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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2024 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2021 and 2022, enacted levels for 2023, and the President's Budget request for 2024. Amounts for 2023 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the "2018 Farm Bill" is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2023. Amounts shown in 2024 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) was created by the Secretary of Agriculture on October 20, 1994, under the authority of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Public Law 103-354. OCE advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of changes in Department policies and programs, proposed legislation, and market conditions, by providing unbiased information and data-driven analyses of current and emerging issues impacting agriculture and rural America.

OCE provides economic expertise, analysis, and coordination on a wide range of Departmental activities and initiatives. The office provides economic analysis to inform development of agricultural policy and key U.S. trade initiatives and serves as a focal point for the Nation's agricultural economic intelligence and the commodity outlook for U.S. and world agriculture. OCE is responsible for coordinating economic analyses and reviewing Department decisions involving policies and programs that have substantial economic implications. The office also coordinates the Department's analysis of issues and activities involving agricultural labor, climate change, renewable energy, bioenergy, biobased products and markets, sustainable development, biotechnology, and food loss and waste.

OCE is responsible for coordinating interagency development of the Department's agricultural commodity short-term forecasts and long-term projections. OCE's World Agricultural Outlook Board prepares the monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report, which is a Principal Federal Economic Indicator and is the most widely used source for domestic and global commodity market estimates and forecasts, as measured by the number of downloads on the OCE website. It underpins management information used across the Department for budgeting, policy development, and program evaluations and is also the anchor for other Departmental and private sector commodity forecasts. OCE also coordinates, reviews, and clears all commodity and aggregate agricultural and food-related data used to develop outlook and situation material within the Department.

OCE reviews and clears all regulatory impact and risk analyses of economically significant major rules in the Department to ensure that they are based on objective, appropriate, and sound economic and risk analyses. OCE also assists agencies in complying with Executive Orders and OMB guidance on regulatory analysis.

OCE also coordinates USDA's global change research program and conducts policy analysis on climate change, renewable energy, biobased products, and environmental markets. OCE supports the development of technical guidelines that provide science-based methods to quantify the greenhouse gas and other environmental service benefits from renewable energy production and use, resource conservation, and land management activities. This work will enable farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to participate in emerging carbon markets, USDA's Climate Smart Partnership Initiative, and other environmental services markets. OCE coordinates activities with other Federal agencies on climate change research and policy efforts; represents USDA domestically and internationally in discussions of climate risks and vulnerabilities; oversees Department-wide efforts to address risks and build resilience to climate variability and change; and facilitates communication and outreach to producers and agricultural interest groups on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In addition, the Office is responsible for the development and coordination of Departmental policy and services related to pest management, pesticides, biotechnology, and related topics. It coordinates research, extension, and education activities regarding the development, availability, and use of economically and environmentally sound pest management tools and practices. The Office assists other agencies of the Department in fulfilling their

responsibilities related to pest management or pesticides, as well as ensuring coordination of interagency activities with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal and state agencies. The Office also administers multiple pesticide usage surveys to collect data for the purpose of informing risk assessment modeling and mitigation.

OCE Headquarters is located in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2022, there were 64 full time permanent employees, 61 of which are located in Washington, D.C and 3 have a remote duty station.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

OCE did not have any Office of Inspector General evaluation reports during the past year. The below table includes open Government Accountability Office recommendations.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table OCE-1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations	$24,692	58	$27,199	60	$28,181	65	$35,597	71
Balance Available, SOY	500	-	455	-	368	-	74	-
Total Available	25,192	58	27,654	60	28,549	65	35,671	71
Lapsing Balances [a]	-481	-	-392	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY	-455	-	-368	-	-74	-	-	-
Total Obligations, OCE	24,256	58	26,894	60	28,475	65	35,671	71

[a] The lapsing balances as shown in the above table do not include the $8 thousand in reimbursable lapsing balances.

