

■ How To Get Information From USDA's Office of Communications

The Office of Communications is integral to USDA's historical and current mission. This office coordinates and assists with the flow of public information from USDA program agencies, reviewing all publications and audiovisuals and evaluating new information technology. It offers current information from the Office of the Secretary on programs and policy. This office ensures that adequate and appropriate channels are used to disseminate information to the public, and provides public access to USDA information through the news media.

OC administers USDA's home page on the Internet World Wide Web and the AgNewsFax service. The Internet address for USDA's home page is *http://www.usda.gov*. From this page, you can access information about the Department and about programs in all mission areas.

OC also offers an automated information line to answer questions from the public. The number for this service is 202-720-2791.

In addition, OC coordinates departmental responses under the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, and its amendment, the Computer Matching Act.

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