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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Communications

July 2004



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June 21, 2003

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Mailing address for USDA and its agencies:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

USDA Employee Locator: Washington, DC

202-720-USDA (8732)

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USDA Information Response Team:

202-720-2791

(general and subject-matter information)

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USDA Visitor Centers:

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USDA Office of Crisis Planning and Management

<http://www.usda.gov/da/ocpm/>

(emergency programs information)

MAIL-ocpm@usda.gov

1-877-617-7857

USDA Sign Language Interpreter

202-720-3515

TTD/TTY 202-720-8372

GSA Relay Service

1-800-877-8339

USDA HOTLINES:

Food and Nutrition Service:

Food Stamp Hotline

1-800-221-5689

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion:

Publication Hotline

202-606-8000

Food Safety and Inspection Service:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

Meat & Poultry Hotline

202-720-3333

Inspector General's Hotline:

Toll Free 1-800-535-4555
TTY 1-800-256-7072
202-690-1622
Toll Free 202-690-1202
Toll Free 1-800-424-9121

**National Agricultural Statistics Service:
Information Hotline**

1-800-727-9540

USDA Graduate School

202-314-3300
<http://www.grad.usda.gov>

**USDA News Releases(AgNewsFax):
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202-690-3677

How To Get Information From USDA:

<http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/htgi/default>

**For Updates Contact:
(202) 720-2882**

Shirley Adams
MAIL-shirley.adams@usda.gov

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Office of the Secretary

Office of Communications

<http://www.usda.gov/agencies/ocpage.htm>

Office of Communications is integral to the historical and current mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This office coordinates and assists with the flow of public information from USDA program agencies, reviewing all publications and audiovisuals, evaluating new information technology, maintaining availability of current information from the Office of the Secretary, ensuring operation of adequate and appropriate channels for dissemination of information to the public, and optimizing public access to USDA information through the news media. OC administers USDA's home page on the Internet World Wide Web. OC also provides departmental coordination of responses under the Freedom of Information Act.

Office of the Director - June 21, 2004

Director of Communications & Press Secretary

Alisa Harrison	202-720-4623	Rm 402-A, Whitten Building
alisa.harrison@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5043	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Assistant Director for Communications Operations

Larry Quinn	202-720-4623	Rm 402-A, Whitten Building
larry.quinn@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5043	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Director, Speechwriting

Matt Raymond	202-720-0494	Rm 410-A, Whitten Building
matt.raymond@usda.gov	202-690-3611	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Deputy Press Secretary

Julie Quick	202-720-4623	Rm 405 Whitten Building
julie.quick@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5043	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Deputy Press Secretary - Hispanic

Ed Loyd	202-720-4623	Rm 411-A, Whitten Building
ed.loyd@usda.gov	202-720-5043	Washington,, DC 20250-1301

Assistant Press Secretary

Hilary White	202-720-2594	Rm 403-A, Whitten Building
hilary.white@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5043	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Press Assistant

vacant	202-720-4623	Rm 403-A, Whitten Bldg.
	FAX 202-720-5043	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Media Communications Coordination - June 21, 2004

Communications Coordinator for Farm & Foreign Agricultural Services

Wayne Baggett	202-720-2032	Rm 407-A, Whitten Building
wayne.baggett@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-3611	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Research, Education, & Economics

Wayne Baggett	202-720-2032	Rm 407-A, Whitten Building
wayne.baggett@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-3611	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Natural Resources & Environment

Jim Brownlee	202-720-2091	Rm 406-A
jim.brownlee@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5043	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Administration, Civil Rights, IG, CFO, CIO

Jim Brownlee	202-720-2091	Rm 408-A, Whitten Building
jim.brownlee@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-3611	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Rural Development

Jim Brownlee	202-720-2091	Rm 408-A, Whitten Building
jim.brownlee@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-3611	Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Office of the Chief Economist

Jim Brownlee
jim.brownlee@usda.gov 202-720-2091
FAX 202-690-3611 Rm 408-A, Whitten Building
Washington,, DC 20250-1301

Public Affairs Specialist

Marci Hilt
marci.hilt@usda.gov 202-720-3088
FAX 202-720-5043 Rm 421-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250

Communications Coordinator for Homeland Security

Johna L. Pierce
johna.pierce@usda.gov 202-720-5555
FAX 202-690-3611 Rm 424-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1301

Acting Communications Coordinator for Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services

Jerry Redding
jerry.redding@usda.gov 202-720-6959
202-720-5043 409-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Food Safety

Jerry Redding
jerry.redding@usda.gov 202-720-6959
FAX 202-690-3611 Rm 409-A, Whitten Building
Washington,, DC 20250-1301

Communications Coordinator for Marketing & Regulatory Programs

Jerry Redding
jerry.redding@usda.gov 202-720-6959
FAX 202-690-3611 Rm 409-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1301

Constituent Services - June 21, 2004

Director, Constituent Affairs

Patricia Klintberg
patricia.klintberg@usda.gov 202-720-9933
FAX 202-720-5043 Rm 416-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1330

Constituent Outreach

Kathryn Hill
kathryn.hill@usda.gov 202-690-4750
FAX 202-690-2164 Rm 415-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1330

Constituent Outreach

Mocile Trotter
mocile.trotter@usda.gov 202-720-6935
FAX 202-690-2164 Rm 418, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1330

Editor, "USDA NEWS"

Ron Hall
ron.hall@usda.gov 202-720-5747
202-690-3611 Rm 417-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1330

Administrative and Information Services- June 21, 2004

Director, Administrative and Information Services

Johna L. Pierce
johna.pierce@usda.gov 202-720-5555
FAX 202-690-3611 Rm 425-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1305

Publications and Review

Edgar Poe
ed.poe@usda.gov 202-720-9081
FAX 202-720-4948 Rm 426-A, Whitten Building
Washington,, DC 20250-1330

Information Response Team

Barbara Robinson
barbara.robinson@usda.gov 202-690-4069
FAX 202-690-0228 Rm 506-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1352

Information Response Team

Joyce Tyler
joyce.tyler@usda.gov 202-720-3365
FAX 202-690-0228 Rm 506-A, Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-1352

General Information Hotline - 202-720-2791

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Andrea Fowler
andrea.fowler@usda.gov 202-720-8164
FAX 202-720-7808 Rm 440-AA, Whitten Building
Washington,, DC 20250-1330

Web Services - June 21, 2004

Director for Web Services

Kim Taylor kim.j.taylor@usda.gov	202- 720-2168 202- 720-0539	Rm 412-A Washington, DC 20250-1330
Deputy Director for Web Services Wayne Moore wayne.moore@usda.gov	202-720-3989 FAX 202-720-0539	Rm 460-A, Whitten Building Washington, DC 20250-1330
Webmaster Victor Powell vic.powell@usda.gov	202-720-7762 FAX 202-690-3611	Rm 460-A, Whitten Building Washington, DC 20250-1330
News Distribution oc.news@usda.gov	202-720-9035 FAX 202-720-0539	Rm 460-A Washington, DC 20250-1330
Broadcast, Media and Technology Center - June 21, 2004		
Director David Black david.black@usda.gov	202-720-6072 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 1618-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Multimedia Manager Anthony Bouldin anthony.bouldin@usda.gov	202-720-5368 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 1617-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Production Manager Garth Clark garth.clark@usda.gov	202-720-5376 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 1614-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Multimedia Specialist Mansy Pullen mansy.pullen@usda.gov	(202) 720-2029 (202) 720-5773	Rm. 1615-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Television Producer Patrick O'Leary pat.o'leary@usda.gov	202-720-7039 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 0095-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Television Producer Bob Ellison bob.ellison@usda.gov	202-720-6445 FAX 202-720-5773	Rm 1610-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Radio Producer Gary Crawford gary.crawford@usda.gov	202-720-7068 FAX 202-690-2165	Rm 1623-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Radio Producer Brenda Curtis-Heiken brenda.curtis@usda.gov	202-720-7079 FAX 202-690-2165	Rm 1623-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Radio Producer Kristi Pettis kristi.pettis@usda.gov	202-720-7884 FAX 202-690-2165	Rm 1623-S Washington, DC 20250-1360
Visual Communications Center - May 21, 2003		
Director, Visual Communications Center Eva Cuevas eva.cuevas@usda.gov	202-720-6641 FAX 202-720-8197	Rm 517-A Washington, DC 20250-1380
Deputy Director Chris Lozos chris.lozos@usda.gov	202-720-6641 FAX 202-8197	Rm 517-A, Whitten Building Washington,, DC 20250-1380
Printing Team Leader Al Senter al.senter@usda.gov	202-720-7175 FAX 202-720-8939	Rm 501-A, Whitten Building Washington,, DC 20250-1370

