive Vice President for Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, National Food Processors Association

**THE THREAT OF EXOTIC DISEASES TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE**
- Mark Wheelis, Senior Lecturer, Microbiology Section, University of California at Davis

**ISSUES AND STRATEGIES FOR RURAL AND COMMUNITY PROSPERITY**
- Arlington Ballroom, Salom V

**MODERATOR**
- John C. Allen, Director, Center for Applied Rural Innovation and Professor of Rural Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**WHAT WORKERS AND ENTREPRENEURS NEED TO SUCCEED IN TODAY'S MARKETS**
- Lloyd J. Bechard, Director, Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University

**ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE FOR COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT**
- John N. Reid, Associate Deputy Administrator, Rural Development, USDA

**CORNEIL FLORA, Director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development**
China's Cotton Trade under the WTO

Moderator: Hunter Colby, Managing Director, Cotton Economics, Globecoc, Inc.

Risk Management in U.S. Cotton Production

Moderator: Keith Colby, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University

Marketing Food Products for Quality, Safety, and Efficiency

Moderator: Susan Ottos, Administrator, Economic Research Service, USDA

A Food Industry Perspective on Tracking Inventory and Ensuring Quality Attributes

Moderator: Anthony Hepton, Consultant

Certifiable Quality Management Systems for the U.S. Grains and Livestock Industry

Moderator: William "Bill" Granje, Director, IP Consulting, IdentityPreserved.com

Tools for Field Testing and Traceability in the Distribution of Food Ingredients

Moderator: Lisa Lietz-McHugh, Business Development Manager for Agriculture and Food Safety, Strategic Diagnostics, Inc.

MEAT SECTOR OUTLOOK AT A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

Moderator: Howard Witzel, Director, Dairy, Livestock and Poultry Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA

The Outlook for Livestock and Poultry

Moderator: Ron Gustafson, Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA

Demand for Meat in Uncertain Times

Moderator: Kevin Root, Director, Procurement Strategy, Topco Associates, LLC

The Outlook for U.S. Meat Trade

Moderator: Craig Ruffalo, Manager of Information Sales, McKeany-Heard Company, Inc.

Impact on U.S. Sugar Program

Moderator: Craig Ruffalo, Manager of Information Sales, McKeany-Heard Company, Inc.

Impact on Producer Cooperatives

Moderator: Jack Reney, Director of Economics and Policy Analysis, American Sugar Alliance

Impact on the User Industry

Moderator: Lee McConnell, Vice President of Purchasing, Blemmer Chocolate Company

Consumers and the Federal Sugar Program

Moderator: Arturis S. Jaeger, Associate Director, Consumer Federation of America

PRODUCER INITIATIVES TO DEAL WITH PRODUCTION CONTRACTS

Moderator: Dan Loux, Business Editor, Successful Farming Magazine

Negotiating Contracts in the Specialty Crop Industry

Moderator: John Welty, Executive Vice President, California Tomato Growers Association, Inc.

BROKER Growers' Needs for Organizers to Represent Them

Moderator: Mary Clorny, Contract Agr AgFarm Project Director, RAN USA

Contract Bargaining for Potatoes and Other Crops

Moderator: Vernon DeLong, Executive Director, Maine Agricultural Bargaining Council

New Negotiation Efforts in the Beef Industry

Moderator: Paul Hich, Past Chairman and Board Member, Consolidated Beef Producers
FARM PROGRAM
Friday, February 22

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY LUNCHEON
Arlington Ballroom, Salon IV
Moderator
William T. "Bill" Hawks, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Services, USDA
Meeting Consumers’ Expectations for Quality and Safety of Pork Products
Richard J.M. Poulec, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Smithfield Foods, Inc.
Terry Coley, President, Murphy Farms, LLC

SUGAR AND SWEETENER LUNCHEON
Arlington Ballroom, Salon V
Moderator
James R. Little, Administrator, Farm Services Agency, USDA
Louisiana Cane Growers Change with the Times
Jackie Judice, Northwest Planting, New Iberia, Louisiana