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in OCE, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table OCE-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2021 Actual			2022 Actual			2023 Estimated			2024 Estimated		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES	6	-	6	6	-	6	6	-	6	6	-	6
SL	2	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	2
GS-15	28	-	28	30	-	30	30	-	30	30	-	30
GS-14	13	-	13	16	-	16	17	-	17	18	-	18
GS-13	3	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	3	6	-	6
GS-12	4	-	4	4	-	4	3	-	3	5	-	5
GS-11	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	2
GS-9	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-7	2	-	2	2	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	1
Total Permanent	59	-	59	64	-	64	65	-	65	71	-	71
Unfilled, EOY	-	-	-			-			-			-
Total Perm. FT EOY	59	-	59	64	-	64	65	-	65	71	-	71
FTE	58	0	58	60	0	60	65	0	65	71	0	71

Note: In addition to those numbers above, there are temporary positions as well.

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Table OCE-3. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
Material Management Service	$13	$18	$17	$18
Mail and Reproduction Services	164	89	62	64
Integrated Procurement Systems	9	12	13	13

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Procurement Operations Services	22	24	31	36
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems	1	1	1	1
Subtotal	209	144	124	132
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center	324	7	11	27
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center	27	15	17	18
Financial Management Systems	20	29	32	33
Personnel Document Security	-	-	6	6
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services	-	-	17	18
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services	-	-	18	19
AskUSDA Contact Center	-	-	2	11
Subtotal	47	44	92	105
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	382	421	317	340
Department Administration Information Technology Office	159	263	316	428
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	29	70	23	25
Enterprise Network Services	28	29	47	49
Subtotal	598	783	703	842
Office of the Executive Secretariat	33	42	92	96
Total, Working Capital Fund	1,211	1,020	1,022	1,202
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Agency Partnership Outreach	4	4	5	5
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility	-	-	1	1
Human Resources Priority Goals Program	-	-	2	2
Talent Group	-	-	2	2
Medical Services	15	14	17	17
Office of Customer Experience	6	5	2	2
Personnel and Document Security Program	2	2	-	-
Physical Security	2	3	3	3
Security Detail	3	3	3	3
Security Operations Program	4	4	4	4
TARGET Center	1	1	1	1
TARGET Center NCR Interpreting Services	-	3	10	10
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services	3	3	-	-
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	40	42	50	50
E-Gov:				
Geospatial Line of Business	13	13	13	13
Total, E-Gov	13	13	13	13
Agency Total	1,264	1,075	1,085	1,265

ACCOUNT 1: SALARIES AND EXPENSES

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Salaries and Expenses

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, [$28,181,000]$35,597,000, of which $8,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155: *Provided,* that of the amounts made available under this heading, $500,000 shall be available to carry out section 224 of subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924), as amended by section 12504 of Public Law 115–334.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table OCE-4. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023	$28,181,000
Change in Appropriation	+7,416,000
Net 2024 Request	35,597,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table OCE-5. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Office of the Chief Economist.....	$24,192	58	$26,699	60	$27,681	65	$35,097	71	+$7,416	+6	(1)
Food Loss and Waste Liaison.....	$500	-	$500	-	$500	-	$500	-	-	-	
Total Appropriations.....	24,692	58	27,199	60	28,181	65	35,597	71	+7,416	+6	
Bal. Available, SOY	500	-	455	-	368	-	74	-	-294	-	
Total Available	25,192	58	27,654	60	28,549	65	35,671	71	+7,122	+6	
Lapsing Balances [a].....	-481	-	-392	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, EOY	-455	-	-368	-	-74	-	-	-	+74	-	
Total Obligations	24,256	58	26,894	60	28,475	65	35,671	71	+7,196	+6	

[a] The lapsing balances as shown in the above table do not include the $8 thousand in reimbursable lapsing balances.