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Farm Service Agency administers farm commodity, crop insurance, and conservation programs for farmers and makes farm ownership and operating loans. FAS programs are primarily directed at agricultural producers or, in the case of loans, at those with farm experience. Through the Commodity Credit Corporation, the agency provides financing for the purchase, storage, and shipment of commodities in federal stocks. FSA also provides emergency conservation and assistance programs to farmers.

Farm Service Agency - June 21, 2004

Acting Director, Legislative Liaison, Executive Secretariat and Public Affairs Staff

Burton Eller	202-720-3269	Rm 0071-S
burton_eller@wdc.usda.gov	FAX 202-720-4034	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Branch Chief & Field Services

Eric L. Parsons	202-720-7809	Rm 3624-S
eric_parsons@wdc.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-2828	Washington, DC 20250

Communication Services

Robert Wiley	202-690-0474	Rm 3633-S
robert_wiley@wdc.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-2839	Washington, DC 20250

FOIA Coordinator

vacant		Washington, DC 20250
--------	--	----------------------

Farm Service Agency State Public Affairs Contacts - June 21, 2004

California

Erica Szlosek	530-792-5537	430 G Street #4161
Erica_Szlosek@wdc.fsa.usda.gov	FAX 530-792-5555	Davis, CA 95616-4161

South East Region

Cynthia Valles	352-379-4562	P.O. Box 141030
Cynthia_Valles@wdc.fsa.usda.gov	FAX 352-379-4580	Gainesville, FL 32614-1030

North Central Region

Jim Meisenheimer	651-602 7719	400 Agribank Building
Jim_Meisenheimer@wdc.fsa.usda.gov	FAX 651-602-7748	375 Jackson Street
		St Paul, MN 55701

Missouri

Herb Evans	573-876-9463	Parkade Plaza,
herb.evans@mo.usda.gov	FAX 573-876-0935	Suite 225601
		Business Loop 70 West
		Columbia, MO 65203

Mississippi

Latrice Hill-Moore	601-965-4300	6310 I-55 North
latrice.hill-moore@ms.usda.gov	FAX 601-965-4184	Jackson, MS 39211

New York

Mark Dennis	315-477-6354	441 South Salina Street
Mark.Dennis2@usda.gov	FAX 315-477-6363	Suite 356,
		5th Floor
		Syracuse, NY 13202-2455

Ohio

Mike Kauffman	614- 255-2442	Room 540, Federal Building
Mike_Kauffman@wdc.fsa.usda.gov	FAX 614- 255-2542	200 North High Street
		Columbus, OH 43215

Texas

Brenda Carlson
brenda.carlson@tx.usda.gov

979-680-5213
FAX 979-680-5236

Compass National Bank Bldg.
2405 Texas Avenue South
College Station, TX 77840

Virginia

Dan Stuart
dan.stuart@va.usda.gov

804-287-1548
FAX 804-287-1723

1606 Santa Rosa Road
Culpeper Building, Suite 138
Richmond, VA 23229

Washington

Patricia McAuley
patricia.mcauley@wa.usda.gov

509-323-3003
FAX 509-323-30734

Rock Pointe Tower, Suite 568
West 316 Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201-2350

Foreign Agricultural Service - June 21, 2004

<http://www.fas.usda.gov>

Foreign Agricultural Service represents U.S. farmers and the food and agricultural sector abroad through a network of overseas offices. FAS collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about global supply and demand, trade trends, and market opportunities. FAS seeks improved market access for U.S. products, administers export financing and market development programs, provides export services, carries out food aid and market-related technical assistance programs, and provides linkages to world resources and international organizations.

Foreign Agricultural Service - June 21, 2004

Director, Public Affairs Division

Maureen Quinn
maureen.quinn@usda.gov

202-720-7115
FAX 202-720-1727

Rm 5074-S
Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Director

Sally Klusaritz
sally.klusaritz@usda.gov

202-720-3448
FAX 202-720-1727

Rm 5074-S
Washington, DC 20250

Team Leader

Lynn Goldsbrough
lynn.goldsbrough@usda.gov

202-720-3930
FAX 202-720-3229

Rm 5713-S
Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Donald Washington
donald.washington@usda.gov

202-720-3101
FAX 202-720-3229

Rm 5717-S
Washington, DC 20250

Risk Management Agency

<http://www.rma.usda.gov>

Risk Management Agency improves the economic stability of agriculture by providing producers a sound system of crop insurance. Federal crop insurance covers losses due to unavoidable causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects, and disease. Currently over 100 major crops are insurable. Crop insurance is available from crop insurance agents. Insurance protection must be purchased prior to sales closing dates that vary by crop and region.

Risk Management Agency - June 21, 2004

Director of Public Affairs

Shirley Pugh
shirley.pugh@usda.gov

202-720-0642
FAX 202-690-2818

Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Administrator, Risk Compliance

Michael Hand
michaela.hand@usda.gov

202-720-0642
FAX 202-690-2818

Washington, DC 20250

Director, Reinsurance Services & Acting Director, Risk Management Education

Craig Witt
craig.witt2@usda.gov
202-690-2957
FAX 202-690-2818
Washington, DC 20250

Director, Risk Management Services

Heyward Baker
heyward.baker@usda.gov
202-720-4286
FAX 202-690-2818
Washington, DC 20250

FCIC Board Secretary

Byron Anderson
byron.anderson@rma.usda.gov
202-690-2803
FAX 202-690-2818
Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Info Act Officer

Terrie Ray
terrie.ray@usda.gov
202-690-5701
FAX 202-690-1899
Rm 6606-S
Washington, DC 20250

Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

Food and Nutrition Service

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns>

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers federal food assistance programs including food stamps, food distribution, supplemental food for women, infants and children, school lunch, school breakfast, special milk, child care, summer feeding, and other child nutrition and family food assistance programs.

Food and Nutrition Service - June 21, 2004

Director, Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs (Acting)

Steven Christensen	703-305-2281	3101 Park Center Dr.#926POC
steven.christensen@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-2312	Alexandria, VA 22302

Deputy Director

Kathie Klass	703-305-2281	3101 Park Center Dr.#926POC
kathie.klass@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-2312	Alexandria, VA 22302

Director, Governmental Affairs

Frank Ippolito	703-305-2010	3101 Park Center Dr. #910POC
frank.ippolito@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-2464	Alexandria, VA 22302

Director, Public Affairs

Jean Daniel	703-305-2286	3101 Park Center Dr.#914POC
jean.daniel@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Publishing Team

Chris Kocsis	703-305-2000	3101 Park Center Dr.#914POC
chris.kocsis@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Director Consumer and Community Affairs

Pam Phillips	703-305-2000	3101 Park Center Dr.#926POC
pam.phillips@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-2312	Alexandria, VA 22302

Media Team

Susan Acker	703-305-2286	3101 Park Center Dr.#914POC
susan.acker@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Public Affairs Specialist

Suanne Buggy	703-3052293	3101 Park Center Drive, #914 POC
suanne.buggy@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-1117	Alexandria,, VA 22302

