

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Table of Contents

Preface	3
Agency-Wide	3
Purpose Statement.....	3
OIG and GAO Reports	3
Available Funds and FTEs	4
Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs	5
Vehicle Fleet	5
Shared Funding Projects.....	7
Account 1: Office of the Secretary	9
Appropriations Language.....	9
Lead-Off Tabular Statement.....	9
Project Statements.....	10
Justification of Changes.....	10
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs.....	11
Object Classification.....	12
Status of Programs.....	13
USDA Advisory Committees.....	18
Status of Programs.....	21

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2027 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2024 and 2025; Working Families Tax Cut Act; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026; and the President’s Budget request for 2027. Amounts for 2026 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the Working Families Tax Cut Act is used to refer to the Public Law 119-21.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of small non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1). Due to rounding, some tables may not sum exactly.

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Departmental Administration (DA) was established to ensure the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) administrative programs and policies meet the needs of USDA program organizations and are consistent with laws and mandates. DA provides leadership to ensure timely and effective delivery of high quality and cost-effective mission support services across the Department, and coordinates human resources, procurement, property management, emergency preparedness and response activities, safety, security and programs for small and disadvantaged business utilization.

DA consists of the Office of Human Resource Management (OHRM), the Office of Property and Environmental Management (OPEM), the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP), the Office of Operations (OO), and the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU).

DA is located in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2025, there were 261 permanent full-time employees, funded by appropriated funds (65) and the Working Capital Fund (196). Of these employees 180 were in Washington D.C. and 81 were in field offices.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

Table DA-1. Closed, Implemented OIG Reports

ID	Date Opened	Date Closed	Title	Result
GAO-23-105408	01/13/2023	04/28/2025	Abandoned Hardrock Mines: Land Management Agencies Should Improve Reporting of Total Cleanup Costs	Recommendation 2- The Secretary of Agriculture should expand the information available to Congress regarding the agency's fiscal exposure from abandoned hardrock mines by clearly identifying the amount of known cleanup cost estimates specifically for such mines in supplemental reports or other budget materials.

Table DA-2. Closed, Implemented GAO Reports

ID	Date Opened	Date Closed	Title	Result
96601-0001-21	04/23/2025	07/28/2025	Controls Over USDA's Completion of Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System Requirement	Recommendation 1 –We recommend that OCP develop and implement monitoring activities to assess USDA agencies' compliance with CPARS

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTEs

Table DA-3. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations .	\$23,500	71	\$24,250	65	\$17,015	52	\$26,969	52
Total Discretionary								
Appropriations	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52
Total Available	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52
Lapsing Balances.....	-208	-	-497	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	23,292	71	23,753	65	17,015	52	26,969	52
Other Funding:								
Reimb. from USDA Agencies	15,540	59	12,430	76	11,809	57	11,809	57
Flex Spending Account.....	608	-	372	-	372	-	372	-
Employee Experience Division....	-	-	3,485	13	-	-	-	-
Human Resource Priority Goals ...	3,455	8	-	-	3,485	-	3,485	-
Medical Services	1,842	-	1,974	-	-	-	-	-
Shuttle Services	429	-	458	-	458	-	458	-
Talent Group	3,094	13	3,313	15	-	-	-	-
Target Center	1,524	4	1,583	6	1,266	5	1,266	5
Employee Labor Relations	1,494	7	2,186	15	2,077	9	2,077	9
Office of Customer Experience.....	2,839	2	3,012	5	-	-	-	-
Real Property Leasing	908	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NCR Interpreting Services	1,100	-	1,045	-	1,045	-	1,045	-
Working Capital Fund.....	77,640	181	75,509	196	64,573	169	64,573	169
Other Misc Funds.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Funding	110,473	274	105,367	301	85,085	240	85,085	240
Total Available, Other Funding	110,473	274	105,367	301	85,085	240	85,085	240
Lapsing Balances.....	-161	-	-495	-	-	-	-	-
Total Oblig. Other funding	110,312	274	104,872	301	85,085	240	85,085	240
Total Obligations, DA	133,604	345	128,625	366	102,100	292	112,054	292
Total, Agriculture Available.....	133,973	345	129,617	366	102,100	292	112,054	292
Total Available, DA	133,973	345	129,617	366	102,100	292	112,054	292

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs

Table DA-4. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2024 Actual			2025 Actual			2026 Est.			2027 Est.		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
SES	5	1	6	6	1	7	6	1	7	6	1	7
GS-15.....	12	8	20	14	6	20	14	6	20	14	6	20
GS-14.....	37	27	64	27	39	66	27	39	66	27	39	66
GS-13.....	53	23	76	22	30	52	18	27	45	18	27	45
GS-12.....	29	6	35	28	12	40	8	12	20	8	12	20
GS-11.....	9	11	20	11	2	13	11	2	13	11	2	13
GS-10.....	2	4	6	3	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	3
GS-9.....	6	-	6	5	-	5	5	-	5	5	-	5
GS-8.....	3	1	4	9	-	9	9	-	9	9	-	9
GS-7.....	3	-	3	12	-	12	12	-	12	12	-	12
GS-6.....	1	-	1	17	-	17	17	-	17	17	-	17
GS-5.....	-	-	-	16	-	16	16	-	16	16	-	16
GS-4.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
Total Permanent.....	160	81	241	171	90	261	147	87	234	147	87	234
Total Perm. FT EOY.....	160	81	241	171	90	261	147	87	234	147	87	234
FTE.....	160	81	241	171	90	261	147	87	234	147	87	234

VEHICLE FLEET

Motor Vehicle Fleet

Departmental Administration's (DA) mission is to provide management leadership to ensure that USDA administrative programs, policies, advice and counsel meet the needs of USDA people and projects, consistent with laws and mandates; and provide safe and efficient facilities and services to customers. Departmental Administration (DA) utilizes fleet vehicles for a multitude of critical purposes ensuring that mission requirements are met, and personnel are empowered to successfully carry out the mission. Fleet vehicles are essential to DA being able to carry out its mission of managing the people, project and property assets of USDA.

Replacement Criteria

Fleet vehicles are replaced in accordance with established vehicle-class replacement standards. Optimal replacement cycle analyses, vehicle allocation methodology (VAM) and total cost of ownership / leasing and lifecycle model analyses are integral to the sourcing strategy and decision-making process.

Reductions to Fleet

Mission requirements dictate the need for retaining vehicles within the inventory and are only retained through justifiable means as mission-critical and best fit within the overall optimal fleet profile. Vehicle utilization is constantly monitored and weighed in determining whether each fleet asset maintains a place within the inventory. VAM studies, weighting, scoring, optimization, and value analyses are integral to the strategy and decision-making process and are conducted to determine whether a vehicle should be retained, transferred, reassigned, or eliminated from the inventory.