COTTON AND FIBERS LUNCHCONE
Arlington Ballroom, Salon IV
Moderator
Neal F. Gillon, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, American Cotton Shippers Association
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: My 30 Years with the Cotton Program
Charles V. Cunningham, President, Charles V. Cunningham and Associates, Inc.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE LUNCHEON
Grand Ballroom, Salons J and K
Moderator
Tom Karst, National Editor, The Packer, Vance Publications
Competitiveness of U.S. Fruits and Vegetables: A Global Perspective
John Masket, Senior Vice President, perishables Procurement, Ahold USA

THE U.S. HORTICULTURE SECTOR’S FUTURE IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION
Arlington Ballroom, Salon V
Moderator
Tom Karst, National Editor, The Packer, Vance Publishing Corporation
Going Global – One Company’s Answer To Meeting the Competitive Challenge
James Pandol, Vice President, Marketing, Pandol Brothers, Inc.
Challenges in Horticultural Trade
Michael J. Stuart, President, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Ensuring Long-Term Competitiveness: Differences in Strategies between the United States and the European Union
George Smith, Executive Director, Midsummer Marketing International, United Kingdom

OUTLOOK FOR TOBACCO
Grand Ballroom, Salon C
Moderator
Tom Capeshart, Agricultural Economist, USDA
U.S. Tobacco Situation and Outlook
Dan Stevens, Agricultural Economist, Farm Service Agency, USDA
Strategic Outlook for the U.S. Tobacco Industry
Pete Burr, Agricultural Economist, Farm Service Agency, USDA
Phillip Morris Tobacco Farmer Partnership Program
Michael Farriss, Vice President, Leaf, Phillip Morris U.S.A.
The Future of the U.S. Tobacco Program and Quota Buyout Proposal
Mavericks Watson, Legislative Aid, Office of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell

Complete the evaluation form in your portfolio and return it on Friday to the registration desk for a thank-you gift. Or, place the form in a silver bowl or give it to anyone wearing a staff ribbon. THANK YOU!
Economic Research Service

ERS research and analysis help public and private decisionmakers conduct business or formulate policy related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural economics. See a hands-on demonstration of the ERS website and the depth of economic information it provides. The ERS booth will have a variety of publications available. Most publications can also be downloaded from the ERS website at www.ers.usda.gov.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

NASS administers USDA’s program for collecting and publishing timely national and state agricultural statistics, including the 5-year Census of Agriculture. This abundant collection of agricultural statistics is available to print, on CD-ROM, and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass.

Farm Service Agency

"A Minority Farmers: Enriching the Tapestry of American Agriculture" highlights the mixing of ideas and practices shared by the many racial and ethnic groups that have come together in the United States for more than 400 years. Although only a few examples can be included, they represent the many ways in which the strength of this Nation's food system and rural roots have shaped by the diversity of its people.

Risk Management Agency

RMA helps farmers manage their business risks. RMA's mission is to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers through sound risk management programs and education. Working with a multitude of private-sector partners, including insurance companies and their agents, RMA administers the programs of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation reinsuring nearly 1.3 million policies covering over 211 million acres. RMA also promotes risk management education in concert with private and public education partners.

Foreign Agricultural Service

Interested in how to export to a specific country? Need answers to your export questions about specific commodities? Getting information on U.S. agricultural trade has never been easier! Stop by the FAS exhibit for a demonstration of our new online U.S. Agricultural Trade Database.

FAS's Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division is responsible for global crop condition assessments and estimates of area, yield, and production for grains, oilseeds, and cotton. Talk with staff members and pick up valuable information about our products.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

"Conservation on Private Land Benefits All Americans" will be featured at this year's exhibit. More than 70 percent of land in the continental U.S. is privately owned. The Nation's farmers and ranchers, in partnership with NRCS, conserve natural resources on private land. Publications about conservation of our natural resources will be available at the exhibit. The Science and Technology Consortium will showcase various natural resource materials from publications to interactive computer demonstrations of natural resource planning software and automated data bases.

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

The Marketing and Regulatory Programs agencies (Agricultural Marketing Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration) will be featured. These programs facilitate the domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products and ensure the health and care of animals and plants while improving competitiveness and the economy.
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
APHIS provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants, improving agricultural productivity and competitiveness, and contributing to the national economy. APHIS is the first line of defense against exotic animal and plant pests and diseases that could damage agricultural and natural resources in the United States.