Public Affairs Specialist

Marcus Brownrigg	703-305-2061	3101 Park Center Drive #914 POC
marcus.brownrigg@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-1117	Alexandria,, VA 22302

Marketing Coordinator

Alicia Ford	703-305-1625	3101 Park Center Dr.#914POC
alicia.ford@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-305-1117	Alexandria, VA 22302

Freedom of Info Act Officer

Sara Bradshaw	703-305-2244	3101 Park Center Dr.#322POC
sara.bradshaw@fns.usda.gov	FAX 703-605-0793	Alexandria, VA 22302

FNS Regional Public Information Offices - June 21, 2004

Northeast Region Public Affairs Director

Charles De Julius	617-565-6418	10 Causeway Street, Rm 501
charles.dejulius@fns.usda.gov	FAX 617-565-6472	Boston, MA 02222-1068

Mid-Atlantic Region Public Affairs Director

Margarita Maisterrena	609-259-5091	Mercer Corp. Park,
margarita.maisterrena.@fns.usda.gov	FAX 609-259-5147	300 Corporate Blvd
		Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

Southeast Region Public Affairs Director

Karen Dean
karen.dean@fns.usda.gov

404-562-1812
FAX 404-527-4502

61 Forsyth St.,SW,Suite 8T36
Atlanta, GA 30303

Midwest Region Public Affairs Director

Lawrence Rudmann
lawrence.rudmann@fns.usda.gov

312-353-1044
FAX 312-353-0171

77 W. Jackson Blvd., 20th Flr
Chicago, IL 60604

Mountain Plains Region Public Affairs Director

Craig Forman
craig.forman@fns.usda.gov

303-844-0312
FAX 303-844-6203

1244 Speer Boulevard Room 903
Denver, CO 80204

Southwest Region Public Affairs Director

Judy Barron
judy_barron@fns.usda.gov

214-290-9802
FAX 214-767-6249

1100 Commerce Street, Room 5C30
Dallas, TX 75242

Western Region Public Affairs Director

Diana Callaway
diana.callaway@fns.usda.gov

415-705-1311
FAX 415-705-2518

550 Kearny Street, Rm 400
San Francisco, CA 94108

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

<http://www.usda.gov/cnpp>

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion provides direction and coordination for USDA's nutrition research and policy activities. The Center publishes the Family Economics and Nutrition Review and Expenditures on Children by Families, and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, develops and publishes the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion - July 30, 2002

Information Director

John Webster
john.webster@usda.gov

703-605-4266
703-605-0809 FAX 703-605-0810

3101 Park Center Drive
10th Floor, Room 1032
Alexandria, VA 22302

Food Safety

Food Safety and Inspection Service

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

Food Safety and Inspection Service administers the federal meat and poultry inspection program to assure safety, wholesomeness and truthful labeling of these food products, and conducts food safety consumer education program.

Food Safety and Inspection Service - June 21, 2004

Director, Congressional and Public Affairs

Rob Lerew	202-720-3897	Rm 1175-S
rob.lerew@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5704	Washington, DC 20250

Acting Deputy Director, Congressional and Public Affairs

Lisa Wallenda Picard	202-720-9113	Rm 1175-S
lisawallenda.picard@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5704	Washington, DC 20250

Media Officer

Stephen Cohen	202-720-9113	Rm 1175-S
stephen.cohen@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5704	Washington, DC 20250

Senior Legislative Analyst

Cathy Schuchart	202-690-4546	Rm 1175-S
cathy.schuchart@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-5704	Washington, DC 20250

Director, Food Safety Education

Susan Conley	301-504-9605	Rm 2L290, 5601 SunnySide ave.
susan.conley@usda.gov	FAX 301-504-0203 or 2092	Beltsville, MD 20705

Meat and Poultry Hotline

Bessie Berry	202-720-5604	Rm 2925-S
bessie.berry@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-2859	Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Janice Carpenter	202-720-8215	Rm 327-E
janice.carpenter@usda.gov	FAX 202-205-0158	Washington, DC 20250

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Agricultural Marketing Service

<http://www.ams.usda.gov>

Agricultural Marketing Service provides market news reports; develops quality grade standards for agricultural commodities; provides voluntary grading services for livestock, meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, cotton and tobacco; administers marketing regulatory programs, marketing agreements and orders, and research and promotion programs; administers national organic standards activities; administers USDA's laboratory accreditation program; administers federal-state marketing improvement programs, wholesale facilities research programs, and food purchases for USDA food assistance programs; and is the coordinator for USDA's pesticide data program and pesticide record keeping program activities.

Agricultural Marketing Service - June 21, 2003

Director, Public Affairs

Billy Cox	202-720-8998	Rm 3510-S
billy.cox@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Director Web Master

Becky Unkenholz	202-720-8998	Rm 3510-S
becky.unkenholz@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Specialist

George Chartier	202-720-8998	Room 3510-S
george.chartier@usda.gov	202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Specialist

Kathryn Mattingly	202-720-8998	Room 3510-S
kathryn.mattingly@usda.gov	202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Specialist

Joan Shaffer	202-720-8998	Room 3510-S
joan.shaffer@usda.gov	202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Public Affairs Assistant

Nadine Wilkins	202-720-8998	Rm 3510-S
nadine.wilkins@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-7135	Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Zipora Bullard	202-720-2498	Rm 3510-S
zipora.bullard@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-1362	Washington, DC 20250

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) administers regulatory programs to control or eradicate animal and plant pests and diseases; enforces domestic and port-of-entry agricultural quarantines; licenses and assures safety and effectiveness of veterinary biological products; ensures the safety of agricultural products of biotechnology; enforces the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts; administers programs providing protection to livestock and crops from depredation by rodents, birds and predatory animals; and conducts cooperative programs to eradicate animal and plant pests and diseases in other countries.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - June 21, 2004

Director, Legislative & Public Affairs

Courtney Billet	202-720-2511	Rm 1147-S
courtney.r.billet@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-3982	Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Director, Legislative & Public Affairs

Bethany Jones	202-720-2511	Rm 41147-S
bethany.x.jones@usda.gov	FAX 202-720-3982	Washington, DC 20250

Assistant Director, Public Affairs

Ed Curlett
ed.c.curlett@usda.gov

301-734-3256
FAX 301-734-5221

4B21
Riverdale, MD 20737

Assistant Director, Executive Correspondence

Christina Myers
christina.myers@usda.gov

301-734-8297
FAX 301-734-5387

4A81
Riverdale, MD 20737

Freedom of Info Act Officer

Michael Marquis
michael.s.marquis@usda.gov

APHIS Regional Information Offices - June 21, 2003**MICHIGAN**

Sharon Lucik, Public Affairs Specialist
Sharon.E.Lucik@usda.gov

810-844-2713
FAX 810-844-0583

CALIFORNIA

Larry Hawkins, Public Affairs Specialist
lawrence.e.hawkins@aphis.usda.gov

916-857-6243
FAX 916-857-6269

9550 Micron Ave., Suite G
Sacramento, CA 95827

COLORADO

Teresa Howes, Public Affairs Specialist
teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov

970-494-7410
FAX 970-494-7455

2150 Centre Ave., Building B, Mailstop #3W9
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

NORTH CAROLINA

Nolan Lemon, Public Affairs Specialist
nolan.lemon@usda.gov

919-855-7008
FAX 919-855-7016

920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606

FLORIDA - Citrus Canker Program

Tyrone Kemp, Public Affairs Specialist
tyrone.w.kemp@usda.gov

954-327-7826
FAX 954-797-6902

6901 Sunrise Blvd.
Plantation, FL 33313

Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration

<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa>

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. One of GIPSA's programs, the Packers and Stockyards Programs, ensures open and competitive markets for livestock, meat, and poultry. The other, the Federal Grain Inspection Service, facilitates the marketing of U.S. grain and related agricultural products by providing the market with Federal quality standards and a uniform system for applying them.

Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration - June 21, 2004**Director, Public and Congressional Relations Staff**

Greg Hawkins
gregory.j.hawkins@usda.gov

202-720-0219
FAX 202-205-9237

Rm 1095-S
Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Bruce Boor
bruce.m.boor@usda.gov

202-720-7063
FAX 202-205-3941

Rm 1638-S
Washington, DC 20250

Natural Resources and Environment

Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

Forest Service administers programs for applying sound conservation and utilization practices to natural resources of the national forests and national grasslands, for promoting these practices on all forest lands through cooperation with states and private landowners and for carrying out extensive forest and range research.

Office of Communications - June 21, 2004

Director

George Lennon glennon@fs.fed.us	202-205-8333 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Aud Washington, DC 20250
------------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Deputy Director

Pete Pierce ppierce01@fs.fed.us	202-205-8333 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Aud Washington, DC 20250
------------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Program Manager-Executive Services

Mary Jane Senter msenter@fs.fed.us	202-205-1719 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Aud Washington, DC 20250
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Program Manager-Policy, Planning and Liaison

Thiery Curtis tcurtis@fs.fed.us	202-205-8521 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Aud Washington, DC 20250
------------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Program Manager-Corporate Communications

Christine Murray cmurray@fs.fed.us	202-205-1545 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Aud Washington, DC 20250
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Program Manager-Media

Joseph Walsh jwalsh@fs.fed.us	202-205-1294 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Aud Washington, DC 20250
----------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

National Media Officer

Heidi Valetkevitch hvaletkevitch@fs.fed.us	202-205-0914 FAX 202-205-0885	2Cen-Aud Washington, DC 20250
---	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Rita Morgan rmorgan@fs.fed.us	703-605-4910 FAX 703-605-5104	1012-RPE Arlington, VA 22209
----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Regional Communication Offices - June 21, 2004

Northern Region

Ed Nesselroad enesselroad@fs.fed.us	406-329-3089 FAX 406-329-3411	P.O.Box 7669 Federal Building Missoula, MT 59807
--	----------------------------------	---

Rocky Mountain Region

Terri Gates tgates@fs.fed.us	303-375-5427 FAX 303-275-5366	P.O.Box 25127 11177 W.8th Ave Lakewood, CO 80225
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

Southwest Region

Carl Holguin cholguin@fs.fed.us	505-842-3497 FAX 505-842-3106	517 Gold Avenue, SW Federal Building Albuquerque, NM 87102
------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

Intermountain Region

Dan Jiron djiron@fs.fed.us	801-625-5347 FAX 801-625-5240	324 25th St. Federal Building Ogden, UT 84401
-------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

Pacific Southwest Region

Marilyn Hartley mhartley@fs.fed.us	707-562-9016 FAX 707-562-9053	1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Pacific Northwest Region

Al Matecko amatecko@fs.fed.us	503-808-2240 FAX 503-808-2229	P.O.Box 3623 333 S. First St Portland, OR 97208
Southern Region Angela Coleman acoleman@fs.fed.us	404-347-7226 FAX 404-347-3808	1720 Peachtree Rd NW Atlanta, GA 30367
Eastern Region Sherry Wagner swagner01@fs.fed.us	414-297-3640 FAX 414-297-3700	310 W Wisconsin Ave Room 500 Milwaukee, WI 53203
Alaska Region Pamela Finney pfinney@fs.fed.us	907-586-8803 FAX 907-586-7840	P.O.Box 21628 Federal Bldg Juneau, AK 99802-1628
Northeastern Research Station, Director of Communications Lynn Campbell lwingert@fs.fed.us	610-557-4253 FAX 610-557-4095	11 Campus Boulevard Suite 200 Newtown Square, PA 19703
Research Stations Communications Offices - June 21, 2004		
Forest Products Laboratory Gordon Blum gblum@fs.fed.us	608-231-9257 FAX 608-231-9592	One Gifford Pinchot Drive Madison, WI 53705-2398
North Central Research Station Debra Dietzman ddietzman@fs.fed.us	651-649-5031 FAX 615-649-5285	1992 Folwell Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108
Northeastern Research Station Lynn Cambella Wingert lynn.c.wingert@fs.fed.us	610-557-4253 FAX 610-557-4095	11 Campus Boulevard Suite 200 Newtown Square, PA 19703
Pacific Northwest Research Station Sherri Richardson-Dodge srichardsondodge@fs.fed.us	503-808-2137 FAX 503-326-2455	P.O. Box 3890 Portland, OR 97208-3890
Pacific SW Research Station Marilyn Hatley	510-559-6324 FAX 510-559-6441	800 Buchanan St. W. annex Blvd. Albany, CA
Rocky Mountain Research Station Rick Fletcher (Ft. Collins) cfletcher@fs.fed.us	970-295-5920 FAX 970-498-1660	240 W Prospect Road Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098
Dave Tippets (Ogden) dtippets@fs.fed.us	801-625-5434 FAX 801-625-5129	324 25th Street Federal Building Ogden, UT 84401
Southern Research Station Carol Ferguson cferguson@fs.fed.us	828-257-4389 FAX 828-257-4838	P.O.Box 2680 Asheville, NC 28802

Natural Resources Conservation Service

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership and administers programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment. Working with landowners and operators in local conservation districts, NRCS addresses this country's natural resource problems as they affect private lands in agriculture and other uses. NRCS is the lead agency in USDA for conservation and administers several programs including, the environmental quality incentives programs, wetlands reserve program, wildlife habitat incentives program, and watershed protection and flood prevention program; leads the national cooperative soil survey and national resource inventory; and provides USDA leadership in assisting landowners and local groups in resource conservation and development projects.

Natural Resources Conservation Service - June 21, 2004

Director Conservation Communications Staff

Terry Bish terry.bish@usda.gov	202-720-3210 FAX 202-720-1564	Rm 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Program Support Assistant

Joyce Hawkins joyce.hawkins@usda.gov	202-720-3210 FAX 202-720-1564	Rm 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
---	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Public Affairs Specialist

Mary Cressel mary.cressel@usda.gov	202-690-0547 FAX 202-690-1221	Rm 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Public Affairs Specialist

June Davidek june.davidek@usda.gov	202-720-3876 FAX 202-690-1221	Rm 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Public Affairs Specialist

Brad Fisher brad.fisher@usda.gov	202-720-4024 FAX 202-690-1221	Rm 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Public Affairs Specialist

Fred Jacobs fred.jacobs@usda.gov	202-720-6796 FAX 202-690-1221	Rm 6114-S Washington, DC 20013
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Public Affairs Specialist

Ted Kupelian ted.kupelian@usda.gov	202-720-5776 FAX 202-690-1221	Rm 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Public Affairs Specialist

Richard Lindeborg richard.lindeborg@usda.gov	202-720-4772 FAX 202-720-1564	Rm 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
---	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Public Affairs Specialist

Sylvia Rainford sylvia.rainford@usda.gov	202-720-2536 FAX 202-690-1221	Rm 6121-S Washington,, DC 20013
---	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Public Affairs Specialist

Suzanne Pender suzanne.pender@usda.gov	202-720-4649 FAX 202-720-1564	Rm 6121-S Washington, DC 20013
---	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Visual Information Specialist

Chris Lozos chris.lozos@usda.gov	202-720-4244 FAX 202-690-1221	Rm 6109-S Washington, DC 20013
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Printing Specialist

Doug Wilson doug.wilson@usda.gov	202-720-6243 FAX 202-720-6009	Rm 6116-S Washington, DC 20013
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Visual Information Specialist

Nancy Chedester nchedester@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov	817-509-3552 FAX 817-509-3568	501 W. Felix St., Bldg. 23 Ft. Worth, TX 76115
---	----------------------------------	---