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Table DA-5. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

Item	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
2018 End of Year Operating										
Inventory.....	5	6	9	-	1	6	-	4	31	\$132,752
2024 End of Year Operating										
Inventory.....	18	4	14	-	1	12	-	5	54	691,146
2025 Actual Acquisitions	1	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	10	
2025 Actual Disposals.....	11	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	25	
2025 End of Year Operating										
Inventory.....	8	4	9	-	1	12	-	5	39	526,764
2026 Planned Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2026 Planned Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2026 End of Year Operating										
Inventory.....	8	4	9	-	1	12	-	5	39	526,764
2027 Planned Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2027 Planned Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2027 End of Year Operating										
Inventory.....	8	4	9	-	1	12	-	5	39	526,764

Table DA-6. Statement of Proposed Acquisition of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2024	54	2	2	-	2	54
2025	54	25	10	-	10	39
2026	39	-	-	-	-	39
2027	39	-	-	-	-	39

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Table DA-7. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA Contact Center	\$191	\$181		
Fleet Charge Card Services.....		1	-	-
General Counsel Legal Compliance		19	256	256
Human Resources Enterprise System Management...	322	354	242	237
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	192	150	206	206
Mail and Reproduction Management Division	453	224	531	536
Material Management Service Center.....	125	132	99	100
Personnel and Document Security Program	20	23	31	-
Procurement Operations Division	2,478	2,223	1,422	1,422
Subtotal	3,781	3,307	2,787	2,757
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center.....	14	4	4	4
Finance and Management:				
Financial Management Support Services	2,515	2,750	1,167	1,153
Financial Shared Services.....	569	525	379	378
Internal Control Support Services.....	84	57	27	27
National Finance Center	131	133	133	133
Subtotal	3,299	3,465	1,706	1,691
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	3,492	3,641	2,511	2,452
Dept. Administration Information Technology Office ..	2,784	2,893	1,696	-
Digital Infrastructure Services Center.....	2,656	2,710	2,336	4,013
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services.....	419	536	603	603
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services.....	1,069	862	42	45
Enterprise Network Services	716	676	284	284
Subtotal	11,136	11,318	7,472	7,397
Correspondence Management Services:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	107	51	40	40
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	18,337	18,145	12,009	11,889
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Agency Partnership Outreach	31	29	16	17
America's Agricultural Heritage	-	-	2	2
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	11	2	-	-
Employee Experience	15	11	1	-
Medical Services	122	-	-	-
NCR Interpreting Services.....	51	52	38	38
OCFO Shared Services Branch.....	-	-	3	5
Office of Customer Experience	12	6	-	-
Physical Security	20	24	11	11
Security Detail	22	32	68	68
Security Operations.....	31	28	31	31
Talent Group	14	14	2	-
TARGET Center.....	7	6	5	5
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	336	204	177	177
Agency Total	18,673	18,349	12,186	12,066

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ACCOUNT 1: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Office of the Secretary (Including Transfers of Funds)

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, [~~\$46,361,000~~]\$64,987,000 of which not to exceed [~~\$7,000,000~~]\$5,964,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary[, of which \$500,000 shall be for the establishment of a Seafood Industry Liaison]; not to exceed [~~\$1,700,000~~]\$15,259,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed [~~\$5,190,000~~]\$5,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations, of which \$1,000,000 shall be to continue a Tribal Public Health Resource Center at a land grant university with existing indigenous public health expertise to expand current partnerships and collaborative efforts with indigenous groups to improve the delivery of public health services and functions in American Indian communities focusing on indigenous food sovereignty; not to exceed [~~\$5,250,000~~]\$1,998,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement; not to exceed [~~\$18,721,000~~]\$28,269,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which [~~\$17,015,000~~]\$26,969,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed \$3,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed [~~\$5,000,000~~]\$4,997,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$22,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency[: *Provided further*, That during any 30 day notification period referenced in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form].

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table DA-8. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (in dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2026	\$17,015,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>+ 9,954,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2027	<u>26,969,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table DA-9. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual	2025 FTEs Actual	2026 FTEs Estimated	2027 FTEs Estimated	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Chg Dec.	Key				
Discretionary Approps:											
Dept Admin.....	\$23,500	71	\$23,500	65	\$17,015	52	\$26,969	52	+\$9,954	-	(1)
OSEC Transfer.....	-	-	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal.....	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-	-
Total Adj Approp.....	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-	-
Total Appropriation ..	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-	-
Total Available.....	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-	-
Lapsing Balances.....	-208	-	-497	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	23,292	71	23,753	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-	-

Table DA-10. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual	2025 FTEs Actual	2026 FTEs Estimated	2026 FTEs Estimated	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.				
Discretionary Oblig:										
Dept Admin.....	\$23,292	71	\$23,753	65	\$17,015	52	\$26,969	52	+\$9,954	-
Subtotal.....	23,292	71	23,753	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-
Total Obligations.....	23,292	71	23,753	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances.....	208	-	497	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-
Total Appropriation	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52	+9,954	-

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The base budget for Departmental Administration is essential to ensuring the foundational operations and continuity of the USDA. These funds will continue to enable critical staff offices, including the Office of Operations, Office of Contracting, and Office of Human Resources, among others, to meet the diverse needs of the USDA. This ensures that program organizations operate consistently with applicable laws and mandates. DA's functions encompass vital areas such as human resources management, procurement and property management, homeland security oversight, and historically underserved business utilization. This funding directly supports DA and its sub-offices in administering and overseeing programs central to USDA's overall operations. Ultimately, DA funding provides indispensable operational support for all areas of the Department, while also effectively responding to the needs of the Executive Office of the President and members of Congress. In accordance with administration policy announced in the Budget, DA will follow new government-wide grants guidance prohibiting the use of Federal funds to pay for subscriptions to academic journals, as well as for the publication of research results that are not specifically required by Federal statute or approved in advance by a Federal agency. This policy preserves funds to support actual research by ensuring that the American taxpayer does not pay for the research, publication, and access to that research, essentially triple-charging the public for the same product.

The numbers of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) An increase of \$9,954,000 and 0 FTEs in Departmental Administration (\$17,015,000 and 52 FTEs available in 2026).

a) A decrease of \$46,000 for base funding for DA.

This modest decrease in base funding for Departmental Administration reflects a deliberate effort to align with administration priorities focused on streamlining workforce efforts, optimizing facilities, and pursuing other government-wide efficiencies. This adjustment ensures DA continues to meet its objective in administering and overseeing programs relating to USDA operations while contributing to broader efficiency goals. As part of this comprehensive efficiency initiative, a specific decrease of \$31,000 in National Security Related Expenses is being strategically realigned to the Office of Homeland Security (OHS). This move enhances departmental efficiency and effectiveness by centralizing national security resources under OHS, thereby eliminating redundancies and improving the coordination and execution of security policies without compromising USDA's resilience or readiness.

b) An increase of \$10,000,000 to support the Office of Personnel Management's consolidated Core Human Capital Management system.