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Table OCE-6. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Office of the Chief Economist	$23,711	58	$26,307	60	$27,681	65	$35,245	71	+$7,564	+6
Food Loss and Waste Liaison	500	-	500	-	500	-	500	-	-	-
Subtotal Disc Obligations-	24,211	58	26,807	60	28,181	65	35,745	71	+7,564	+6
Mandatory Obligations:										
Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey	45	-	87	-	294	-	-74	-	-368	
Subtotal Mand Obligations	45	-	87	-	294	-	-74	-	-368	-
Total Obligations	24,256	58	26,894	60	28,475	65	35,671	71	+7,196	+6
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances [a]	481	-	392	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey	455	-	368	-	74	-	-	-	-74	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	455	-	368	-	74	-	-	-	-74	
Total Available	25,192	58	27,654	60	28,549	65	35,671	71	+7,122	+6
Less:										
Bal. Available, SOY	-500	-	-455	-	-368	-	-74	-	+294	-
Total Appropriations	24,692	58	27,199	60	28,181	65	35,597	71	+7,416	+6

[a] The lapsing balances as shown in the above table do not include the $8 thousand in reimbursable lapsing balances.

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Office of the Chief Economist

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

(1) An increase of $7,616,000 and 6 FTEs ($28,181,000 and 65 FTEs available in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) An increase of $616,000 for 2024 Pay.

This increase will support the annualization of the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2024 5.2 percent. Cost of Living pay increase. If this funding is not provided, OCE would need to significantly cut the necessary support and would be unable to support mandated federal pay increases, OCE will have to make cuts to its contracts and agreements portfolio in order to cover increased payroll costs and prevent a Reduction in Force. Cutting contracts and agreements would have significant impacts to the mission of OCE and its ability to meet Congressional and Departmental priorities for economic expertise and analysis.

B) An increase of $6,800,000 and 6 FTEs for Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment Program, climate smart commodity initiatives, bioeconomy coordination, and associated analytical support.

If this funding is not provided, OCE would be forced to delay new investments in the Department's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment Program, which will result in an inability to meet programmatic demands and delays in the production of new tools, analysis, and capabilities that are critical to meeting the Administration's ambitious climate goals. OCE will also be forced to limit our work to develop the bioeconomy and support related rural economic development. This would also result in greater uncertainties and less timely analysis of greenhouse gas sources and sinks from the agriculture and forest sectors and create gaps in the Department's ability to quantify the greenhouse gas and other environmental benefits of on-farm conservation and biomass energy development. OMB, OSTP and the White House

Climate Office have encouraged OCE to strengthen the GHG Inventory and Assessment Program in support of the Administration's climate priorities and to strengthen rural economic development.

OCE's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment Program is being asked to provide technical and analytic support for the implementation of climate smart agriculture practices under Title II programs and the Climate Smart Commodities Partnerships. These funds are also necessary to provide support for the contracts and agreements needed to implement the Learning Network for the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities program.

Moreover, OCE is also being asked to provide new types of analytic support to Mission Areas including in areas relating to programs to develop and expand the bioeconomy, efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, and emerging issues around climate smart commodity marketing claims. This funding will ensure that OCE has staff and capacity to support both the Administration's and the Department's climate efforts, including an additional FTE to support financial climate risk assessment efforts, building-out the Department's Climate Dashboard in a timely way, and continuing to update and reduce uncertainties in national, programmatic, and farm-scale greenhouse gas accounting systems.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table OCE-7. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE
District of Columbia	$24,211	58	$26,807	60	$28,181	65	$35,597	$71
Obligations	24,211	58	26,807	60	28,181	65	35,597	71

Table OCE-8. Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE
District of Columbia	$45	-	$87	-	$294	-	$74	-
Obligations	45	-	87	-	294	-	74	-