Volunteer Coordinator

Michele Eginore eginoire@swcs.org	515-289-0325 Ext. 29 FAX 515-289-1227	7515 Ankeny Rd. Ankeny, IA 50021-9764
--------------------------------------	--	--

Visual Information Specialist

Patsy Hocker
phocker@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov

817-509-3558
FAX 817-509-3568

501 W. Felix St., Bldg. 23
Ft. Worth, TX 76115

Visual Information Specialist

Devie Perry
dperry@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov

817-509-3557
FAX 817-509-3568

501 W. Felix St., Bldg. 23
Ft. Worth, TX 76115

Visual Information

Kelly Smith
ksmith@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov

817-509-3555
FAX 817-509-3568

501 W. Felix St., Bldg. 23
Ft. Worth, TX 76115

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Brigette Beaton
brigette.beaton@usda.gov

404-347-6105
FAX 404-347-6108

1720 Peachtree Rd. NW, Suite 446
North Atlanta, GA 30309

Natural Resources Conservation Service State Public Affairs Contacts - June 21, 2004**Alabama**

Julie Best
julie.best@al.nrcs.usda.gov

334-887-4549
FAX 334-887-4551

P.O. Box 311
3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830

Alaska

Jeanette Colville
jeanette.colville@ak.usda.gov

907-271-2424
FAX 907-271-3951

949 East 36th Avenue
Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99508-4362

Arizona

Ron Joy
ron.joy@az.usda.gov

602-280-8778
FAX 602-280-8795

3003 North Central Avenue
Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2945

Arkansas

Sonja Coderre
scoderre@ar.usda.gov

501-301-3133
FAX 501-301-3189

700 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72201-3228

California

Marsha Gery
marsha.gery@ca.usda.gov

530-792-5604
FAX 530-792-5791

430 G Street
Suite 4164
Davis, CA 95616-4164

Colorado

Petra Barnes
petra.barnes@co.nrcs.usda.gov

720-544-2808
FAX 720-544-2962

655 Parfet Street
Room E200C
Lakewood, CO 80215-5517

Connecticut

Carol Donzella
carol.donzella@ct.usda.gov

203-389-6925
FAX 203-922-9351

273 Canal St., Suite 451
Shelton, CT 06484

Delaware

Paul Petrichenko, Acting
ppetrichenko@de.nrcs.usda.gov

302-678-4180
FAX 302-678-0843

1203 College Park Drive
Suite 101
Dover, DE 19904-8713

Florida

Bob Stobaugh
bob.stobaugh@fl.usda.gov

352-338-9565
FAX 352-338-9574

2614 N.W 43rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606-6611

Georgia

Mary Ann McQuinn
mary.mcquinn@ga.nrcs.usda.gov

706-546-2069
FAX 706-546-2120

Federal Building Box 13
355 East Hancock Avenue
Athens, GA 30601-2769

Hawaii

Jolene Lau
jolene.lau@hi.nrcs.usda.gov

808-541-2600 Ext. 135
FAX 808-541-2652

300 Ala Moana Boulevard
Room 4-118

Honolulu, HI 96850-0002

Idaho

Jody Fagan
jody.fagan@id.nrcs.usda.gov

208-658-6978
FAX 208-358-5735

9173 W. Barnes Drive
Suite C
Boise, ID 83709

Illinois

Paige E. Buck
paige.buck@il.nrcs.usda.gov

217-353-6606
FAX 217-353-6676

2118 W. Park Court
Champaign, IL 61821

Indiana

Michael McGovern
mike.mcgovern@in.nrcs.usda.gov

317-290-3200 Ext. 324
FAX 317-290-3225

6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278-2933

Iowa

Laura Greiner
laura.greiner@ia.usda.gov

515-284-4262

693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

Kansas

Mary Shaffer
mary.shaffer@ks.nrcs.usda.gov

785-823-4571
FAX 785-823-4540

760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401

Kentucky

Lois Jackson
lois.jackson@ky.usda.gov

859-224-7372
FAX 859-224-7399

771 Corporate Drive
Suite 110
Lexington, KY 40503-5479

Louisiana

Herb Bourque
herb.bourque@la.nrcs.usda.gov

318-473-7762
FAX 318-473-7682

3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302-3727

Maine

Elaine Tremble
elaine.tremble@me.usda.gov

207-990-9569 EXT. 569
FAX 207-990-9599

967 Illinois Ave., Suite #3
Bangor, ME 04401

Maryland

Carol Hollingsworth
carol.hollingsworth@md.usda.gov

443-482-2902
FAX 410-757-0687

John Hanson BC
339 Bucsh's Frontage Road
Suite 301
Annapolis, MD 21401-5534

Massachusetts

Diane Petit
diane.petit@ma.usda.gov

413-253-4371
FAX 413-253-4375

451 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002-2995

Michigan

Christina Coulon
chris.coulon@miso.mi.usda.gov

517-324-5244
FAX 517-324-5171

3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250
East Lansing, MI 48823-5243

Minnesota

Sylvia Rainford
sylvia.rainford@mn.usda.gov

651-602-7859
FAX 651-602-7914

600 Farm Credit Building
375 Jackson Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Mississippi

Jeannine May
jeannine.may@ms.usda.gov

601-965-4337
FAX 601-965-4536

Federal Building Suite 1321
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39269-1399

Missouri

Norm Klopfenstein
norm.klopfenstein@mo.usda.gov

573-876-0911
FAX 573-876-0913

Parkade Center Suite 250
601 Business Loop 70 West
Columbia, MO 65203-2546

Montana

Lori Valadez lori.valadez@mt.usda.gov	406-587-6842 FAX 406-587-6761	Federal Building Room 443 10 East Babcock Street Bozeman, MT 59715-4704
Nebraska Pat McGrane pat.mcgrane@ne.usda.gov	402-437-5328 FAX 402-437-5327	Federal Building Room 152 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, NE 68508-3866
Nevada Liz Warner liz.warner@nv.usda.gov	775-784-5863 FAX 775-784-5939	5301 Longley Lane Building F Suite 201 Reno, NV 89511
New Hampshire Lynn Howell lynn.howell@nh.usda.gov	603-868-9931 EXT. 104 FAX 603-868-5301	Federal Building 2 Madbury Road Durham, NH 03824-1499
New Jersey Barbara Phillips barbara.phillips@nj.usda.gov	732-537-6040 EXT. 6044 FAX 732-537-6095	1370 Hamilton Street Somerset, NJ 08873-3157
New Mexico Barbara Garrett, Acting barbara.garrett@nm.usda.gov	505-761-4406 FAX 505-761-4463	6200 Jefferson NE Suite 305 Albuquerque, NM 87109-3734
New York vacant kathy.carpenter@ny.nrcs.usda.gov	315-477-6504	441 South Salina Street 5th Floor Suite 354 Syracuse, NY 13202-2450
North Carolina Andrew Smith andy.smith@nc.usda.gov	919-873-2107 FAX 919-873-2156	4405 Bland Road Suite 205 Raleigh, NC 27609-6293
North Dakota Arlene Deutscher arlene.deutscher@nd.usda.gov	701-530-2099 FAX 701-530-2112	Federal Building Room 278 220 East Rosser Avenue Bismarck, ND 58502-1458
Ohio vacant	614-255-2472	200 North High Street Room 522 Columbus, OH 43215-2748
Oklahoma Jasper Parker, Acting jasper.parker@ok.usda.gov	405-742-1243 FAX 405-742-1201	100 USDA Suite 206 Stillwater, OK 74074-2624
Oregon Sara Magenheimer sara.magenheimer@or.usda.gov	503-414-3250	101 SW 3rd Ave Rm 1300 Portland, OR 97204-2881
Pacific Basin Barbara Aflague barbara.aflague@pb.usda.gov	671-472-7375 FAX 700-550-0186	FHB Building Suite 301 400 Route 8 Maite, GU 96927
Pennsylvania Stacy Mitchell stacy.mitchell@pa.usda.gov	717-237-2208 FAX 717-237-2238	1 Credit Union Place Suite 340 Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993
Puerto Rico vacant	787-766-5206 EXT. 239 FAX 787-766-5987	P.O. Box 364868 San Juan, PR 00936-4868