This significant increase is dedicated to the Core Human Capital Management (Core HCM) initiative, a critical government-wide modernization effort led by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This initiative aims to consolidate more than 100 outdated and duplicative federal human resources systems into a single, modern Core HCM platform. This single, modern platform will encompass personnel action processing, employee system of record, position management, and workforce analytics, among other human resource functions. This amount includes estimated licensing fees for the new system, data migration, and warehousing of legacy data. Central to the Administration's priority of eliminating waste and inefficiency, this project is projected to deliver billions of dollars in savings for the American taxpayer. Furthermore, it will dramatically improve the federal government's ability to effectively manage its workforce, enhancing efficiency, data integrity, and service delivery across agencies, including USDA.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table DA-11. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for DA (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Alabama	\$366	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado	160	1	\$263	2	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	20,437	54	19,990	43	\$16,032	47	\$25,986	47
Florida	154	1	620	3	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	212	1	216	1	216	1
Idaho	94	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indiana	198	1	209	1	204	1	204	1
Michigan	212	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Minnesota	215	1	204	1	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	-	-	78	1	-	-	-	-
Montana	160	1	106	1	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	173	1	181	1	-	-	-	-
Nevada	339	2	203	2	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	-	-	104	1	168	1	168	1
Ohio	212	1	219	1	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania	-	-	590	3	184	1	184	1
Tennessee	120	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	352	2	774	4	211	1	211	1
Wisconsin	100	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations	23,292	71	23,753	65	17,015	52	26,969	52

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Lapsing Balances	208	-	497	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	23,500	71	24,250	65	17,015	52	26,969	52

OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Table DA-12. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$7,426	\$7,752	\$7,667	\$7,744
	Personnel Compensation, Field	3,378	3,766	757	765
11	Total personnel compensation	10,804	11,518	8,424	8,509
12	Personal benefits.....	3,715	3,903	2,774	2,802
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	4	1	1	1
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	14,523	15,422	11,199	11,312
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	57	54	37	37
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1	1	1	1
23.3	Comms, utilities, and misc. charges.....	400	360	251	251
24.0	Printing and reproduction	30	13	9	9
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	-	18	13	13
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	1,521	1,058	741	741
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources..	6,652	6,652	4,561	14,402
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	-	250	174	174
26.0	Supplies and materials	99	55	29	29
31.0	Equipment.....	9	-	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	8,769	8,331	5,816	15,657
99.9	Total, new obligations	23,292	23,753	17,015	26,969
	DHS Bldg. Sec. Payments (included in 25.3).....	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$221,340	\$213,710	\$215,847	\$218,006
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$115,525	\$137,512	\$138,887	\$140,276

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Departmental Administration (DA) provides overall direction, leadership, and coordination for the Department's management of human resources, property and fleet, procurement, small and disadvantaged business utilization, homeland security, customer experience, building and facilities operations, and safety and security programs under the leadership and guidance of the Assistant Secretary for Administration. DA is funded through the Office of the Secretary's appropriation. Activities of the offices that comprise DA are as follows.

Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM)

Current Activities

Employees are the Department's greatest resource. OHRM serves as the driving force behind organizational performance by planning and directing USDA's enterprise-wide human resources portfolio. OHRM sets the strategic direction for human resources across the Department, ensuring alignment with Administration objectives and enabling Mission Areas to acquire the workforce and expertise needed to achieve their goals. To accomplish this, OHRM implements hiring reforms and leverages technology innovations to attract and retain a highly qualified workforce. OHRM provides timely, Department-wide guidance to address barriers in the federal hiring process and supports USDA in overcoming workforce challenges. Additionally, OHRM develops and administers policies, procedures, and directives across a broad range of human capital functions, including position classification and management; training and employee development; labor and employee relations; executive resources management; staffing, recruitment, and onboarding; leave and compensation; strategic and workforce planning; enterprise systems and applications; benefits and performance management; employee awards and recognition; and organizational initiatives. OHRM is also responsible for coordinating across USDA, in coordination with OPM, to support the transition to OPM's Core HCM system.

Selected Examples of Recent Initiatives

OHRM partners with USDA Mission Areas to streamline permanent, temporary, and term positions by occupational series and grade, ensuring alignment with Departmental strategic goals. Data from this effort informs hiring, recruitment, and retention strategies and populates dashboards that track progress toward workforce objectives. OHRM also works closely with OPM to secure increased hiring flexibilities, such as direct hire authority and pay incentives, for USDA agencies. In addition, OHRM collaborates with senior leadership to advance Departmental-wide implementation of Executive Orders and guidance from OPM and the Office of Management and Budget that impact the workforce.

Key Updates:

- Executive Order 14151, "*Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*," - OHRM executed a rapid, Department-wide strategy to close DEI offices, place employees performing DEI-related duties on administrative leave, and remove DEI language from performance plans and policies.
- Executive Order 14170, "*Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service*," - OHRM established the Department-wide Talent Steering Board to drive merit-based hiring reforms and ensure timely reporting to OPM.
- Executive Order 14171, "*Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions Within the Federal Workforce*," - OHRM led Department-wide efforts to identify positions for conversion to Schedule Policy Career.
- Executive Order 14217, "*Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy*," - OHRM developed a comprehensive Workforce Restructuring Handbook, revised policies and procedures, and assigned competitive levels.
- OPM Guidance, Deferred Resignation Program (DRP) 1.0 and 2.0 - OHRM directed an enterprise-wide effort to track and monitor employee participation in DRP and oversaw Mission Area implementation to support workforce optimization reduction initiatives. As part of this effort, OHRM successfully offboarded over 15,000 employees.

- Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment (VSIP) and Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) Exploration – OHRM planned, promoted and implemented the use of VSIP and VERA, to advance workforce optimization and reduction initiatives across USDA.
- Presidential Memorandum, “*Restoring Accountability for Career Senior Executives*,” - OHRM implemented changes to the Senior Executive Service Performance Appraisal System and provided guidance and system revisions to USDA agencies to finalize implementation.
- OPM Guidance, Hiring Freeze – OHRM enforced a department-wide hiring freeze and managed Secretary-approved hiring exemptions.
- OPM Guidance, *Performance Management for Federal Employees* and *Return to In-Person Work* - OHRM led Department-wide efforts to align collective bargaining agreements with the Administration’s performance standards and return-to-work policies.

Office of Property and Environmental Management and Office of Operations (OPEM & OO)

Current Activities

Office of Property and Environmental Management (OPEM) provides Department-wide leadership, governance, and policy oversight for the full lifecycle management of USDA’s real and personal property assets. This includes acquisition, utilization, and disposal functions; administration of fleet charge cards; and comprehensive direction of fleet, transportation, and aviation programs. Through quarterly oversight and compliance reporting on the Department’s leasing portfolio, OPEM ensures operational accountability, and alignment with federal mandates and best-practice standards across all Mission Areas and Staff Offices. In addition, OPEM establishes and enforces environmental management policies at USDA facilities, including emergency response and restoration operations, energy management initiatives, and the advancement of sustainability objectives. These efforts collectively strengthen the Department’s stewardship of federal resources, enhance mission continuity, and support the Administration’s broader priorities for safety, sustainability, and operational excellence.

The Office of Operations (OO) is responsible for the repair, improvement, maintenance, sustainability and energy conservation activities at USDA’s Headquarters Complex (Agriculture South Building and the Jamie L. Whitten Building) and George Washington Carver Center (GWCC) in Beltsville, MD. The Headquarters buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since 1984, USDA has held the delegation of authority for managing, operating, maintaining, repairing, and improving the Headquarters Complex, encompassing 14.1 acres of grounds with two buildings comprising approximately 2.5 million gross square feet. Such responsibilities extend to the USDA-owned GWCC, which comprises 350,000 gross square feet, located on 73 acres in Beltsville, Maryland.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

OPEM implemented enhanced oversight and audit controls, ensuring regulatory compliance and accuracy in lease execution. In 2025, OPEM audited 345 lease awards, with 100 percent of corrective actions completed to achieve GSA requirements. This included 144 high-risk leases and all high-value actions requiring OPEM review prior to award – preventing improper execution and ensuring alignment with federal standards.