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table OCE-9 Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$9,209	$8,517	$10,523	$10,655
11	Total personnel compensation	9,209	8,517	10,523	10,655
12	Personal benefits	3,159	3,139	3,893	3,942
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	2	-	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	12,370	11,656	14,416	14,597
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	64	100	100	100
22.0	Transportation of things	1	-	-	-
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	3	-	-	-
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	-	134	134	134
24.0	Printing and reproduction	81	6	6	6
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	1,481	2,125	2,133	2,133
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	9	8	8	8
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	1,235	2,688	2,680	2,680
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	8,922	-	-	-
25.5	Research and development contracts	-	9,968	8,789	15,804
26.0	Supplies and materials	50	100	100	100
31.0	Equipment	40	109	109	109
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	11,886	15,238	14,059	21,074
99.9	Total, new obligations	24,256	26,894	28,475	35,671
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	$13	$13	$13	$13
	Information Technology Investments:				
	Major Investment 1	DASO-SO-IT Management- Office of the Chief Economist			
	Related Mission Area PPA #2	17	-	-	-
11	Internal Labor	22	-	-	-
	Total Major Investment 1	39	0	0	0
	Major Investment 3				
	External Labor (Contractors)	22	-	-	-
	Total Major Investment 3	22	0	0	0
	Mission Area Standard Investment Totals	-	180	143	151
25.3	Mission Area WCF Transfers	914	1,066	1,086	1,113
	Total Non-Major Investment	914	1,246	1,229	1,264
	Total IT Investments	**975**	**1,246**	**1,229**	**1,264**
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$183,300	$183,000	$187,575	$193,202
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$144,807	$150,678	$154,445	$159,078
	Average Grade, GS Position	14.6	14.7	14.7	14.7

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STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) is the focal point for economic and policy-related research and analysis for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. OCE aims to inform public and private decision-makers by providing unbiased information and data-driven analyses of current and emerging issues impacting agriculture. OCE provides economic expertise and coordination on a wide range of Departmental activities and initiatives.

Current Activities

OCE's Immediate Office (IO) staff provide policy and program analyses and advice to the Secretary on major issues affecting agriculture and rural America. The IO staff focus on agricultural policy, including analyses of alternative farm program, conservation, and crop insurance options; trade initiatives and disputes; developments in agricultural commodity markets, such as the effects of global weather and changes in production and trade patterns; economic issues related to plant and animal diseases; sustainable agriculture; and agricultural labor issues.

The World Agricultural Outlook Board's (WAOB) primary mission is to provide reliable and objective economic forecasts for farmers and other participants in the food and fiber system. Key WAOB activities are coordinating USDA forecasts of domestic and international agriculture; providing economic analysis related to global commodity markets; monitoring markets and agricultural weather; and disseminating relevant information.

OCE clears all USDA significant, economically significant regulations for their regulatory impact analyses. OCE's Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis (ORACBA) reviews and approves statutorily required risk assessments for all major proposed USDA regulations. ORACBA is a focal point for Departmental activities related to risk analysis, including inter-Departmental activities; regulatory reviews to ensure science-based regulations; and the integration of economic analysis and risk assessment.

The Office of Energy and Environmental Policy (OEEP) serves as a focal point for the Department's energy, environmental markets, and climate change research, mitigation and adaptation planning and policy development. OEEP aims to improve understanding of the complex interactions between agriculture systems and the environment, and to transfer the resulting knowledge to producers and land managers through information, tools, and decision support. In the energy area, OEEP analyzes and evaluates existing and proposed policies and strategies. In the climate variability and change area, OEEP coordinates analysis, long range planning, research, and response strategies to climate change. In the environmental markets area, OEEP establishes uniform guidelines for the development of science-based methods to measure the ecosystem services benefits from conservation and land management activities. OEEP carries out USDA responsibilities under the Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990, and coordinates USDA's contributions to the quadrennial U.S. National Climate Assessments, as required under the 1990 Global Change Research Act.

The Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) leads the development and coordination of Departmental policy on pest management and pesticides, provides Departmental coordination on agricultural biotechnology, and ensures coordination of interagency activities with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other Federal and State agencies. OPMP collects data to on individual growers' pest management practices to improve the information available to EPA on the potential benefits of specific pesticides.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

Immediate Office of the Chief Economist

Provided economic and policy analysis in support of key initiatives, including:

Agricultural Policy

Provided significant rapid-response economic analyses and assessments of many policy proposals and regulatory actions, including new pandemic payment and emergency relief programs enabling USDA to quickly provide support to stabilize the agricultural and rural sectors, programs for underserved producers, and new actions to increase transparency and decrease discrimination and anti-competitive practices in agriculture, focusing in particular on the livestock sector.

Provided timely analysis of various economic conditions to inform Administration officials about impacts on the agricultural and rural sectors, including supply chain disruptions related to fertilizers and containerized shipments, and sources of supply side food price inflation.

