

APPENDIX D: CROSS-CUTTING PROGRAMS

With priorities that span from Homeland Security, food safety, forestry, to fighting hunger, the work of USDA often cuts across jurisdictional lines—both within USDA and among Federal agencies. The following table identifies programs or activities that USDA agencies are undertaking with other organizations to achieve a common purpose or objective.

Cross-cutting Programs			
Objective	USDA Agency	Assigned Lead Agency/Organization	Describe How the Activities Affect the Department's Efforts
1.1	FAS NASS	FAS	FAS, AMS, FSA, APHIS, GIPSA, CSREES and OSEC – Expand international marketing opportunities. NASS provides timely and accurate statistical information on U.S. agriculture, which is used in gathering market intelligence that enables producers and policy makers to make well-informed decisions.
1.2	FAS	FAS	FAS, AMS, FSA, APHIS, GIPSA, CSREES, OSEC – International economic development and trade capacity building.
1.3	OCE	OEPNU	Develop guidelines to implement statute is done in consultation with the General Services Administration (GSA), EPA, NIST and OMB. A 60-day public comment period elicits comments on draft regulations from public stakeholders prior to drafting final regulations.
			Develop model procurement plan within USDA's Office of Administration. Work with GSA, OMB's OFPP, the Defense Logistics Agency and every other Federal Agency in developing and helping to implement model procurement plans. Consult with NIST, EPA, OFPP and in USDA OCIO, OC, OGC, OA and OMB in development of preferred procurement program.
			Research and develop products in five categories by working with trade associations and manufacturers associations and individual manufacturers/vendors in encouraging participation in preferred procurement program. Work with USDA's OA and all other Federal Agencies in outreach and education aimed at full compliance with biobased procurement preference in FSRIA.
			Work with NIST, EPA in establishing standards for label. Work with industry associations to identify and assure ISO/ASTM/Mil.SPEC. qualified product testing facilities are identified and available for testing biobased products to meet requirements for placement on DBPL and for eligibility to use label. Also, USDA will allocate limited financial assistance provided for in FSRIA to write down the cost of product testing in instances where financial need on the part of manufacturers/vendors.
	GIPSA, AMS, ARS	GIPSA	USDA is coordinating an effort through the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) to facilitate development of industry standards on existing and developing livestock, meat and poultry evaluation systems that are used to measure livestock, meat and poultry quality characteristics. The other USDA agencies along with the Department of Commerce, livestock producers, meat packers, researchers and manufacturers are advising and assisting GIPSA in the development of industry standards.
	OCE, ARS, CSREES, FS, DA, CCC, NRCS, RD	REE & OCE	Bioenergy and biobased products contribute to the President's National Energy Plan. USDA is working with DOE on joint biomass projects and coordinating efforts in this area.