OPEM partnered with the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) to improve fleet card operations and develop procedures to transfer the fleet card program from OCP to OPEM. OCP and OPEM transitioned the fleet card program to OPEM for future management. OPEM installed telematics technology in an additional 5,000 vehicles, bringing the Departmental total to over 25,000 vehicles.

OPEM successfully approved 700 lease delegations through sustained collaboration, strategic negotiation, and prioritization of agency needs. This action restored operational continuity and enabled agencies to proceed with pending lease actions.

OPEM integrated sustainability priorities into the Real Property Capital Planning Policy Memorandum, ensuring future infrastructure decisions support resilience and Administration objectives.

Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP)

Current Activities

OCP is responsible for the following key programs and activities:

- Providing contracting, procurement and acquisition program management subject matter expertise and guidance for USDA leadership.
- Management and oversight of the USDA acquisition portfolio and workforce via guidance, compliance, regulatory procurement overhaul, training, and reporting.
- Management of the Department's primary procurement information system, the Integrated Acquisition System, and the Government Purchase Card (GPC) Purchase Card Service Center (PCSC).
- Operational contracting support to the Office of the Secretary (OSEC), Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), other staff offices and select Mission Areas via the Working Capital Fund (WCF).

OCP's current activities have focused on supporting USDA compliance with procurement-related Executive Orders, procurement policy rewrite per the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO), and continuing to provide outstanding operational contracting support for mission essential needs.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

Implementation of Executive Orders and Administration Priorities

In support of the President's "Department Of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative, USDA OCP completed a comprehensive review of over 12,000 existing contracts, with the goal of reducing overall federal spending or reallocating spending to enhance efficiency and align with the Administration's policies. Concurrently, USDA implemented a required executive review of all planned non-emergency contracts prior to solicitation and/or award. Only planned contracts that are determined to be mission essential by the Mission Area Chief Operating Officer (COO), and the USDA Senior Procurement Executive (SPE) are approved for obligation of funding. Additionally, the Government Purchase Card Program reduced open accounts by more than 75 percent to approximately 3,000 as required.

USDA is also leading an effort to consolidate procurement staff from all Mission Areas under the Assistant Secretary for Administration, within OCP. The goal is to complete the reorganization within the next year, in accordance with [Secretary Memorandum 1078-015](#).

Procurement Operations

Department-level Procurement Operations Division within OCP supported the operational contracting needs of all Department-level staff (e.g., OSEC, OCIO, OCFO, DA) and five Mission Areas in the planning, award, and administration of over 3,100 contracts with a 2025 total obligation of \$1.4 billion. Recent examples include:

- Averted shutdown of Return to Office (RTO) Tool by awarding a development contract in only 9 days. This contract takes the RTO from a proof of concept to a critical instrument in the USDA's compliance with Return to In-Person Work directives. In addition, this contract gives rapid development ability for future apps such as the Daily Attendance by Facility and Occupancy Tracker that will be deployed in early May and ready for future OMB requests.
- Centralized USDA's Cloud Service Support - negotiated unified enterprise support by bringing together mission areas from separate support levels and prices to all having top level support at the lowest price; established a renewal baseline and saved \$2.6 Million over 18 months.
- Negotiated the renewal of a software contract for both OCIO/DISC and OCFO/NFC. This software and network database solution supports the mainframe environment of DISC and NFC which are integrated into numerous federal applications that reside on the overall DISC mainframe, including the payroll and benefits systems which process payments for all federal employees. The resultant award was negotiated within available funds for the renewal and incorporated terms that can be

adjusted to support any potential updates to the utilized solution and potential future migration to a new solution. There are two resultant awards, each for a base year plus 4 option periods, with a value of \$41.1M and \$26.2M respectively.

- Negotiated and awarded an Enterprise Level Agreement (ELA) in support of all USDA Salesforce Licensing. This acquisition resulted in an initial \$55M in savings for just the initial Salesforce requirements. Savings are expected to increase as additional licenses are added. This agreement also provides price increase protection, license floor-ceiling terms and swap rights to provide flexibility. This is a five-year ELA.

Procurement Policy, Guidance & Oversight

In support of EO 14275, "Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement, USDA is actively participating in a government-wide effort to rewrite the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). USDA's Senior Procurement Executive is collaborating with the FAR Council on this initiative. In conjunction with the implementation of the reformed FAR, a rewrite of the USDA's Acquisition Regulation/ Manual (AGAR & AGAM) and Contracting Desk Book are being completed to ensure alignment with the new requirements. This effort aims to standardize and streamline procurement processes across the USDA, enhancing overall efficiency and effectiveness.

Implemented an enterprise-wide Internal Review Program to assess mission area compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), Agriculture Acquisition Regulation (AGAR), and OCP Contracting Desk Book. Best practices were identified and shared with the procurement workforce in multiple forums. Opportunities for improvement were also identified, and corrective action plans implemented to address these weaknesses.

Procurement Systems

USDA's procurement system, Integrated Acquisition System (IAS), supported 10,000 users and processed \$5.9 billion in obligations in 2025, a 19 percent decrease from 2024. IAS maintains the highest rating possible in operational, security, and IT investment posture.

To enhance procurement efficiency through automation, IAS continues to enhance and maintain several innovative solutions to automate contract closeout, contract file maintenance, and administrative modifications. IAS automated tools have demonstrated strong engagement and sustained value across the USDA acquisition workforce, with over 87,200 user sessions in the past 12 months.

In support of the new administrative priorities, the IAS Team implemented three new applications to a) track and enforce contract file completeness, b) review over 12,000 existing contracts for administrative alignment and mission criticality, and c) facilitate executive approval of every contract obligation. The IAS Team executed numerous data calls and implemented system validations to facilitate USDA compliance with all new reporting requirements.

In 2026, the IAS Team will support USDA contracting consolidation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) opportunities, and USDA procurement system consolidation. With a reduced budget, savings will be achieved through a hosting move to the cloud, software license negotiations, and trimming contract support and software functionality to meet the most critical needs.

Government Purchase Card (GPC) Program

Led and managed the Enterprise-wide Government Purchase Card (GPC) Program which executed 588,000 transactions worth approximately \$412 million in expenditures and generated over \$7.8 million in rebates during 2025.

GPC Program participants completed required refresher training with a new course that combined 5 separate courses into a single course during 2025. During 2026, the new micro-purchase threshold (MPT) of \$15,000 will be implemented for cardholders and new flexibilities from the FAR overhaul will be incorporated into the GPC Program Guide.

USDA is the largest participant in GSA's Commercial Platform Program (CPP) with over \$28.3 million in expenditures and estimated savings of over \$3 million. The GPC Program will continue to pursue strategic opportunities to assist agencies in meeting their mission while providing an efficient tool for actions under the micro-purchase threshold using new bank products, platforms, etc. Currently, USDA participates with 6 platforms provided by GSA.

