



U.S. Department of Agriculture Office Opportunities

Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) is the Department's focal point for the Nation's farmers and ranchers and other stewards of private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest lands. FPAC agencies implement programs designed to mitigate the significant risks of farming through crop insurance, conservation programs, farm safety net programs, lending, and disaster programs.

Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) The Food and Nutrition Administration works to harness the Nation's agricultural abundance to reduce food insecurity and improve nutrition security in the United States. The Food and Nutrition Administration also administers federal domestic nutrition assistance programs and includes the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, which links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers through science-based dietary guidance, nutrition policy coordination, and nutrition education.

Office of Food Safety (FSIS) The Food Safety and Inspection Service is the USDA public health agency responsible for protecting the public's health by ensuring the safety of meat, poultry, and egg products. FSIS ensures food safety through the authorities of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, as well as humane animal handling through the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

Marketing and Regulatory Programs Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) facilitates domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products, protects U.S. plant and animal health, regulates genetically engineered organisms, administers the Animal Welfare Act, and carries out wildlife damage management activities. MRP agencies are active participants in setting national and international standards.

Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Research, Education and Economics is dedicated to the creation of a safe, sustainable, competitive U.S. food and fiber system, as well as strong communities, families, and youth through integrated research, analysis, and education.

Rural Development (RD) USDA Rural Development invests in rural America with loan, grant, and loan guarantee programs because we understand a strong community is rooted in its people. The commitment and resources we bring to rural communities helps drive economic security and prosperity. Our programs expand access to high-speed internet, electric, and transportation infrastructure, and support business growth, healthcare, education, housing, and other community essentials.

Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (TFAA) Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs' (TFAA) role is to provide our farmers and ranchers with opportunities to compete in the global marketplace. TFAA is the Department's lead on trade policy with the primary responsibility of ensuring USDA speaks with a unified voice on international agricultural issues domestically and abroad. Within TFAA, the Foreign Agricultural Service is the lead U.S. agency tasked with promoting exports of U.S. agricultural products through market intelligence, trade policy, trade capacity building, and trade promotion programs. This work is carried out by staff in Washington, D.C., as well as a global network of 95 offices covering 177 countries. Also, within TFAA, the U.S. Codex Office coordinates U.S. participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a United Nations body that sets international food standards while protecting consumer health and ensuring fair trade practices.

Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) The mission of Natural Resources and Environment is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. We carry out our mission in partnership with States, Tribes, and communities across the country who steward our Nation's forest and grasslands.

Office of the Secretary (OSEC) The Office of the Secretary provides leadership and strategic direction for the entire Department, overseeing USDA's mission areas, policy priorities, and day-to-day operations. This office works closely with senior officials across the federal government, Congress, and external partners to advance initiatives that support farmers, strengthen rural communities, promote food security, and steward natural resources. Interns in the Office of the Secretary will support high-level policy coordination, assist with briefing materials, contribute to research that informs departmental decision-making, and help prepare for meetings and events involving senior leadership. This placement offers a unique opportunity to observe how major policy decisions are shaped and implemented at the highest levels of USDA.

White House Liaison Office (WHLO) The White House Liaison Office serves as the primary connection between USDA and the Executive Office of the President, ensuring that departmental operations, personnel actions, and policy initiatives align with Administration priorities. The office manages political appointments, coordinates senior staff onboarding, and facilitates communication between USDA leadership and the White House. Interns in the White House Liaison Office may assist with personnel vetting processes, research on organizational needs, preparation of briefing materials, and coordination of leadership engagements. This office is well suited for students interested in public administration, personnel policy, organizational management, or the inner workings of executive-branch leadership.

Office of Communications (OC) leads the Department's efforts to inform the public, engage stakeholders, and communicate the impact of USDA programs across the country. OC works closely with every USDA mission area to ensure that information about agriculture, food security, rural development, conservation, and research is accurate, accessible, and aligned with the Department's priorities. Interns in the Office of Communications will support a wide range of activities, including drafting and editing written materials, assisting with press inquiries, preparing briefing materials, and helping manage digital content across USDA platforms. They may also contribute to media monitoring, event support, visual storytelling, and strategic messaging initiatives. This office is ideal for students interested in public affairs, journalism, digital media, or strategic communications who want to gain firsthand experience working in a fast-paced, mission-driven communications environment.

Office of Congressional Relations (OCR) The Office of Congressional Relations serves as USDA's primary liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, ensuring that Members of Congress and their staff are informed about the Department's programs, priorities, and policy initiatives. The office coordinates briefings, prepares testimony, responds to congressional inquiries, and supports the Secretary and senior leadership during legislative engagements. Interns in Congressional Relations may assist with legislative research, track hearings and bills relevant to USDA's mission areas, prepare background materials, and help manage communications with congressional offices. This placement offers a close look at how federal agencies interact with Congress and how legislative developments shape national agricultural and food policy.

Office of Civil Rights (OASCR) The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights provides leadership, oversight, and accountability for USDA's civil rights responsibilities. OASCR ensures that all USDA customers and employees are treated fairly and that the Department complies with federal civil rights laws in both program delivery and employment. The office investigates discrimination complaints, conducts compliance reviews, provides training and technical assistance, and works with mission areas to strengthen equal access to USDA programs. Interns in OASCR may support research on civil rights policy, assist with data analysis, and help prepare training and outreach materials. This placement offers valuable experience for students interested in civil rights law, public administration, or organizational compliance.

Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) The Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement develops and maintains partnerships focused on solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities in the United States, and connects those communities to the education, tools, and resources available to them through Department of Agriculture programs and initiatives. We facilitate partnerships and offer education and resources to foster opportunity, wealth creation, and asset building in rural and underserved communities. Interns in OPPE may assist with outreach strategy, partnership development, research on community needs, event coordination, and the preparation of materials that support engagement with stakeholders nationwide. This office is ideal for students interested in public engagement, community development, or partnership-driven policymaking.