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1.4	FSA	FSA	Guaranteed Farm Loan Program. FSA partners with commercial banks, Farm Credit System lenders and credit unions to provide guaranteed farm ownership and farm operating loans to eligible applicants. Guaranteed loans are the property and responsibility of the lender – lenders make the loans and service them to conclusion. FSA guarantees the loan, typically for 90%. The guaranteed lending program, which represents approximately 48% of the total FSA farm loan portfolio, is an effective tool for providing financial assistance to farmers that would otherwise be unable to obtain credit.
	FSA, RD, NRCS	N/A	The eForms project is one component of the overall effort by USDA's county based agencies, FSA, RD and NRCS, to expand and streamline customer access to service. The new business model requires migration away from single agency initiatives to collaborative ventures with the principal service providers that support common agricultural enterprises. The principal service providers include USDA agencies and Service Center partners, State and local government entities and private enterprises. The business model conveys a seamless working environment where distance between offices and customers is irrelevant.
	NASS	NASS	NASS provides timely and accurate statistical information on U.S. agriculture, which is used in supporting basic data needs in other USDA programs, as needed.
	RMA	RMA	Interactions with the cooperating entities supports the Department's efforts by allowing for risk management tools that are responsive to the needs of America's farmers and ranchers, while minimizing cost through active cooperation and minimal redundancy. USDA Primary Agencies are FAS, FSA, AMS, APHIS, GIPSA, ERS and NASS and the external organizations are Department of the Treasury (DOJ), private industry trade groups, cooperators, State Departments of Agriculture, U.S. Agency for International Development, land grant colleges and universities, commercial lenders, cooperative marketing associations and private sector insurance companies.
	GIPSA, OCE, ERS, AMS, NASS, OBPA	GIPSA	USDA is directing a major study of supply-chain arrangements used in the livestock and meat industries to address broad concerns about policy implications of structural changes in the industries and to facilitate development and administration of USDA programs. The other USDA agencies along with the Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission are advising and assisting GIPSA on the study.
2.1	NASS	NASS	The census of agriculture provides periodic detailed information on America's rural agricultural communities that is used in supporting basic data needs in other USDA programs, as needed.
2.2	RHS	HUD	RHS concentrates its efforts on homeownership in rural areas and HUD is primarily in urban areas.
	RUS	EPA	RUS works with EPA to fund water and sewer systems in rural areas.
3.1	FSIS	HHS CDC	FSIS contributes to CDC's Emerging Infections Program Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) that collects data about foodborne diseases in nine U.S. sites to quantify and monitor foodborne illness. FSIS also contributes to CDC's PulseNet, the National Molecular Subtyping Network for Foodborne Disease Surveillance. PulseNet provides critical data for the early recognition and timely investigation of foodborne disease outbreaks by performing DNA fingerprinting on foodborne bacteria.
	FSIS CSREES	Joint ventures with HHS and Partnership for Food Safety Education	USDA participates in numerous joint activities with HHS, industry, government and consumer groups to provide food safety educational programs dedicated to sharing information about safe food handling to help reduce foodborne illness. Examples include the Fight Bac campaign, the Foodborne Illness Education Information Center and the national conferences for extension and health department educators, food safety professionals and researchers.

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3.1 (cont.)	FSIS, APHIS	FSIS, FDA	USDA is working closely with other agencies including EPA, CDC and Department of Defense (DOD) through the Food Threat Preparedness Network or PrepNet. The focus of this group is on prevention and response activities including emergency response, laboratory capability and efforts aimed at prevention of illness.
	FS, FSIS, AMS, FNS, GIPSA, FAS, APHIS, ARS	USDA	The <i>Codex Alimentarius</i> Commission is the major international mechanism for encouraging fair international trade in food while promoting the health and economic interests of consumers. As an active member of <i>Codex</i> , the U.S. has the opportunity to improve the international food safety standard setting process. USDA has major leadership roles in <i>Codex</i> and participates on various committees. Currently USDA chairs the <i>Codex Alimentarius</i> Commission, the U.S. <i>Codex</i> Steering Committees and the Food Hygiene and Processed Fruits and Vegetables Committees. Other U.S. Departments that carry out U.S. <i>Codex</i> activities include EPA, Department of State (DOS), Department of Commerce (DOC), HHS and The Office of U.S. Trade Representative. Executive direction comes from the U.S. Manager for <i>Codex</i> , supported by the U.S. <i>Codex</i> Office in USDA.
	NASS	NASS	Science-based information on chemical usage during the production and processing of food is used in supporting basic data needs in other USDA programs, as needed.
	ARS, CSREES	REE	Research is supported that provides basic scientific information and methods to enhance food safety in the pre-and-post-harvest environment.
3.2	APHIS	DHS, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection	In March 2003, the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program at ports of entry was transferred to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. The AQI workforce is working alongside colleagues from Customs and Immigration. APHIS' former head of Plant Health Programs moved to DHS along with several dozen staff members and regional personnel to supervise the AQI workforce in their new organizational location. There have been numerous meetings and communications between the two agencies.
		APHIS	The National Animal Health Emergency Management Steering Committee, a Federal and State partnership, includes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is moving to the DHS. The Federal and State partnership will produce a coordinated and effective emergency management system, which fully meets the standards. This will allow a quicker response and minimize the negative impact of disease outbreaks.
	APHIS, ARS, FS, CSREES, ERS, OCE NRCS	MRP	Invasive species threaten agricultural and natural resources. USDA participates in the National Invasive Species Council with the Department of Commerce and the DOI.
		APHIS	APHIS will join with CSREES and ARS to develop the Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Surveillance and Detection Network. This joint effort to provide certified laboratory services at the State level will enable USDA to obtain quicker, effective access to diagnoses of samples in the event of an emergency.
		CSREES	APHIS will join with CSREES and ARS to develop the Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Surveillance and Detection Network. USDA will partner with the National Agricultural Pest Information System, State Departments of Agriculture and Regional Pest Management Centers. State and APHIS Diagnostic Laboratories will provide diagnostic services to the general public and law enforcement officials.
	NASS	NASS	Science-based information on chemical usage used to fight pests and disease is used in supporting basic data needs in other USDA programs, as needed.
4.1	FNS	FNS	State, territorial, Tribal and local agencies involved in nutrition assistance program delivery, private sector firms and organizations, private non-profit voluntary organizations, professional organizations, health and public interest organizations.