Acquisition Workforce Management and Support

Developed and enhanced resources for the USDA acquisition workforce, including guidance, templates, operating procedures, and tools to support the acquisition workforce in performing their duties. Resources are aggregated on a department-wide SharePoint site, providing an on-demand, one stop shop for procurement information.

Provided oversight of no-cost contracting training curriculum for USDA employees to earn over 226,689 continuous learning points (CLPs) during the current continuous learning period to meet acquisition workforce certification requirements. Also provided 45 training sessions on procurement systems topics for 3,722 attendees, issuing 5,132 CLPs.

Managed USDA Acquisition Workforce certification and related processes for more than 7,800 Contracting Officer's Representatives (CORs), over 600 contracting officials (50 with Digital Service specialization), over 300 program managers (over 60 with IT specialization), Department-wide.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

Current Activities

OSDBU has primary responsibility for leading the implementation of the Department's Small Business Program, providing maximum opportunity for Small, Small Disadvantaged, Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone), and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses to participate in USDA contracting processes and to fully integrate small business into all aspects of USDA contracting and program activities. OSDBU also has the responsibility for the Department to implement and administer procurement programs by the AbilityOne Program, which provides employment through Government contract opportunities for more than 45,000 Americans who are blind or severely disabled.

OSDBU continues to assist the agencies to meet and exceed the small business goals as negotiated with the Small Business Administration (SBA). The Small Business Act establishes a government-wide goal in which each federal agency must adhere to.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

OSDBU works closely with USDA's senior management and contracting offices and actively assisted in the acquisition process by reviewing all planned acquisitions not already set-aside for small business competition (clearance form) and make recommendations for small business set-aside acquisition strategies and works closely to increase small business competition with large businesses currently contracting with USDA by increased subcontracting guidance.

In support of the OSDBU's mission, hosted and participated in numerous small business events throughout the country in-person and virtually. These events consist of all small businesses interested in working with USDA and the Federal government. This is to provide information and technical assistance as well as a true understanding of contracting with the Federal government. These events may include other Federal agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations, Large Businesses and learning Institutions. OSDBU will continue to host one-on-one meetings and Small Business Events via in-person or virtual. Outreach in OSDBU is vital in respect to meeting/providing information to small businesses pertaining to doing business with USDA.

USDA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Language in the General Provisions as part of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act permits agencies funded in the Act to finance the activities of selected Committees that advise them from their own funds, subject to the limitation on total obligations for these Committees.

Provided below is a list of those Committees subject to this spending limitation and their funding levels for 2024 - 2026.

Table DA-13. USDA Advisory Committees with funding levels (in dollars)

Policy Area and Committee Title	2027			
	2024 Allocation	2025 Allocation	2026 Allocation	Allocation
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services:				
National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition.....	\$80,000	\$80,000	-	-
Food Safety:				
National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection ¹	60,000	60,000	-	-
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods ²	150,000	150,000	-	-
Research, Education, and Economics:				
Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics ³	70,000	70,000	-	-
Marketing And Regulatory Programs:				
National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee ⁴	50,000	50,000	-	-
National Poultry Improvement Plan	30,000	30,000	80,000	80,000
Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards ⁵	-	60,000	-	-
National Organic Standards Board	200,000	200,000	250,000	250,000
Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee ⁶	100,000	100,000	100,000	-

¹ Termination of discretionary advisory committees; On February 19, 2025, the President issued [Executive Order 14217](#), “Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy.” Consistent with the E.O., per the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-002, dated February 20, 2025, on the *Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture*; and the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-007, dated April 21, 2025, on the *Restructuring of Federal Advisory Committees Within the Department of Agriculture*.

² Termination of discretionary advisory committees; On February 19, 2025, the President issued [Executive Order 14217](#), “Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy.” Consistent with the E.O., per the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-002, dated February 20, 2025, on the *Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture*; and the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-007, dated April 21, 2025, on the *Restructuring of Federal Advisory Committees Within the Department of Agriculture*.

³ Termination of discretionary advisory committees; On February 19, 2025, the President issued [Executive Order 14217](#), “Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy.” Consistent with the E.O., per the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-002, dated February 20, 2025, on the *Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture*; and the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-007, dated April 21, 2025, on the *Restructuring of Federal Advisory Committees Within the Department of Agriculture*.

⁴ Termination of discretionary advisory committees; On February 19, 2025, the President issued [Executive Order 14217](#), “Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy.” Consistent with the E.O., per the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-002, dated February 20, 2025, on the *Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture*; and the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-007, dated April 21, 2025, on the *Restructuring of Federal Advisory Committees Within the Department of Agriculture*.

⁵ Termination of discretionary advisory committees; On February 19, 2025, the President issued [Executive Order 14217](#), “Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy.” Consistent with the E.O., per the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-002, dated February 20, 2025, on the *Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture*; and the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-007, dated April 21, 2025, on the *Restructuring of Federal Advisory Committees Within the Department of Agriculture*.

⁶ Termination of discretionary advisory committees; On February 19, 2025, the President issued [Executive Order 14217](#), “Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy.” Consistent with the E.O., per the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-002, dated February 20, 2025, on the *Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture*; and the Secretary Memorandum (SM) 1078-007, dated April 21, 2025, on the *Restructuring of Federal Advisory Committees Within the Department of Agriculture*.

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Policy Area and Committee Title	2024	2025	2026	2027
	Allocation	Allocation	Allocation	Allocation
Grain Inspection Advisory Committee	75,000	75,000	125,000	125,000
Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs:				
Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade....	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for				
Trade.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Advisory Committee on Emerging Markets	10,000	-	-	-
Farm Production and Conservation:				
Agricultural Air Quality Task Force	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	100,000	175,000	175,000	175,000
Office of Tribal Relations:				
Tribal Advisory Committee	-	251,000	275,000	275,000
Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement:				
Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers.....	101,000	101,000	101,000	101,000
Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and				
Ranchers.....	112,000	112,000	112,000	112,000
USDA/Hispanic Association of Colleges and				
Universities	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total, Advisory Committees	1,503,000	1,879,000	2,053,000	1,563,000
Advisory Committee Liaison Services.....	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Contingencies/Reserve	1,317,000	941,000	847,000	1,237,000
Total, Advisory Committees' Limitation	<u>2,900,000</u>	<u>2,900,000</u>	<u>2,900,000</u>	<u>2,900,000</u>

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STATUS OF PROGRAMS

From 1983 through 1996, a central appropriation provided financial support for all authorized USDA Advisory Committee activities other than those included in the Forest Service and those financed from user fees. Beginning in 1997, language in the General Provisions of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act permits agencies funded in the Act to finance the activities of selected committees that advise them from their own funds, subject to a Department-wide limitation on expenditures for those committees. The statuses of these programs provide information on the activities of Committees during 2025.