Provided economic context and analysis on weather impacts and disasters and potential disasters for USDA leadership and Congress, including hurricanes, drought-induced impacts (e.g., historically low Mississippi River impacts), and the potential rail strike. OCE also served on USDA's Multi-Agency Coordination group (ongoing).

These efforts ensured that USDA decision-makers had timely, accurate economic information for decision making during disaster response and the potential provision of financial assistance.

Led research and fostered high priority research conducted by others, increasing the knowledge base to inform the design and ensure impactful outcomes of future policy decisions (ongoing).

Global Food Security

The Chief Economist currently serves as Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), an international platform housed within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to enhance food market transparency and policy response for food security.

The Chief Economist represented USDA in many inter-agency meetings including supply chain disruptions, and the impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on food and fertilizer supplies and global food security.

OCE's mission is to provide the Secretary with timely economic analysis related to supply chain disruptions, commodities market supply and demand estimates and sustainable development are all integral pieces to the global food security agenda.

Sustainable Development Activities

Since developing and launching the *Coalition of Action on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation (SPG Coalition)* at the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021, have spurred more than 100 members from every region of the world to join. This initiative elevated productivity growth as a critical component for building more sustainable food systems.

Provided technical leadership and guidance on activities to be pursued by the Collaboration Platform on Agriculture, which aims to deepen communication and knowledge sharing with the European Union on agricultural challenges to building more sustainable food systems. Conceptualized, organized, and moderated the inaugural workshop on Measurement, Trends, Drivers, and Sustainability Impacts of Agricultural Productivity Growth.

Led USDA efforts to identify USDA policy positions on deforestation-free commodity supply chains.

Led for USDA on the State Department's development of a USG consensus position on the circular economy and initiated and led on developing a USDA consensus definition of circular agriculture.

Food Loss and Waste (FLW)

Fostered interagency collaboration with EPA and FDA, which has resulted in an expansion (from 35 to 48) of the number of large U.S. companies pledging to reduce food loss and waste (FLW) in their supply chains by 50 percent by 2030 (aka 2030 Champions).

Led the development of new investments in FLW activities, including a $30 million investment in the NRCS Compost and Food Waste Reduction program over 3 years.

Led several efforts to promote awareness of FLW and spur innovations, including conceptualizing and hosting USDA's second Innovation Fair that showcased innovations from 13 Champions, 7 USDA agencies and 10 USDA-funded organizations; multiple roundtables; and a constant stream of outreach materials (blogs, newsletters, etc.) including translations to other languages to increase accessibility.

World Trade Organization (WTO) and Trade Policy Support

Supported the maintenance of a U.S. position of leadership in the WTO via timely and accurate reporting of the U.S. domestic support for agriculture. Developed the 2020/2021 domestic support notification to the WTO and provided analysis of new programs to FAS and USTR. The domestic support notification is required to demonstrate U.S. compliance with WTO commitments.

Ongoing work shaping the conversation in the Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Committee for Agriculture to provide the U.S. perspective and direction on policy discussions and research and papers under development by the OECD.

OCE staff member serves as Vice Chair in the bureau of OECD's Group on Commodity Markets (GCM); key contributions and serves as U.S. spokesperson for the OECD's Agricultural Outlook.

Represented USDA in numerous interagency meetings on multilateral and bilateral trade issues, including WTO and bilateral trade negotiations, WTO, and other enforcement actions (ongoing), such as Section 301 investigations (e.g., specialty crop imports), and supply chain disruptions from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Provided economic analysis and/or guidance on several WTO / Free Trade Agreement (FTA) disputes or potential disputes, including the original USMCA dispute on Canada's implementation of dairy tariff rate quotas and the U.S. Government response in the expiry review of China's countervailing duty measures on U.S. dried distillers grains with or without solubles and Colombia's countervailing duties on U.S. ethanol.

Reviewed and contributed to briefing and other materials for WTO dispute settlement, committee meetings, and negotiations, as well as U.S. bilateral agricultural trade negotiations, meetings, and submissions. Provided substantive input on WTO Secretariat's draft of the U.S. Trade Policy Review (TPR) report.