Rhode Island

Jeanne Comerford
jeanne.comerford@ri.usda.gov

401-822-8816
FAX 401-828-0433

60 Quaker Lane
Suite 46
Warwick, RI 02886-0111

South Carolina

Amy Maxwell
amy.maxwell@sc.usda.gov

803-765-5402
FAX 803-253-3670

Strom Thurmond FB
1835 Assembly Street
Room 950
Columbia, SC 29201-2489

South Dakota

Tim Tushla
time.tushla@sd.usda.gov

605-352-1228
FAX 605-352-1261

Federal Building
200 4th Street SW
Huron, SD 57350-2475

Tennessee

Lavonne Winters
lwinters@tn.nrcs.usda.gov

615-277-2535
FAX 615-277-2577

675 U S Courthouse
801 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203-3878

Texas

Harold Bryant
harold.bryant@tx.usda.gov

254-742-9810
FAX 254-742-9819

W R Poage Federal Building
101 South Main Street
Temple, TX 76502

Utah

Ron Francis
ron.francis@ut.usda.gov

801-524-4557
FAX 801-524-4403

125 S State St., Rm 4402
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Vermont

Anne Hilliard
anne.hilliard@vt.usda.gov

802-951-6796 Ext. 234
FAX 802-951-6327

356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105
Colchester, VT 05446

Virginia

Pat Paul
pat.paul@va.usda.gov

804-287-1681
FAX 804-287-1737

Culpeper Building Suite 209
1606 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229-5014

Washington

Betty Schmitt
betty.schmitt@wa.usda.gov

509-323-2912
FAX 509-323-2909

Rock Pointe Tower II
W. 316 Boone Avenue
Suite 450
Spokane, WA 99201-2348

West Virginia

vacent

304-284-7547
FAX 304-284-4839

75 High Street Room 301
Morgantown, WV 26505

Wisconsin

Renae Anderson
renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov

608-662-4422 EXT. 227
FAX 608-662-4430

8031 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53717-2906

Wyoming

Nancy Atkinson
nancy.atkinson@wy.usda.gov

307-233-6759
FAX 307-233-6753

Federal Building
100 East B Street
Room 3124
Casper, WY 82601-1911

Research, Education, and Economics

Agricultural Research Service

<http://www.ars.usda.gov>

Agricultural Research Service is the principal in-house research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ARS has a mission to conduct research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. ARS plans and coordinates its research in multiple National Programs that fall into three main categories: Animal Production, Product Value and Safety; Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems; and Crop Production, Product Value and Safety.

Agricultural Research Service - June 21, 2004

Director Information Staff

Sandy Miller Hays smhays@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1638 FAX 301-504-1648	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1 Rm 2251 Beltsville, MD 20705-5128
--	----------------------------------	--

Current Information Branch Chief

Sean Adams seanadams@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1622 FAX 301-504-1641	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1 Rm 2210 Beltsville, MD 20705-5129
--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

Chief Information Products and Services Branch

Ruth Coy rcoy@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1660 FAX 301-504-1641	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1 Rm 2234 Beltsville, MD 20705-5130
-------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

National Visitor Center Head

John Kucharski kucharski@ars.usda.gov	301-504-9403 FAX 301-504-8069	Bldg 302 BARC-E Beltsville, MD 20705
--	----------------------------------	---

Freedom of Information Act Officers

Valerie Herberger vherberger@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1640 FAX 301-504-1648	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1 Rm 2248b Beltsville, MD 20705-5128
--	----------------------------------	---

National Agricultural Library

<http://www.nalusda.gov>

USDA's National Agricultural Library is the world's largest and most accessible agricultural research library and the principal source in the United States for information about food, agriculture, and natural resources. The library's expert staff, its leadership role in information services and technology applications, its accessibility via the World Wide Web, its collection of more than 3.5 million items, and its close working relationship with Land-Grant and other agricultural libraries worldwide combine to make it the world's foremost agricultural library.

National Agricultural Library - June 21, 2004

Public Affairs Officer

Len Carey len.carey2@usda.gov	301-504-5564 FAX 301-504-7042	204-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Library Services (reference, lending, etc.)

301-504-5755	1st Fl.-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
--------------	-------------------------------------

Freedom of Information Act Officers

Valerie Herberger vherberger@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1640 FAX 301-504-1647	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1 Rm 2248b Beltsville, MD 20705
Stasia Hutchison shutchison@ars.usda.gov	301-504-1655	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1 Rm 2248a Beltsville, MD 20705
NAL TDD/TTY	301-504-6856	
DCRC TDD/TTY	202-720-3434	
Information Research Services Branch Alvetta S Pindell apindell@nal.usda.gov	301-504-7217 FAX 301-504-6409	121-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Alternative Farming Systems Information Center William Thomas wthomas@nal.usda.gov	301-504-5724 FAX 301-504-7098	122-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Animal Welfare Information Center Jean Larson jlarson@nal.usda.gov	301-504-5215 FAX 301-504-7125	4th Floor-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Food and Nutrition Information Center Dennis Smith dsmith@nal.usda.gov	301-504-6369 FAX 301-504-6409	117-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Food Safety Research Information Office Yvette Alonso yalonso@nal.usda.gov	301-504-7374 301-504-6644	1st Floor, NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Rural Information Center Patricia John pjohn@nal.usda.gov	301-504-5372 FAX 301-504-5181	3rd Floor-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Rural Information Center DC area and International	301-504-5547	304-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
All other U.S. calls	1-800-633-7701	304-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Information Desk Electronic Information Services	301-504-5204 or 301-504-5755 FAX 301-504-6927	4th Fl.-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Special Collections Program Susan Fugate sfugate@nal.usda.gov	301-504-6503 FAX 301-504-7593	3Flr-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Technology Transfer Information Center Kathleen Hayes khayes@nal.usda.gov	301-504-5218 FAX 301-504-7098	4Flr-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
Water Quality Information Center Joseph Makuch jmakuch@nal.usda.gov	301-504-6077 FAX 301-504-7098	4Flr-NAL Beltsville, MD 20705
D.C. Reference Center Vacant Librarian on Duty agref@nal.usda.gov	202-720-3434 FAX 202-720-3200	Rm1052-S Washington, DC 20250

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service - June 21, 2004

<http://www.reeusda.gov>

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSRESS), is charged with managing Federal resources to advance knowledge of agriculture, the environment, and human health. CSRESS works through partnerships--with Federal, university-based, and citizen partners. It combines national program leadership and sound administration of Federal assistance in supporting research to achieve safer, cleaner water, food, and air; responsible stewardship of natural resources; and a healthy, stable, and affordable food supply.