Food Safety

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI)

In the Secretary Memorandum 1078-002, Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture, dated February 20, 2025, Secretary Brooke L. Rollins requested the termination of the Food Safety and Inspection Service's federal advisory committee, the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI). The termination action is consistent with the President's Executive Order 14217 and pursuant to the Secretary's authority under 41 CFR 102-3.55(a)(2), and all other applicable laws. The United States Department of Agriculture terminated the NACMPI on February 20, 2025. The purpose of the NACMPI was to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture concerning State and Federal programs with respect to meat and poultry inspection, food safety and other matters that fall within the scope of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act.

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF)

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) was a discretionary advisory committee established in 1988 by the Secretary of Agriculture, after consulting with the Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Committee was formed in response to the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations to provide an interagency approach to microbiological criteria, given that numerous federal, State, and local agencies are responsible for food safety. NACMCF provided impartial scientific advice and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other government agencies on microbiological and public health issues relative to the safety of the U.S. food supply.

The USDA terminated NACMCF on February 20, 2025. The Executive Order leading to termination of the committees is EO 14217.

Research, Education, and Economics

Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics

The Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics was established under agency authority on July 16, 1962, in the Department of Commerce, and was chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, in January 1973. This Committee was moved to USDA in 1997 when responsibility for the Census of Agriculture transferred from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). It makes recommendations on the conduct of the periodic censuses and surveys of agriculture, other related surveys, and the types of agricultural information obtained from respondents. The Committee also advises on the content and frequency of agricultural reports.

The Committee is composed of 22 members with professional knowledge regarding the data needs of the food, fiber, and rural sector. It provides a direct link with the major agricultural organizations and farm groups which could not be as effectively or efficiently obtained from any other source. The Committee is the primary forum for reconciling the divergent data needs between data user and provider groups. It is also instrumental in helping NASS provide the maximum value from their

statistics, within available funding, and to continually improve its products and services. The charter was re-established in October 2024. The committee did not meet during 2025. The USDA terminated the committee on February 20, 2025. The Executive Order leading to termination of the committee is EO 14217.

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (NWSAC)

The Committee is established under agency authority to support the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Service's (WS) program, which operates under the Agriculture Act of March 2, 1931 (commonly known as the "Animal Damage Control Act" or "ADCA"), 7 U.S.C. §§8351-8354, amended by Pub. L. 115-270, October 23, 2018, 132 Stat 3765. The purpose of the NWSAC is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and program issues necessary to manage damage caused by depredating wildlife to protect America's agricultural, industrial, and natural resources, and to safeguard public health and safety.

The Committee's memberships are composed of 20 people representing a broad spectrum of agricultural, environmental, conservation, academic, animal welfare, and related interests. The Committee members met in Fort Collins, CO on October 29-30, 2024. During this meeting, the Committee put forth 21 recommendations for the Secretary.

Consistent with the E.O. 14217, on February 20, 2025, the Secretary of Agriculture issued a Secretary's Memorandum 1078-002 "Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture," the Committee was designated as no longer necessary and was terminated.

National Poultry Improvement (NPPI) and the General Conference Committee (GCC)

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPPI), started in 1935, is a successful Federal-State-industry cooperative program for controlling specific poultry diseases in the United States. The U.S. commercial poultry industry is an approximately \$40 billion industry. The Plan allows the application of new technology to improve poultry and poultry products throughout the country. The NPPI is governed by the General Conference Committee (GCC), the Official Federal Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture on poultry health. Recommendations are made at the National Biennial Conferences (held every other year) by official delegates representing participating flock owners, breeders, and hatchery owners from all cooperating States and territories, in accordance with title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR) Part 147, Subpart E. The GCC can, on a limited basis, make an interim approval of a change until the change is published in the Federal Register. In 2025, the General Conference Committee met in Minneapolis, MN, on July 17, 2025. Two diagnostic assays and four proposed changes requested interim approval. Both diagnostic assays and two of the four proposed changes, to correct a typographical error and to alter Compartment Auditor requirements, were granted interim approval.

Accomplishments of the NPPI-GCC for 2025 at the General Conference Committee Meeting:

Approved and accepted the 2024 minutes as written.

Offered presentations on Mycoplasma, Salmonella and Avian Influenza.

Recommended interim approval for diagnostic assays: (1) Test for NPPI Approval: Thermo Fisher Scientific SureTect Salmonella species PCR Assay"; and (2) "Test for NPPI Approval Continuation: Thermo Fischer Scientific Applied Biosystems TaqMan Salmonella Enteritidis Detection PCR".

Recommended interim approval for two of the four submitted interim proposed changes: (1) To correct a Program Standards typographical error in primer selection for S. Enteritidis tests and (2) To alter Compartment Auditor requirements to allow for previous Compartment Auditors to be eligible to continue on as Private Compartment Auditors, without needing ACPV certification.

We believe the GCC met all goals for the year 2025.

Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards

In 1923, the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (U.S. Code Title 7, Chapter 2) was passed to establish and promote the use of the official cotton standards of the United States in interstate and foreign commerce. The Universal Cotton Standards Agreement was established in 1923 under the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (U.S. Code Title 7, Chapter 2, Section 57a) to provide for the use of the Universal standards of Grades for American Upland cotton for the marketing of American Upland cotton. In 1924, a supplemental agreement was made to hold regular cotton standards conferences to examine and approve the practical forms of the Universal Standards. Under this agreement, the foreign cotton associations involved were given the authority to recommend, review and approve proposed changes to the official standards. In 1989, the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement (Sec. X) was revised to require an Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and composed of both domestic and foreign industry representatives. The Secretary of Agriculture reestablished Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards in accordance with provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. 10. On June 1, 2023.

Consistent with the E.O. 14217, on February 20, 2025, the Secretary of Agriculture issued a Secretary's Memorandum 1078-002 "Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture," the Committee was designated as no longer necessary and was terminated.

National Organic Standards Board

Title XXI of the 1990 Farm Bill, known as the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA), established the National Organic Program (NOP), a USDA program responsible for implementing and enforcing organic standards and facilitating the work of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), an Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture. The OFPA requires that the NOSB be composed of 15 members, representing the following categories: Four individuals who own or operate an organic farming operation, or employees of such individuals; Two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation, or employees of such individuals; One individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products, or employees of such individuals; Three individuals with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation; Three individuals who represent public interest or consumer interest groups; One individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry; One individual who is a USDA certifying agent. Members serve staggered five-year terms.

The NOSB charter was renewed and approved in July 2024 for a period of two years.

The NOSB has sole authority granted through OFPA to recommend additions to or deletions from the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The NOSB drafts recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture based on needs of the industry, with input from both industry and the public. The Board's main functions are to review each substance on the National List every 5 years (called sunset review), make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and advise the Secretary on other aspects of implementation OFPA and the NOP regulations.

In 2025 the NOP published a call for nominations to fill five (5) vacancies beginning in January 2026. Applications are currently under review.

The NOSB met twice in 2025: In Fall 2024 in Portland, Oregon and in Spring 2025 virtually. The Fall 2024 meeting was also live-streamed. At each meeting the NOSB discussed substances used in organic crop, livestock, and handling/processing production, as well as organic standards and procedures that impact the entire organic community. Prior to the public meetings, the NOSB received and analyzed a total of approximately 10,688 written comments and listened to oral testimony from 200 stakeholders. During the public meetings, the NOSB heard updates from the National Organic Program (NOP) about its activities, hosted several guest speakers who provided updates on the

Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and hosted an expert panel on Compost. The NOSB also discussed a number of agenda items, and voted on recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture. In 2025 the NOSB made a total of 13 formal recommendations. Recommendations are sent to the National Organic Program's Standards Division and may result in rulemaking, guidance to organic certifiers, and/or other deliverables as appropriate, such as training or outreach materials.

Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee

The Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee (Committee) was established under Departmental Regulation 1042-139. The Committee was comprised of members of the fruit and vegetable industry who represent the following sectors: growers, packers, and shippers; wholesalers and distributors; retailers and restaurateurs; State Department of Agriculture leadership; trade association and organization executives; processors; importers and exporters; foodservice suppliers and brokers; organic producers; and farmer's market and food hub representatives. The Committee's purpose and responsibility was to research, review, and develop recommendations to the Secretary on issues facing the industry as well as ways the USDA can tailor its programs and services to better meet stakeholder needs.

In 2025, the Committee held one hybrid public meeting (October 8-9, 2024). During this meeting, the Committee engages with Agricultural Marketing Service staff and put forward recommendations regarding food safety, and labor issues, and committee structure for USDA consideration.

The Committee charter was reestablished on May 21, 2024. In the Secretary Memorandum 1078-002, Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture, dated February 20, 2025, Secretary Rollins requested the termination of the Committee.

Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (GIAC)

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (GIAC) is created under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA) to provide recommendations on official inspection and weighing services to the Secretary of Agriculture. The GIAC consists of 15 members that serve a 3-year term and represents a wide range of segments throughout the grain industry. They include grain producers, processors, merchandisers, handlers, exporters, consumers, grain inspection agencies, and academics. The GIAC convenes twice a year, and the meetings are open to the public.

On October 29-30, 2024, the GIAC held an in-person (and hybrid option) meeting at FGIS' National Grain Center in Kansas City, Missouri. During the meeting, FGIS provided updates concerning the budget and fees, upcoming audits scheduled, equipment evaluation project, the GIAC's nomination process and charter, and the FGIS, Food and Drug Administration Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The GIAC heard presentations about Cyber Security from the USDA's Chief Deputy Information Security Officer for Operations, Cybersecurity and Privacy Operations Center, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on domestic and international agriculture threats. The GIAC submitted recommendations from all five discussion topics, which included, the Container Handbook, updating FGIS-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)/Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) MOU, Equipment Equivalency, Laboratory Scales, and Periodic Updates for FGIS Inspection Instructions. Other topics discussed by the Committee included Technology and Grain Inspection and Emerging Export Issues.

On June 11, 2025, the GIAC held a virtual meeting. During the meeting, FGIS presented program updates and Seth Meyer, former USDA Chief Economist, presented on export trends. The Committee discussed future planning, including forming a technology working group to support the implementation and certification of new inspection systems, and drafting a pilot project expected by mid-July.

Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs***Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade (APAC) and Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade (ATACS)***

Pursuant to Departmental Regulation 1042-68, USDA currently administers the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade (APAC) and six Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade (ATAC): (1) Animals and Animal Products; (2) Fruits and Vegetables; (3) Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds; (4) Processed Foods; (5) Sweeteners and Sweetener Products; and (6) Tobacco, Cotton, Peanuts, and Hemp. The APAC and the ATACs are jointly administered by the USDA and the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The APAC and ATACs are authorized by sections 135(c)(1) and (2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (Pub. L. No. 93-618, 19 U.S.C. 2155). Congress established these Committees to ensure that trade policy (including trade negotiating) objectives adequately reflect private-sector U.S. commercial and economic interests. The Committees provide a formal mechanism to ensure engagement between the Federal Government and the private sector regarding international agricultural trade matters. The APAC and ATACs members are essential to advancing the Administration's trade agenda to liberalize agricultural trade, expand access to U.S. food and agricultural products in overseas markets, and reduce unfair competition. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative. All Committee members have demonstrated leadership qualities, commodity expertise, and knowledge of the effects that various trade barriers, or the absence of trade barriers, have on the commodities they represent. All members are recognized leaders in their field and can represent those interests fairly.

On February 19, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order, Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy, which set forth the Administration's policy of reducing the size of the Federal government to minimize waste, fraud, abuse, and inflation and to promote American freedom and innovation. To that end, the President's order directed the termination of several Federal advisory committees and ordered the identification of additional Federal advisory committees for termination. On April 21, 2025, in Secretary's Memorandum 1078-007, "Restructuring of Federal Advisory Committees within the Department of Agriculture," the termination of the ATACs was paused until further notice.

In 2025, the agricultural trade landscape was extremely dynamic. APAC and ATAC members actively engaged in weekly Advisor calls hosted by USTR. Moreover, they routinely provided written comments to Administration proposals on Agreements on Reciprocal Trade through a secure online portal. They also held informal consultations and virtual meetings to prepare formal recommendations and letters on continued U.S. membership in the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, agricultural trade priorities, and the first joint review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, among other topics. Because USDA and USTR did not hold a plenary meeting, no funds were spent on APAC and ATAC activities other than salary costs to complete administrative actions.

Farm Production and Conservation***Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF or the Task Force)***

The USDA Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research was created in accordance with Section 391 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on issues related to agricultural air quality. In 1996, Congress found that various studies alleged that agriculture is a source of Particulate Matter emissions and that many of these studies have often been based on erroneous data. Congress also cited ongoing research by USDA and declared that Federal policy in regard to air pollution be based on sound scientific findings that are subject to adequate peer review and take into account economic feasibility. The Task Force's mandate is to strengthen and coordinate USDA's air quality research effort and identify cost effective ways for the agriculture industry to improve air quality and meet Federal and local air quality emissions requirements. The Chief of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service chairs the Task Force. The Task Force membership consists of leaders in farming, industry, health, and science. The Task

Force also includes representatives from USDA's Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The Task Force membership was selected by the Secretary on October 7, 2024. However, the existing charter expired on February 2, 2025, prior to a meeting being held. The Task Force remains administratively inactive until the charter is renewed. No meetings were held in 2025 and subsequently, no accomplishments were made. As such, no funds were spent on the committee other than minimal salary costs required to complete administrative actions in 2025. It is anticipated that the Secretary will renew the charter for the Task Force in 2026, with 2-3 meetings held in 2026.

Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee

The Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (UAIPAC) was established in accordance to section 12302 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), Public Law 115-334, 7 U.S.C. § 6923(b)(1) to advise the Director of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production within NRCS and the Secretary of Agriculture on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices; and any other aspects of the implementation of that section of the Farm Bill. The UAIPAC charter was established in January 2021. Pursuant to the direction of Congress at 7 U.S.C. § 6923(b)(4)(A), the Committee plans to meet not fewer than three times per year.

2025 Accomplishments:

Public meetings took place virtually on September 10th, September 17th, and September 24th, totaling over 1,500 registered public attendees and stakeholders representing the urban agriculture and innovative production community nationwide. A total of 6 new recommendations were passed and expected to be included in the next final report.