Led research on agricultural market and trade analysis, including on the global agricultural trade impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine; also fostered high priority trade policy research conducted by others.

Crop Insurance

The Chief Economist, as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), presided over quarterly public board meetings during 2022 (ongoing). The FCIC meets four times a year and on an ad-hoc basis, as needed.

The FCIC Board of Directors approved several products to improve the risk management safety net on a wide variety of farms in 2022. Announcements of new and or improved products in 2022 include:

- Made permanent a new provision from 2021 that allows producers to hay, graze or chop cover crops anytime and still receive a full prevented planting payment.
- Rolled out a new insurance option specifically for agricultural producers with small farms who sell locally. The new Micro Farm policy offered through Whole-Farm Revenue Protection simplifies record keeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products. Changes rolled out include doubling the maximum insurable revenue under WFRP, now $17 million, more than tripling the size of farm operations eligible for Micro Farm, now $0.4 million and reducing paperwork requirements.
- To reduce the risk of raising two crops on the same land in one, double crop insurance opportunities will be expanded for 2023 in counties where double cropping is viable.
- Revisions to insurance policies that make it easier for specialty crop producers and others who sell through direct marketing channels to obtain insurance, report annual production, and file a claim.

Agricultural Labor Activities

Ensured USDA interests were represented in Department of Labor rules impacting the H-2A program.

Provided expert input into Administration efforts to significantly increase the number of H-2A temporary agricultural visas for Northern Triangle nationals.

Analytical Assistance to Congress and Other Federal Agencies

Conducted and spurred research to inform future analytical needs for policy support to satisfy interest (by Congress and others) in ex-post evaluation of policy impacts, and to inform future Farm Bill debates.

Regularly provide technical assistance to Congress.

Provided economic analysis of the effects of COVID-19 on agricultural trade. Presented findings in interagency meetings, as well as at various conferences and external venues.

Provided economic analysis for retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports.

Identified and developed new data sources to support analytic needs across OCE and USDA on the agricultural and rural sector.

World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB)

Agricultural Supply and Demand Monitoring and Reporting

Published the monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand (WASDE)* reports, a Principal Federal Economic Indicator report, providing USDA's official world and U.S. supply and utilization estimates and forecasts for grains, oilseeds, and cotton, and official estimates and forecasts for U.S. sugar, red meat, poultry, eggs, and milk. The WASDE report receives between 1.5 million and 2 million downloads annually. After each WASDE release the Secretary briefing presentations were posted on the OCE website for public use, ensuring fair and equitable access to the information.

Cleared all USDA/Economic Research Service Commodity Outlook reports for public release on schedule following the WASDE release (ongoing activity).

Represented the United States on FAO's AMIS information group, including information sharing and monthly participation in commodity outlook sessions intended to support food market transparency and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty.

USDA Baseline Projections

Managed the development of the USDA interagency 10-year baseline economic projections and cleared the estimates for publication and release. The projections provide timely insight and strategic planning information for the President's Budget, agricultural producers, other agribusinesses, and policy officials.

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum

Led all aspects of the 2022 *Agricultural Outlook Forum*. The Forum is a unique event where key agricultural sector stakeholders in the United States and around the world come together every year to discuss current and emerging topics and trends in the sector. The Forum facilitates information sharing among stakeholders and generates transparency that supports well-functioning open markets. Attendance exceeded 5,000 people, by far the largest attendance ever. The Chief Economist provided a keynote speech on the state of the U.S. agricultural economy. The two-day program included 30 sessions on issues affecting rural America and agriculture, including the food price and farm income outlook, U.S. trade and the global marketplace, new frontiers in agriculture, managing risk and ensuring sustainability, the rural economy, and commodity outlooks.

Agricultural Weather Monitoring and Analysis

Meteorologists collaborated closely with the World Agricultural Outlook Board and analysts from Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Economic Research Service, and other partner agencies to provide crop weather impact analyses in support of 12 Monthly WASDE Reports.

