

## **INTRODUCTION**

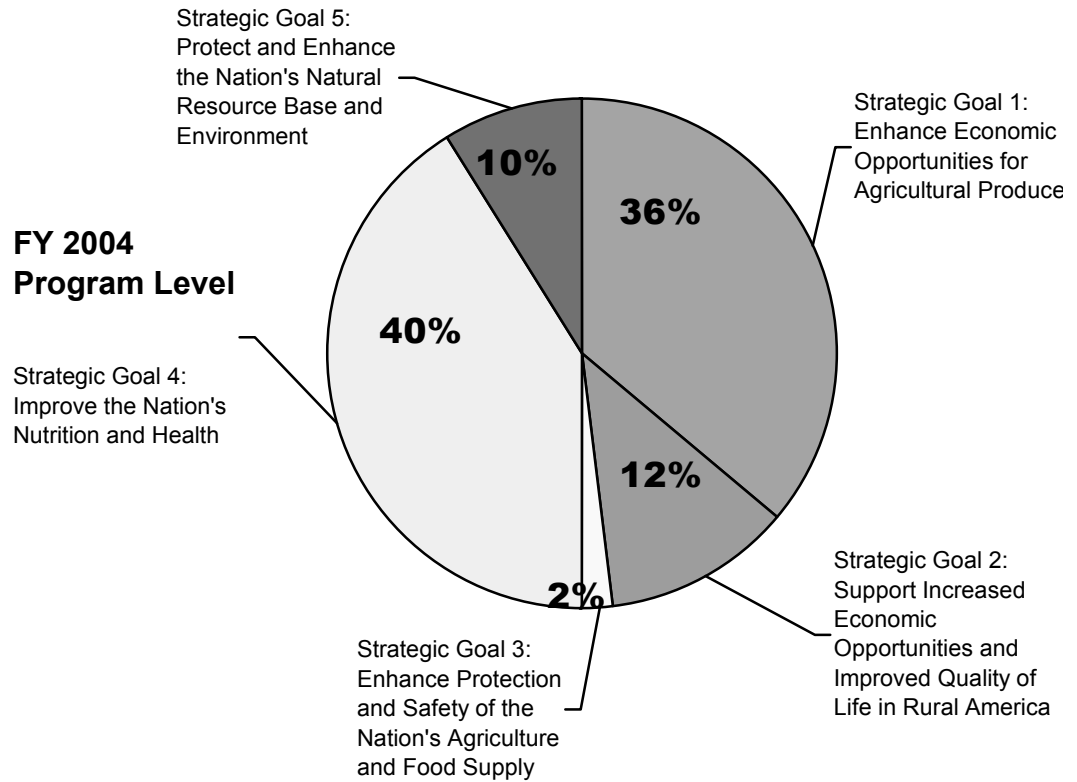
USDA's mission is to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science and efficient management. The USDA's Strategic Plan for FY 2002-2007 identifies five goals and thirteen objectives in support of this mission. This Annual Performance Plan is structured around these goals and targets and supports the Strategic Plan by identifying:

- Annual performance goals and targets,
- Means and strategies to pursue those goals,
- Efforts to verify and validate performance data,
- Program evaluations,
- Initiatives to address the management challenges faced by USDA and
- Cross-cutting programs with other organizations.

This plan summarizes the Department's key goals and strategies. More detail is available in supporting plans produced by our component agencies and staff offices. Only federal employees were involved in its preparation.

Exhibit 1: Program Level/Staff Year Allocations Dedicated to Strategic Goals

USDA Program Level and Staff Year Allocations Dedicated to Strategic Goals	FY 2003 Estimate	FY 2004 Estimate
Program Level (\$ Mil)	115,376	105,614
Staff Years	112,705	108,787



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