

APPENDIX B: PROGRAM EVALUATIONS AND OTHER ANALYSES

USDA will be undertaking new evaluations during the period covered by this plan and using them to make budget and other decisions. The following table highlights some of the studies as they related to the relevant performance goals. USDA's evaluations are relevant in the planning process and can include: assessments of the manner and extent of program objectives; assessment of program policies, practices and processes; program or management analyses; comprehensive reviews; cost-benefit studies; research to provide baseline data; and demonstration research.

Program Evaluations and Other Analyses				
Performance Goals	Evaluations/Analyses	Proposed Achievement	Start Date	End Date
1.1.1 Estimated annual trade opportunities preserved through WTO trade negotiations and notification process	Compliance review staff annually reviews agency-wide performance reporting and verification.	Will enable FAS to validate the information provided, identify discrepancies and develop more meaningful performance measures.	Annually	Annually
1.1.2 Estimated gross trade value of markets expanded/retained by market access activities other than WTO notification process	OIG and GAO Audits of USDA and Sub-agency financial systems.	Improve internal controls and agency financial statements and receive an unqualified opinion.	Various	Various
1.1.3 Average tariff rate on agricultural imports worldwide	Compliance review staff annually reviews agency-wide performance reporting and verification.	Will enable FAS to validate the information provided, identify discrepancies and develop more meaningful performance measures.	2003	Progress Review Annually
1.1.4 Cumulative number of new or modified export protocols that facilitate access to foreign markets	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.1.5 Number of international animal and plant health standards adopted	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.2.1 Increase the activities/projects completed in support of international economic development and trade capacity building in developing and transition countries	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.2.2 Share of countries' food import needs met through USDA-administered food assistance programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.2.3 Improve food security and nutrition through McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program by the number of daily meals and take-home rations for mothers, infants, and schoolchildren	Compliance review staff annually reviews agency-wide performance reporting and verification.	Will enable FAS to validate the information provided, identify discrepancies and develop more meaningful performance measures.	Last Qtr FY 2003	Progress Review Annually

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1.2.4 Improve literacy and primary education through McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent increase in enrollment for Girls/Boys • Percent increase in the proportion of children who are promoted 	Compliance review staff annually reviews agency-wide performance reporting and verification.	Will enable FAS to validate the information provided, identify discrepancies and develop more meaningful performance measures.	Last Qtr FY 2003	Progress Review Annually
1.3.1 Increase the use of bioenergy and bio-based products	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.4.1 Expand the USDA risk management tools available for agricultural producers to use in managing production and price risks	PART Evaluation for the Crop Insurance Program.	Assess and evaluate the programs and promote the use of improved performance measures and budget request justifications.	FY 2003	FY 2004
1.4.2 Improve customer service by increasing the efficiency of loan processing	PART Evaluation of the Guaranteed Loan Program.	Assess and evaluate overall program effectiveness and promote the development and use of performance information to improve program management.	FY 2003	FY 2003
1.4.3 Improve fiscal soundness of the direct loan portfolio	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.4.4 Eligible commodity production placed under marketing assistance loan or loan deficiency based on economic conditions in the farm sector	PART Evaluation of the Marketing Assistance Loan Program PART Evaluation of Counter-cyclical Payments	Assess and evaluate overall program effectiveness and promote the development and use of improved performance information to improve program management and support budget justifications.	FY 2003	FY 2003
1.4.5 Increase farm commodity and loan programs that can be accessed, completed and accepted electronically	Customer Survey ¹ ¹ The customer survey is proposed for FY 2004. However at this time specific start and completion dates have not been established.	The survey of internal and external USDA eForm customers will provide information on customer satisfaction with the eForms process, identify problem areas and allow customers to provide feedback that could result in system enhancements to improve the usefulness of the system.	TBD ¹	TBD ¹
2.1.1 Create or save additional jobs through USDA financing of businesses	Business Program Assessment review.	Assure compliance with program intent and Civil rights compliance.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.1.2 Reduce the Business and Industry Portfolio delinquency rate, excluding bankruptcy cases		Assure compliance with program intent.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.1.3 Improve the ability of small, rural towns to enjoy economic growth through provision of financing to support high-speed telecommunications services (broadband)	OIG audit of Rural Development financial statements.	Improve internal controls and agency financial statements and receive an unqualified opinion.	March 2003	January 2004