Collaborated with the National Weather Service to prepare and publish 52 *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletins (WWCB),* issue 260 *Daily U.S. Agricultural Weather Highlights,* and to provide authorship for or contribute to 52 weekly *U.S. Drought Monitors (USDM)*.

Leveraging 7 U.S. Code § 3155 (Agricultural and Food Policy Centers), partnered with the National Drought Mitigation Center to improve drought services to the American public and provide support for other OCE mandates, including Farm Bill priorities and obtaining metrics to determine the economic impacts of drought. Deliverables included historical U.S. Drought Monitor statistics in Tribal lands.

Provided leadership in support of several White House led or supported activities, including the National Drought Resilience Partnership, the Interagency Working Group on Western Drought, and the Interagency Council for Advancing Meteorological Services. Provided timely information for decisionmakers on drought; served as an expert source to numerous news outlets on the impacts of extreme weather events on agriculture.

The Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis (ORACBA)

Risk Analysis Leadership and Consultation

Reviewed over 100 interagency rules and guidance documents in E.O 12866 interagency clearance ensuring that USDA's interests were represented in OMB interagency reviews.

Provided guidance to USDA agencies developing risk assessments and economic analyses related to environmental health and safety Provided guidance and consultation to USDA and other Federal agencies on risk assessments for dietary contaminants, pesticides, foodborne pathogens, endangered species, plant and animal pests, and environmental contaminants (ongoing).

Participated in the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) to enhance communication and coordination among agencies with food safety responsibilities. Collaborated with USDA agencies and New Mexico State University on research into withdrawal times from perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) exposure.

Collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on research examining the connection between Salmonella serovar infections in humans and detections in poultry at slaughterhouses.

Risk Communication and Outreach

Participated in the EPA-USDA-FDA Interagency Risk Communication Working Group examining PFAS contamination keeping USDA apprised of new developments in EPA regulatory, and other actions, and prepared for further engagement (ongoing).

Disseminated 16 newsletters informing Departmental subscribers of risk assessment and economic/regulatory analyses educational opportunities on emerging issues and techniques.

Risk Assessment Education and Training

Sponsored four Science, Policy, and Risk seminars. Topics included a discussion of possible approaches to assessing the risk from different Salmonella serovars; a discussion of new methods to assess the lag time between insect establishment and detection and implications for pest risk; presentation of empirical analysis of the behavior of Women Infant and Children (WIC) children aging out of the program; and a feedback session on the departmental risk assessors' unmet needs.

Developed a regulatory economics course in partnership with the Society of Benefit Cost Analysis, Joint Institute of Food Safety & Applied Nutrition, and George Washington University's Regulatory Studies Center.

The Office of Energy and Environmental Policy (OEEP)

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

Designed the structure for a major new climate initiative focused on incentivizing agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation through expanded market demand for climate-smart commodities. OEEP worked closely with FPAC to develop the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, a $3 billion program which is funding large-scale pilots to provide technical and financial assistance to producers who voluntarily implement climate-smart practices on working lands; pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits; and market the resulting climate-smart commodities.

Put in place the mechanisms to establish and manage the Partnership Network for CSAF Initiative which will synthesize lessons-learned from the pilots and guide USDA and others in future efforts to incentivize climate-smart agriculture.

Adaptation and Resilience Planning

Coordinated the development of USDA's Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience. This plan describes how climate change will affect USDA's mission and cross-cutting actions the Department will take to integrate climate adaptation into its planning, decision-making, programs, and operations, to best serve American producers, forest landowners, and rural communities in a changing climate.

Coordinated the preparation and release of 13 Agency-level Climate Adaptation Plans, prepared by select Departmental offices and agencies from 6 Mission Areas. These Plans build on the Department-wide Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience, while identifying climate risks unique to each agency.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and Assessment

Established the Department's GHG Inventory and Assessment Program. The system will track and assess national progress and will develop and update projections and forecasts of GHG sources and sinks for use in policy and decision-making. This will be a coordinated effort across several agencies, and OCE will coordinate USDA's contributions to the U.S. GHG Inventory.