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4.2	FNS	FNS	FNS, CSREES, ERS, ARS, CNPP – State, territorial, Tribal and local agencies involved in nutrition assistance program delivery, private sector firms and organizations, Department of Health and Human Services, Dietary Guidelines Alliance, professional organizations, health and public interest organizations, State Departments of Agriculture, academic institutions.
4.3	FNS	FNS	State and local agencies involved in Food Stamp Program delivery, private sector firms and organizations State and local public and private entities involved in National School Lunch Program delivery, U.S. Department of Education.
5.1	FS	FS	DOI bureaus provide cooperative technical assistance with the Department of Agriculture in support of natural resource management on Interior and Agricultural lands and on private lands.
	HMMG	HMMG	To varying degrees, many USDA agencies including APHIS, ARS, FS, CCC, FSA, FSIS, RD, OGC and DA play a role in the Hazard Material Management Program (HMMP) within USDA. In executing the HMMP, particularly for individual projects, there is often interaction/cooperation with and participation by a number of external organizations, including the EPA, other Federal and State agencies, Tribal governments and a variety of private parties and non-governmental organizations.
5.2	NRCS, FSA, FS	NRCS	NRCS provides technical and financial assistance in cooperation with local conservation districts and State conservation agencies. State and local employees help to implement NRCS programs. Some States fund cost-share programs that help achieve NRCS conservation objectives. In the West, where public and private land are intermingled, NRCS cooperates with land management agencies, including FS and Bureau of Land Management in coordinated efforts to plan conservation at the landscape scale.
	NRCS	EPA	State governments have primary responsibility for water quality regulations. NRCS provides information and assistance to EPA in developing initiatives such as the joint national strategy for animal feeding operations. EPA provides grant money to States, which States use to provide assistance to land users. NRCS provides much of the technical assistance to implement such programs as well as providing technical and financial assistance through NRCS programs. In the West, State water rights law governs water allocation. NRCS provides assistance to local entities such as conservation districts, irrigation districts, river basin commissions and RC&D councils in planning for water management at the watershed level. The Bureau of Reclamation works with irrigation districts to improve delivery of water to farms and NRCS helps individual producers improve water management on-farm. NRCS provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical and financial assistance to local sponsors of watershed protection projects that address flood control, water supply, water quality and wildlife habitat. • emergency disaster recovery assistance to help communities and land users repair the damages caused by natural disasters. These activities may involve cooperation with FEMA as well as local and State agencies. • information about agency-assisted structures to the Corps of Engineers for the dam safety report.
	NRCS, FSA, FS	NRCS	Several Federal agencies—NRCS, FSA, Corps of Engineers and Fish and Wildlife Service conduct activities to protect and enhance wetlands. Some State and private sector entities also conduct programs for wetlands protection. NRCS implement wetlands activities under several programs, including the WRP and provides technical assistance for implementing FSA's CRP.

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5.2 (cont.)	FSA	FSA	The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program allows the USDA to partner with States, Tribes and private organizations to use Federal incentives to address State-specific conservation goals.
	NASS	NASS	Information on cropping practices employed on U.S. cropland is used in supporting basic data needs in other USDA programs, as needed.
	FS	FS	DOI bureaus help provide technical assistance for the management of natural resources on private lands. FS and NRCS work with State, local and Tribal governments, in the delivery of technical assistance in support of natural resources.