2026 Plans:

NRCS expects to hold no fewer than three public meetings as required by statute with at least one hybrid meeting held at a USDA facility. NRCS expects to begin the charter renewal process and submit a request to extend the active status of the Committee for an additional two years through January 2029. NRCS expects to solicit new members and fill at least five vacancies to maintain the Committee's full-membership status.

Office of Tribal Relations *Tribal Advisory Committee*

Section 12303 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) provides that the Secretary of Agriculture will maintain a Tribal Advisory Committee to provide advice and guidance on matters related to Tribal and Indian affairs. The Committee's statutory authorization requires the appointment of 11 members representing a balance of Indian tribes, geography, and the agriculture industry. This Committee must meet no less than twice each year in-person, and Committee members are eligible to receive compensation for their time in duly convened meetings of the full Committee and travel to and from such meetings.

The 2023 Committee charter filed to the U.S. General Services Administration outlined a quarterly meeting schedule. In 2025, USDA convened the Committee four times: twice in person and twice virtually. During this period, the Committee submitted 128 recommendations to USDA and Congress on a broad array of topics related to USDA statutory and regulatory authorities.

Each in-person meeting also allowed for Committee members and public interests to join virtually. Many Tribal Advisory Committee members were self-selected to participate virtually through both in-person Committee meetings. These in-person meetings took place December 2024 in Las Vegas, NV, along the Intertribal Agriculture Council Annual Meeting, and May 2025 in Washington, D.C., at USDA headquarters. Virtual Committee meetings also occurred in February and September 2025. The 2025

and 2026 budget allocation for this Committee remains at \$275,000 per year. The cost allocation for 2025 Committee activity is significantly less.

In July 2025, Agriculture Secretary Brooke L. Rollins reauthorized the Committee charter, maintaining this quarterly meeting frequency for another two years. All public Committee meetings will be announced in the Federal Register and posted to the Committee webpage.

The statutory authority for this Committee includes that this Committee will maintain staggered membership terms. In August 2025, USDA opened the solicitation for nominations to fill four vacancies. Three of these vacancies will be made by the Agriculture Secretary to appoint or reappoint membership terms ending December 2025. One of these vacancies will be made by the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Agriculture to fill a current vacancy. The USDA Office of Tribal Relations continues to engage eligible nominators throughout this process.

Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement ***Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers***

The Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers’ (“the Committee”) charter was established pursuant to section 14008 of the Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-246, 122 Stat. 1651, 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2279). The charter was last filled September 16, 2024, and is effective until two years after that date.

The Committee’s overarching purpose (7 U.S.C. 2279) is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on:

- The implementation of section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.
- Methods of maximizing the participation of minority farmers and ranchers in U.S. Department of Agriculture programs; and
- Civil rights activities within the Department, such activities relate to participants in such programs.

The Committee members’ terms expired in December 2025, and the Committee did not meet during 2025.

Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The Committee was originally established pursuant to Section 5(b) of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. § 1929), as amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. § 8701) and the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. § 9001); and is established and managed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 10.

The Committee is to meet and review comments on beginning farmer and rancher policy and program issues and collaborate to make recommendations to the Secretary. The Committee shall advise the Secretary on matters broadly affecting new farmers and ranchers. The Committee shall consider Department goals and objectives necessary to implement prior recommendations and develop and recommend a framework and overall strategy that will encompass the following:

- Principles to leverage and maximize existing programs to assist beginning farmers and ranchers;
- Methods and strategies to amplify and improve State collaboration and participation in programs;
- Opportunity creation strategies and pilot programs to develop new farming and ranching operations; and
- Ideas to provide relief from labor and taxation challenges.

The last committee charter was renewed in August 2023. The first public meeting of the ACBFR was planned to occur in November 2024 but postponed in the wake of CR disclosures, which the DFO at the time noted. The meeting was not rescheduled. The Committee did not publicly meet during 2025. Since it has been more than two years since the last charter renewal, the charter is no longer

effective. The process to reissue the charter is underway and is expected to be completed sometime in 2026.

USDA/Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

The USDA/HACU Leadership Group serves as an advisory body to provide guidance and direction to USDA on matters of mutual benefit emanating from USDA/HACU partnership initiatives. This body consists of an equal number of members from USDA and HACU-member institutions and has the responsibility to make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the President of HACU. The Secretary of Agriculture appoints a Co-Chairperson of the USDA/HACU Leadership Group and all the USDA members. The President of HACU nominates a Co-Chairperson of the USDA/HACU Leadership Group and all the HACU members for secretarial approval. This partnership provides a cooperative framework for the parties to develop and maintain a USDA Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs) agenda that helps Hispanic Americans achieve education excellence and to contribute to the fulfillment of the USDA mission. This collaborative agenda is focused on promoting agriculture, food and environmental sciences, and other agriculture-related careers for students attending HSIs and HSACUs. Other focal areas address increasing employment opportunities in USDA for students attending HACU-member institutions and supporting capacity enhancement of HACU-member institutions and their faculty.

On October 9, 2024, USDA’s Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement hosted a half-day Symposium on Federal Programs and Resources for Hispanic-Serving Institutions with an emphasis on student programs. The HSI community and partnering stakeholders learned how USDA supports students, through internships and experiential learning opportunities at various agencies within the Department. This resulted in the attendance of 250 HSI staff, faculty, and administrative representatives from across the country.

Table DA-14. Authority and Composition of USDA Advisory Committees

Committee Title	Agency	Authority Statutory (S) or Discretionary (D)	Committee Membership
Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services:			
National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition	FNS	(S) 42 U.S.C. 1786	24
Food Safety:			
National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection	FSIS	(S) 21 U.S.C. 454a-4	0
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.....	FSIS	(D) Discretionary under FACA	0
Research, Education, And Economics:			
Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics .	NASS	Departmental Regulation 1042-130	0
Marketing And Regulatory Programs:			
National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee	APHIS	(D) Discretionary under FACA	0
Gen. Conf. Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan.....	APHIS	(D) Discretionary under FACA	7
Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards	AMS	(D) 5 U.S.C. 10; 7 U.S.C. 51 et seq	0
National Organic Standards Board	AMS	(S) 7 U.S.C. 6518	15
Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee	AMS	(D) Discretionary under FACA	25
Grain Inspection Advisory Committee	AMS	(S) P. L. 103-156 7 U.S.C. 87i	15
Trade And Foreign Agricultural Affairs:			
Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade.....	FAS	(S) P.L. 93-618	36

Committee Title	Agency	Authority Statutory (S) or Discretionary (D)	Committee Membership
Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade	FAS	(D) P.L.93-618/ Dept Reg 1042-68	122
Farm Production and Conservation:			
Agricultural Air Quality Task Force	NRCS	(S) 7 U.S.C. 5405	Unlimited
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production .	NRCS	(S) 7 U.S.C.§ 6923(b)(1)	12
Office Of Tribal Relations:			
Tribal Advisory Committee	OTR	(S) 7 U.S.C. 6921(b)	11
Departmental Management:			
Minority Farmer Advisory Committee.....	OPPE	(S) 7 CFR U.S.C 2279	15
Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers	OPPE	(S) 7 U.S.C. 1929	20
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Leadership Group	OPPE	(D) Memorandum of Agreement dated 10/96	8