CSRESS accomplishes these goals by supporting the base programs of State Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Cooperative Extension system nationwide at Land-Grant universities. The wide-ranging CSREES partnerships include over 130 colleges of agriculture; 59 agricultural experiment stations; 57 cooperative extension services; 63 schools of forestry; Tuskegee University and the other 17 historically Black colleges and universities; 27 colleges of veterinary medicine; 42 schools and colleges of family and consumer sciences; 31 Native American land-grant institutions; 17 Alaskan Native-Serving and Hawaiian Native-Serving Institutions, over 160 Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and numerous institutions and organizations tht qualify for support under various competitive grant authorities.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service - June 21, 2004**Director Communications Staff**

Terry Meisenbach	202-720-2677	Waterfront Center 800 9th St., S.W.
tmeisenbach@csrees.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Rm 4231
		Washington,, DC 20250-2207

Deputy Director

John Snyder	202-720-2047	Waterfront Centre, 800 9th St., S.W., Rm 4234
jsnyder@csress.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Washington,, DC 20250-2207

Public Affairs Specialist

Ann Henderson	202-720-5070	Waterfront Center 800 9th St., S.W.
ahenderson@csrees.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Rm 4314
		Washington, DC 20250-2216

National Media Liaison

Marti Asner	202-720-8188	Waterfront Center 800 9th St., S.W.
masner@csrees.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Rm 4242
		Washington,, DC 20250-2207

Program Assistant and Web Coordinator

Kimberly Johnson	202-720-5369	Waterfront Center 800 9th St., S.W.
kjohnson@csrees.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0289	Rm 4221
		Washington,, DC 20250-2216

Freedom of Information Act Officers

Valerie Herberger	301-504-1640	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
vherberger@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1647	Rm 2248b
		Beltsville, MD 20705

Stasia Hutchison	301-504-1655	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
shutchison@arsusda.gov		Rm 2248a
		Beltsville, MD 20705

Public Inquiries

Vacant

Economic Reserch Service - June 21, 2004

<http://www.ers.usda.gov>

The Economic Research Service (ERS) is the main source of economic information and research from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of ERS is to inform and enhance public and private decisionmaking on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural development.

Economic Research Service - June 21, 2004

Deputy Director of Communications and Media Services

Adrie Custer	202-694-5120	1800 M St., NW, Rm S2018
acuster@ers.usda.gov	FAX 202-694-5638	Washington,, DC 20036-5831

Publishing and Communications Branch Chief

Thomas McDonald	202-694-5129	1800 M St., NW, Rm S2038
thomasm@ers.usda.gov	FAX 202-694-5638	Washington,, DC 20036-5831

ERS Information Center/Publications Distribution

	202-694-5050	1800 M St.,NW, Rm N3050
service@ers.usda.gov	FAX 202-694-5689	Washington,, DC 20036-5831

Freedom of Information Act Officers

Valerie Herberger	301-504-1640	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
vherberger@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1648	Rm 2248b
		Beltsville, MD 20705

Stasia Hutchison	301-504-1655	5601 Sunnyside Ave Bldg. 1
shutchison@ars.usda.gov	FAX 301-504-1641	Rm 2248a
		Beltsville, MD 20705

National Agricultural Statistics Service - June 21, 2004

<http://www.usda.gov/nass>

National Agricultural Statistics Service. The mission of NASS is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. NASS conducts weekly, monthly, and annual surveys and prepares official USDA reports of production, supply, prices, and other information necessary to maintain orderly agricultural operations. Through the Agricultural Statistics Board, about 400 National reports are released to the public every year with estimates covering about 120 crops and 45 livestock items. NASS also conducts the census of agriculture every 5 years. The census of agriculture is conducted for years ending 2 and 7. The census is a complete accounting of U.S. agricultural production and is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the Nation. The census of agriculture contains data on land use and ownership, operator characteristics, crops, machinery and equipment, livestock, fertilizer, poultry, chemicals, market value of products, energy expenditures, irrigated land, production expenses, type of organization, farm programs, and corporate structure. NASS has a network of 45 State Statistical Offices and a field office in Puerto Rico.

NASS Reports and Data Products (There are a variety of ways to obtain NASS reports and data products) - August 8, Internet World Wide Web (Free electronic subscription service available.)

<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

Printed Reports/Publications Sales Order Desk (Free catalog available upon request.)

800-999-6779

NASS Information and Services - June 21, 2004

Information Hotline Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. M-F

	800-727-9540
nass@nass.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-2090

State-Specific Agricultural Statistics nass-@nass.usda.gov(Replace asterisks with State code, such as AL for Alabama) - June 21, 2004**

Alabama (Montgomery, AL)	800-832-4181
Alaska (Palmer, AK)	800-478-6079
Arizona (Phoenix, AZ)	800-645-7286
Arkansas (Little Rock, AR)	800-327-2970
California (Sacramento, CA)	800-851-1127
Colorado (Lakewood, CO)	800-392-3202
Connecticut (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571
Delaware (Dover, DE)	302-698-4537
Florida (Orlando, FL)	800-344-6277
Georgia (Athens, GA)	800-253-4419
Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)	800-804-9514
Idaho (Boise, ID)	800-691-9987
Illinois (Springfield, IL)	800-622-9865
Indiana (West Lafayette, IN)	800-363-0469
Iowa (Des Moines, IA)	800-772-0825
Kansas (Topeka, KS)	800-258-4564
Kentucky (Louisville, KY)	800-928-5277

Louisiana (Baton Rouge, LA)	800-256-4485
Maine (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571
Maryland (Annapolis, MD)	800-675-0295
Massachusetts(Concord,NH)	800-642-9571
Michigan (Lansing, MI)	800-453-7501
Minnesota (St. Paul, MN)	800-453-7502
Mississippi (Jackson, MS)	800-535-9609
Missouri (Columbia, MO)	800-551-1014
Montana (Helena, MT)	800-835-2612
Nebraska (Lincoln, NE)	800-582-6443
Nevada (Reno, NV)	888-456-7211
New Hampshire (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571
New Jersey (Trenton, NJ)	800-328-0179
New Mexico (Las Cruces, NM)	800-530-8810
New York (Albany, NY)	800-821-1276
North Carolina (Raleigh, NC)	800-437-8451
North Dakota (Fargo, ND)	800-626-3134

Ohio (Reynoldsburg, OH)	800-858-8144
Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK)	888-525-9226
Oregon (Portland, OR)	800-338-2157
Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, PA)	800-498-1518
Puerto Rico (San Juan, PR)	787-723-3773*
Rhode Island (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571
South Carolina (Columbia, SC)	800-424-9406
South Dakota (Sioux Falls, SD)	800-338-2557
Tennessee (Nashville, TN)	800-626-0987
Texas (Austin, TX)	800-626-3142
Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)	800-747-8522
Vermont (Concord, NH)	800-642-9571
Virginia (Richmond, VA)	800-772-0670
Washington (Olympia, WA)	800-435-5883
West Virginia (Charleston, WV)	800-535-7088
Wisconsin (Madison, WI)	800-789-9277
Wyoming (Cheyenne, WY)	800-892-1660

***NASS Field Office**

Rural Development

Rural Development

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

USDA's Rural Development mission area helps to overcome the problems and fulfill the promise of rural America. Rural Development programs improve the quality of life for rural residents by creating quality housing, a vibrant rural business sector and by ensuring that rural areas are served by utilities and the Information Superhighway. This USDA mission area is comprised of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), Rural Housing Service (RHS), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and the Office of Community Development (OCD). RBS' emphasis is on making loan guarantees or direct loans for projects that preserve or create quality jobs and/or promote a clean rural environment. The Cooperative Services program of RBS provides technical assistance, research and educational materials to strengthen the Nation's rural cooperatives and to help develop new cooperatives. RHS provides loans and grants that help more than 65,000 moderate-, low-, or very-low-income families secure quality housing each year. The Community Facilities Loan program of RHS builds or improves facilities that provide health care, public safety or other vital public services in rural communities. RUS helps to finance electric, telecommunications, water and wastewater facilities that serve rural areas. The RUS distance learning and medical link programs offer improved education and health services to isolated rural areas. OCD administers the Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program, which provides revitalization for economically depressed rural areas.

