

## APPENDIX C: STRATEGIC CONSULTATIONS

We regularly consult with external groups—customers, policy experts, industry and consumer groups—about the effectiveness of our programs. While many of the consultations were not conducted expressly for this Strategic Plan, they have had a deep influence on strategic goals, objectives, strategies, and targets.

Strategic Consultations				
Goal	Date	Who	Purpose	
Goal 1 <i>Economic opportunities</i>	Annual/semiannual bilateral meetings	Official representatives of various foreign countries	Discuss agricultural trade issues, to reduce or eliminate trade barriers.	
	Monthly conference calls/Quarterly meetings	Animal Agriculture Coalition; American Veterinary Medical Association; U.S. Animal Health Association; FSIS, and ARS.	Guide development of the National Animal Health Emergency Management System.	
	Ongoing	Various grain, livestock, meat, poultry, bioenergy and bioproduct trade groups and associations	Discuss matters of mutual concern, and expand market opportunities for U.S. agricultural producers.	
	Annual		Public forum for data users	Provide updates on pending changes in statistical and informational programs. Seek feedback from data users.
			Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics	Advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the scope, timing, and content of the censuses and surveys of agriculture. Make recommendations regarding the content of agriculture reports. Presents the views of major suppliers and users of statistics.
			Land-Grant University Agricultural Economists	Identify topics requiring management, marketing, policy research, education and extension outreach.
			USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum	Discuss developments in global agricultural markets and exchange information with customers.
	Quarterly		Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) and Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees (ATACs)	Provide advice on U.S. trade negotiations, strategy and goals.
	Ongoing		Producers and producer groups	Discuss any proposed new crop insurance program or evaluations of existing programs.
			Crop Insurance Companies	Discuss operations and plan, and implement program improvement.
			University Risk Management Specialists and Economists	Review proposed new crop insurance tools or programs; conduct research and education.
			State and Local Governments and other Federal Agencies	Coordinate risk management initiatives.
			Producers, producer groups and associations, commercial lenders, land grant colleges and universities	Share information and provide input on program delivery and outreach.
Goal 2 <i>Rural opportunities</i>	Ongoing	National Association of Homebuilders	Share information.	
		Council for Affordable and Rural Housing		
		National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders	Share information and provide input on program delivery and outreach.	
		National Association of Development Organizations		

USDA STRATEGIC PLAN for FY 2002–2007

Strategic Consultations			
Goal	Date	Who	Purpose
Goal 3 <i>Protect agriculture</i>	Ongoing since 9/11/01	Department of Homeland Security	Develop strategies to protect our Nation.
	Annual	National Wildlife Service Advisory Committee	Provide input to Wildlife Services on resolving issues related to conflicts between humans and wildlife.
	Quarterly	National Animal Health Emergency Management Steering Committee	Provide input to Veterinary Services around program policy related to animal health emergencies.
	3 times per year	National Plant Board	Provide input to Plant Protection & Quarantine around program policy related to plant health issues.
		National Advisory Committee on 1) Meat and Poultry Inspection and 2) Microbiological Criteria for Foods	Provide input to Food Safety and Inspection Service policy.
	Periodic	Public Meetings to include Industry, public health officials, academia, consumers, Federal and State officials, and other interested parties	Communicate information and seek input to Agency initiatives or proposed regulations.
	Ongoing	State and local governments, foreign countries	Ensure food safety inspection and issues are addressed.
		<i>Codex Alimentarius</i> Commission, and subcommittees	Develop strategies for strengthening international food safety.
		Outside organizations	Maintains numerous partnerships with outside entities, covering a range of topics, to ensure a safer food supply.
	Annual	National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges	Seek input of University leadership to improve science, information, and technology development and distribution.
		Board on Agriculture Assembly	Provide to Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service leadership in agricultural administration, teaching, research, extension, forestry, international programs, human sciences, and veterinary medicine.
Quarterly	National Agriculture, Research, Education, Economics, and Extension Advisory Board	Advise the USDA and its land-grant university partners on research, extension, education, and economic policies, priorities, and on the effectiveness of those policies and priorities.	
Goal 4 <i>Nutrition and health</i>	May–June 1999	FNS Regional Stakeholder Outreach Meetings: open to Federal, State and local partners and others interested in domestic nutrition assistance programs	Seek public reaction to proposed strategic plan for nutrition assistance programs. Written comments were accepted from persons unable to attend.
	September 1998–February 2000	Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee	Review 2000 Dietary Guidelines for Americans in light of current scientific and medical knowledge. Recommend changes.
Goal 5 <i>Natural resources</i>	April 2002	Farmers and ranchers, organizations, persons interested in acting as third-party vendors for conservation technical assistance	Hold listening sessions in each State to gather input on implementation of the third-party strategy, and determine how to make the effort user-friendly for farmers and ranchers receiving the service and for those providing the service
	April and June 2002	Commodity groups, environmental groups, conservation groups	Hold national listening session to obtain input for implementing the third-party vendor strategy
	June 2002	Coalition of environmental and conservation groups	Provide continuing input to the third-party vendor initiative
	June 2002	Federal agencies and national and field personnel in USDA	Discuss CRP policy and environmental index issues related to the 2002 FSRIA.