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2.2.1 Improve the quality of life in Rural America	OIG audit of Rural Development financial statements.	Improve internal controls and agency financial statements and receive an unqualified opinion.	March 2003	January 2004
3.1.1 Conduct risk assessments of microbial, chemical and physical hazards to meat, poultry and egg products	<p>HACCP Evaluation; Evaluate the impact of the HACCP Final Rule; Multi-year project, various components; October 2002.</p> <p>National Academies of Science (NAS); Review of the Agency draft risk assessment of <i>E. Coli</i> O157:H7 in ground beef; Peer review; Began in February 2002 and ongoing.</p> <p>NAS; Study the role of scientifically determined criteria, such as microbiological criteria, in production and regulation of meat and poultry products; Comprehensive study; to be completed in the spring of 2003.</p>	<p>Evaluates the impact of the components of the HACCP Final Rule.</p> <p>Peer Review of the Agency draft risk assessment of <i>E. coli</i> 0157:H7 in ground beef.</p> <p>Studies the role of scientifically determined criteria, such as microbiological criteria, in production and regulation of meat and poultry products.</p>	1999	October 2002
3.1.2 Enhance industry compliance with regulatory requirements			February 2002	Ongoing
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3.1.4 Develop new systems for detecting food-borne hazards			2001	Spring 2003
3.2.1 Increase the percent of known, significant introductions of plant diseases or pests that are detected before they spread from the original area of colonization and cause severe economic and environmental damage	PPQ Safeguarding Review	Recommendations are being implemented based on the completion of the review in FY 2000.	Ongoing	Ongoing
3.2.2 Number of significant introductions of foreign animal pests or diseases that spread beyond the original area of introduction and cause severe economic or environmental damage, or damage to the health of animals or humans	VS Safeguarding Review	<p>Recommendations are being implemented based on the completion of the review in FY 2002.</p> <p>States are regularly conducting test exercises and "table top" exercises around the detection of a Foreign Animal Disease in the U.S. This is an exercise for Emergency Preparedness</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing
3.2.3 Increase the number of States and territories, which meet the standards for preventing, detecting and responding to animal health emergencies	Reassessment of Progress Towards Meeting the Standards.	To identify areas of strength and weakness so that efforts can be made to improve the emergency management system so that all the standards can be met.	FY 2003	FY 2004
3.2.4 Increase the number of States that can provide necessary Federal animal diagnostic services	No formal, outside review of this new development is planned for FY 2003. As part of the development of the formal National Animal Health Laboratory Network, there will be continuous review of changing needs under the auspices of a steering committee composed of both USDA and State representatives.	A formal National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) with an official listing of member laboratories and a growing number of members in future years.	Ongoing	Ongoing