Rural Development - June 21, 2004

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs>

Rural Housing Service

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/index.html>

Rural Utilities Service

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rus/index.html>

Office of Community Development

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ocd/index.html>

Acting Director, Legislative and Public Affairs

Allen Johnson	202-720-1019	5039-S
Allen.Johnson@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-4083	Washington, DC 20250

Assistant Director, Legislative and Public Affairs

Timothy J McNeilly	202-690-0498	Rm 2001-S
Tim.Mcneilly@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-4083	Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Public Affairs Director

Dan Campbell	202-720-6483	Rm 5040-S
Dan.Campbell@usda.gov	FAX 202-690-4083	Washington, DC 20250

Deputy Legislative Director

Brenda Morton	202-720-2367	Rm 2123-S
bmorton@rurdev.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-0311	Washington, DC 20250

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Dorothy Hinden	202-690-0031	Rm 0361-S
dhinden@rdmail.rural.usda.gov	FAX 202-692-0013	Washington, DC 20250

Executive Operations

Office of the Chief Economist

<http://www.usda.gov/oce>

Office of the Chief Economist advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and programs affecting U.S. agriculture and rural areas, and informs the Secretary on related economic developments. The Office also is a focal point for farm labor issues within USDA. Units under the OCE coordinate the Department's work in economic forecasting, meteorology, remote sensing, risk benefit and cost benefit analysis, global climate change, sustainable development, energy policy, and new uses for farm products.

Office of the Chief Economist - June 21, 2004

Public Information Officer

Raymond L Bridge	202-720-5447	Rm 5143-S
rbridge@oce.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-1805	Washington, DC 20250-3812

Agricultural Labor Affairs

James Hruboucak	202-720-4737	Rm 112-A
jhruboucak@oce.usda.com	FAX 202-690-4915	Washington, DC 20250-3810

World Agricultural Outlook Board

<http://www.usda.gov/agency/oce/waob/index.htm>

World Agricultural Outlook Board coordinates USDA's supply and use commodity forecasts and agricultural situation and outlook forecasts; issues monthly U.S. and world supply and demand estimates; leads department meteorology and remote sensing activities; assesses the impact of weather on agriculture; and coordinates USDA's annual Outlook Forum. The Board operates a Joint Agricultural Weather Facility with the National Weather Service.

World Agricultural Outlook Board - June 21, 2004

Public Information Officer

Raymond L Bridge	202-720-5447	Rm 5143-S
rbridge@oce.usda.gov	FAX 202-690-1805	Washington, DC 20250-3812

Chief Meteorologist

Raymond Motha	202-720-8651	Rm 5143-S
rmotha@oce.usda.gov	FAX 202-720-4043	Washington, DC 20250-3812

Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis

<http://www.usda.gov/agency/oce/oracba/index.htm>

Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis reviews and approves risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses associated with major human health, safety, and environmental regulations. It also serves as a focal point for risk assessment issues and methods in USDA.

Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis - June 21, 2004

Director Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis

Jim Schaub	202-720-8022	Rm 5248-S
jschaub@oce.usda.gov	FAX 202-720-1815	Washington, DC 20250-3811

Global Change Program Office

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/gcpo/index.htm>

Global Change Program Office serves as USDA's focal point for climate change issues affecting agriculture, rural areas, and forestry. The Office coordinates global change issues among five USDA agencies and acts as a liaison to other governmental bodies.

Global Change Program Office - June 21, 2004

William G Hohenstein
whohenst@oce.usda.gov

202-720-6698
FAX 202-401-1176

300 7th Street, S.W., Rm 670
Washington, DC 20024-0130

Sustainable Development

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/osfsd/index.htm>

Sustainable Development Director coordinates USDA policies and programs in sustainable development for agriculture, forestry, and rural communities.

Sustainable Development - June 21, 2004

Adela Backiel
adela.backiel@usda.gov

202-720-2456
FAX 202-690-4915

Rm 112-A
Washington, DC 20250-3810

Office of Energy Policy and New Uses - June 21, 2004

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/oeppnu/index.htm>

Office of Energy Policy and New Uses provides economic analysis on energy policy issues, coordinates USDA energy-related activities within and outside the Department, and studies the economic feasibility of new uses of agricultural products.

Office of Energy Policy and New Uses - June 21, 2004

Director

Roger K. Conway
rconway@oce.usda.gov

202-401-0461
FAX 202-401-0533

300 7th Street, S.W., Rm 361
Washington, DC 20024-0130

Agricultural Economist

James Duffield
jduffield@oce.usda.gov

202-401-0523
FAX 202-401-0533

300 7th Street, S.W., Rm 361
Washington, DC 20024-0130

National Appeals Division

<http://www.nad.usda.gov>

National Appeals Division, operating as an independent entity, makes final determinations on administrative appeals of USDA program decisions.

National Appeals Division - June 21, 2004

Freedom of Info Act Officer & External Affairs Officer

Larry Shrum
larry.shrum@usda.gov

703-305-1164
FAX 703-305-2825

Park Office Center, Rm 1113
Alexandria, VA 22302

Office of Budget & Program Analysis

<http://www.usda.gov/agency/obpa/Home-Page/obpa.html>

Office of Budget and Program Analysis provides direction and administration of the Department's budgetary functions; reviews program and legislative proposals for program and budget related implications; analyzes program and resource issues and alternatives; and provides departmentwide coordination for and participation in the presentation of budget related matters to the committees of Congress, the press and publics. OBPA also provides departmentwide coordination of the preparation and processing of the legislative program and legislative reports, and departmentwide coordination and processing of regulations.

Office of Budget and Program Analysis - June 21, 2004

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Julie Hetrick
jmh@obpa.usda.gov

202-720-1269
FAX 202-690-3673

Rm 118-E
Washington, DC 20250

Other USDA Offices

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

<http://www.usda.gov/ocfo>

Office of Chief Financial Officer, under the direction of USDA's Chief Financial Officer, provides direction, leadership and coordination of USDA programs in finance, accounting, federal assistance, occupational safety and health, productivity, management improvement and administrative systems; oversees activities of the National Finance Center and fulfills the comptrollership function of the working capital fund; and provides budget, accounting and fiscal services to USDA staff offices and the Office of the Secretary.

Office of Chief Financial Officer - June 21, 2004

Freedom of Info Act Officer

Kathleen Donaldson
kathy.donaldson@usda.gov

202-720-1011
FAX 202-205-3759

Rm 4088-S
Washington, DC 20250

Office of the General Counsel

<http://www.usda.gov/AgenciesandOffices/indexOGC.html>

Office of the General Counsel provides legal counsel and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and all USDA

Office of the General Counsel - June 21, 2004

Freedom of Information Act Attorney

Kenneth Cohen
kenneth.cohen@usda.gov

202-720-5565
FAX 202-720-5837

Rm 1547-S
Washington, DC 20250

Office of the Inspector General

<http://www.usda.gov/oig/index.html>

Office of Inspector General conducts and supervises audits and investigations relating to USDA's programs and operations; provides leadership and coordination and recommends policies for activities designed to prevent and detect fraud and abuse and to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in USDA programs and operations; and keeps the Secretary and Congress fully informed of problems and deficiencies relating to administration of USDA programs, operations and actions designed to correct such problems and deficiencies.

Office of Inspector General - June 21, 2004

Freedom of Information Act Officer

Deidre MacNeil

202-720-8112
FAX 202-690-1528

Rm 24-E
Washington, DC 20250

Departmental Administration

<http://www.usda.gov/da/>

Departmental Administration contributes to accomplishing USDA's mission through leadership and service in administrative management activities, including human resources, property, procurement, civil rights, and small and disadvantaged businesses and competition advocacy.

Departmental Administration - June 21, 2004

Freedom of Information Act Liaison

Art Goldman
art.goldman@usda.gov

202-720-8468
FAX 202-720-2755

Rm 0612-S
Washington, DC 20250

Office of Chief Information Officer

<http://www.ocio.usda.gov/>

Office of Chief Information Officer is responsible for assuring that information technology is acquired and information resources are managed effectively; for developing and maintaining a sound and integrated information technology architecture for USDA; and for monitoring the performance of USDA's information technology programs.

Office of Chief Information Officer - June 21, 2002**Freedom of Information Act Officer**

Lesia Banks

Lesia.Banks@usda.gov

202-720-9265

FAX 202-720-3445

Rm 555 Reporters Building

Washington, DC 20250