Beagle Brigade - One line of defense encountered by international travelers is USDA's Beagle Brigade. Members of this unit have great noses, sunny dispositions, green jackets, and lots of hair. Beagle Brigade dogs work in teams with PPQ officers in a partnership to protect American agriculture. The Beagle Brigade will be demonstrating their detection skills at the Exhibit Hall.

Food Safety and Inspection Service
As USDA's public health agency, FSIS ensures that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and correctly packaged and labeled. Information on FSIS policies and programs, including Food Safety Education, will be available.

Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Service
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services ensures access to nutritious, healthful diets for all Americans. Through food assistance and nutrition education for consumers, FNCS encourages consumers to make healthful food choices. Today, rather than simply providing food, FNCS works to empower consumers with knowledge of the link between diet and health, providing dietary guidance based on research. Brochures discussing nutrition and the various food assistance programs will be available.

Rural Development
A wide variety of publications about cooperatives will be available on topics ranging from "How to Start a Cooperative" to "The Impact of New-Generation Cooperatives on Their Communities.” The latest issue of USDA’s “Rural Cooperatives” magazine and brochures on the Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program and other USDA rural development programs will also be available.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
The Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs) play a unique role in USDA's service to rural America. They link the research and educational outreach capacity of the Nation's public universities with communities, local decision makers, entrepreneurs, families, and farmers and ranchers to help address a wide range of development issues. The RRDCs collaborate on national issues that span regions — like E-Commerce, the changing interface between rural, suburban, and urban places, workforce quality, and jobs creation. Each tailors programs to address particular needs in its region.

National Agricultural Library
As the Nation’s primary source for information about agriculture, the National Agricultural Library increases the availability and use of agricultural information for researchers, educators, policymakers, consumers, and the public. The Library is one of the world’s largest and most accessible agricultural research libraries and plays a vital role in supporting research, education, and applied agriculture. Library staff will provide hands-on demonstrations of their Internet resources and answer questions regarding all of their products.

Agricultural Research Service
TheARS exhibits highlights research to develop solutions to a wide range of problems related to food and agriculture. Such problems require long-term commitment of resources and are unlikely to have solutions with a quick commercial payoff. Problems range from protecting crops and livestock from costly pests and diseases to improving quality and safety of agricultural products, determining the best nutrition for humans, and sustaining natural resources.

Climate Prediction Center
The Climate Prediction Center of the National Weather Service maintains a constant watch on the condition of earth's climate system. CPC informs users of the current and future status of the climate and its impact on climate and weather in the United States, through a suite of operational products. Our exhibit will describe these products and afford an opportunity to discuss the implications of the products for your requirements. CPC’s website will also be demonstrated.

National Drought Mitigation Center
Located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the NDMC stresses a risk-based management approach to drought that emphasizes preparedness. The center helps people and institutions develop and implement measures to reduce societal vulnerability to drought. Staff will be available to answer questions regarding drought monitoring, mitigation, and planning techniques and to demonstrate the center's web site, including the weekly national "drought monitor" map.

International Research Institute for Climate Prediction
IRI seeks to enhance society’s capability to understand, anticipate and manage the impacts of seasonal climate fluctuations, especially in developing countries, through strategic and applied research, education and capacity building, and forecast and information products. The display highlights key issues related to seasonal climate forecasting and its use in agricultural decision making.
Get Forum Speeches and Reports Online

Sign Up Now to Receive Speeches by E-Mail
Sign up now for this free service. Delivery will begin about March 1 and continue as additional speeches are received from presenters. Speeches will be mailed in text format without tables or illustrations.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu
For the message, type only: subscribe ag-forum
If possible, leave the subject line blank, and do not attach a signature.

Download Forum Speeches after March 1
At http://www.usda.gov/occa, click the Forum logo, then click "Read Forum Speeches" to view or download speech texts and slides.

USDA’s Latest Long-Term Projections
USDA will release USDA Agricultural Baseline Projections to 2011 at the Forum. Access the report on the Internet at:
To order a printed copy call 1-800-999-6779 or write to ERS-NASS, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Request item WA08-2X02-1.