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3.2.5 Improve the capabilities of plant diagnostic laboratories	Annual Plans of Work of Regional Diagnostic Networks.	Define and Fine Tune Network Activities and Priorities; Demonstrate Results.	Annual	Annual
3.2.6 Release a series of new or improved varieties or germplasm that exhibit enhanced disease resistance to each of the following plant diseases: Sclerotinia, downy mildew, rusts and exotic viral diseases	Formal outside review of this activity is on a five-year cycle, starting in 2003. Each year, research accomplishments toward the goal are evaluated on an individual project basis.	Release a series of new or improved varieties or germplasm that exhibit enhanced disease resistance to each of the following plant diseases: Sclerotinia, downy mildew, rusts and exotic viral diseases	Ongoing	Ongoing
4.1.1 Improve Access to Nutritious Food	Universal Free School Breakfast Pilot and Evaluation.	Demonstration project assesses the effects of free school breakfasts for all children on academic performance, absenteeism, tardiness, behavior and cognitive development.	June 2000	July 2004
4.2.1 Promote Healthier Eating Habits and Lifestyles	Integrated Study of School Meal Programs	Evaluate the conformance of meals offered through the NSLP and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.	FY 2004	FY 2006
	WIC Participant/Program Characteristics 2002	Data collection will include tabulations of data on breastfeeding in WIC.	March 2002	March 2004
4.3.1 Improve Food Program Management and Customer Service	FSP Quality Control: An annual analysis of a statistically valid sample of food stamp cases from each State.	Measures the rate of benefit accuracy (versus under- and overpayments) in the Food Stamp Program.	October 2002	May 2004
	NSLP Application/Verification Pilots and Evaluation.	Demonstrates and tests a number of alternative approaches to the application and verification process for the school meals programs.	May 2002	August 2003
5.1.1 Continue to restore, rehabilitate and maintain fire-adapted ecosystems by moving Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and non-WUI hazardous fuels from a moderate/high risk to a lower risk of catastrophic fire	Quarterly multi-agency OMB PART reviews on all aspects of wildland fire prevention and management, including fire suppression, rehabilitation/restoration, community assistance and reduction of hazardous fuels.	Demonstrated multi-agency progress in the implementation of "A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and Environment: 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy" Found on the web: www.fireplan.gov/10yrlPfinal.cfm	September 2002	Ongoing
5.1.2 Ensure Federal fire management plans are in compliance with Federal Wildland Fire Policy	GAO/OIG Audit of the implementation of the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy.	An objective, comprehensive evaluation and analysis of all aspects of the multi-agency 10-year strategy, demonstrating the areas in which progress has or has not been made.	September 2003	January 2004
5.1.3 Control unplanned and unwanted fires during initial attack	Tracked as part of National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS).	Maintain the high percentage of fires controlled during initial attack as other fire performance goals are addressed.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.1.4 Restore, rehabilitate and/or maintain rangeland ecosystems within grazing allotments	Staff reviews compliance annually for agency-wide performance reporting and verification.	Continuous process improvement to enable allotments to be administered in the most cost effective and efficient manner, under existing funding.	September 2002	October 2003

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5.1.5 Cleanup CERCLA sites on lands and facilities under USDA custody and control	Methods used to set project priorities and organizational levels of program management will be evaluated.	Ensuring that the highest-priority cleanup needs are first in line for funding and improvements in program and project management.	October 2003	September 2003
5.2.1 Protect the productive capacity of agricultural and forestland	Evaluation of Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Farmland Protection Program.	Determine program effectiveness in meeting the intent of Congress and the effectiveness and efficiency of program management.	2003	October 2003
	Evaluations of stewardship management plans and forestry best management practices held periodically with states.	Continued strong cooperation from states in program implementation and evaluation.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.2.2 Manage watersheds to provide clean and abundant water supplies	Assessment of conservation programs, called for by the 2002 FSRIA.	Identify strategies to coordinate programs for land retirement and conservation of agricultural working lands to eliminate redundancy, streamline delivery and improve services to agricultural producers.	2003	December 2005
5.2.3 Ensure diverse wildlife habitats	State of the Land assessment.	Appraise the status, condition and trend of soil, water and related resources on non-Federal land.	2003	2004
	Evaluation of the Resource Conservation and Development Program, called for by the 2002 FSRIA.	Determine effectiveness of the program and develop recommendations for improvements.	2003	June 2005
	National Conservation Partnership Workload Assessment.	Develop revised estimates of the time, by technical discipline, required to produce each of the partnership's core work products and of the fiscal year and long-term workload for selected products.	2003	2004
	Review of the operation of agricultural and natural resource programs available to farmers and ranchers operating on tribal and trust land, required by the 2002 FSRIA.	Develop strategies for increasing tribal participation in agricultural commodity programs and conservation programs and describe actions to be taken to implement program improvements.	2002	2003
	Assessment of the environmental benefits of Farm Bill conservation programs.	Develop capacity to report in quantitative terms the annual soil quality improvements, water quality improvements and carbon sequestration gains resulting from application of conservation under the Farm Bill programs.	2003	2008