Co-Chaired White House Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Forest Greenhouse Gas Quantification. OEEP coordinated multiple governmental and USDA agencies to deliver a framework for improving Measuring, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verifying (MMRV), and an action plan for improving measurement and quantification of GHGs from agriculture and forestry using a whole-of-government approach. The products of this work group are being used to inform investments within USDA, including a national soil health monitoring network, improvements to USDA surveys and data collection (including new surveys), and research to directly measure livestock and soil GHG emissions and sinks.

Established a Visualization Platform for GHG Benefits of USDA Programs -- USDA GHG Dashboard. OEEP has led the development of a climate data dashboard to visualize the GHG benefits of USDA programs.

Economic and Policy Analysis

Conducted analysis of the GHG benefits of Build Back Better and the Inflation Reduction Act. OEEP also provided other relevant metrics, such as the number of farms that would be affected.

Energy Policy

Published the report "Assessing Future Market Opportunities and Challenges for E15 and Higher Ethanol Blends": This report evaluated future market opportunities for higher ethanol blends and identifies the greatest potential in

E15. The report also provided an analysis of barriers for higher ethanol blends, including technical, legal, and economic challenges.

Published the report "Indicators of the U.S. Biobased Economy, 2018". This report is third in a series prepared in collaboration with Syracuse University on the biobased economy.

Issued a report in Spanish on Renewable Electricity Technologies to Increase the Resilience of the Food Supply System in Puerto Rico. This paper describes the challenges and potential opportunities for using renewable electricity technologies to increase the resilience of Puerto Rico's food supply system (including commodity production, processing, storage, and distribution) to prolonged utility power outages.

Ecosystem Services and Environmental Markets

Led USDA's technical engagement in America the Beautiful and the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, and provided staffing support to FPAC, NRE and OSEC for related policy discussions. OCE also coordinated the inter-departmental working group that wrote the three foundational working papers that developed the 30x30 framework to classify lands in the Atlas, identify datasets to track changes in conservation benefits over time, and quantify conservation outcomes. The beta version of the Conservation and Stewardship Atlas and overarching Conservation.gov website was released in December 2022.

Led USDA involvement in the White House initiative to develop and maintain Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decision-making for the United States, including Natural Capital Accounts and associated Environmental-Economic Statistics. The effort will enable the Federal Government to compile, organize, and report on the state of the environment in connection to economic objectives. USDA chairs workgroups on Pollinators and Forests and serves on the overall governance committee.

Climate Change Science

Launched the USDA Climate Science Seminar Series as a workforce development activity that provides the scientific background for USDA employees engaged in land and resource management activities to understand how climate change affects their daily work toward achieving USDA's mission. The seminars have averaged more than 800 live viewers to-date from within USDA and the Cooperative Extension Service's leadership, and recordings posted on USDA's public YouTube site mean that over 1,100 people on average have seen each seminar. Twenty-three USDA agencies from every U.S. state and 14 foreign posts have participated.

Co-Chaired the Climate Hub Executive Committee and provide strategic guidance to the Hubs program. The Climate Hubs completed a series of 12 short films that highlight the breadth of work that the Hubs do on the ground to support farmers, ranchers, land managers, and students. The films detail Hub research, as well as Hub products and outreach, such as Grass-Cast, the urban forest Adaptation Menu, Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery guides, and climate literacy curriculum, as well as Hub partnerships to support Tribal climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Equity and Environmental Justice

Integrated environmental justice throughout USDA's Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (2021). The disproportionate effect of climate change on vulnerable communities was identified as one of five key climate vulnerabilities in the Plan.

Equity and environmental justice were woven through the Climate Hubs 2022 priorities to support communities that have been historically marginalized, overburdened, and under-resourced. In 2022, the National Climate Hubs Coordinator, housed in OEEP, helped plan and host a hybrid National Academies event on equitable community participation in federally funded research with a keynote from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The event garnered over 100 in-person and 750 online participants.

International Engagement

Prepared the Department for engagement during the 26th meeting of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The meeting included participation by Secretary Vilsack and major announcements on AIM-4 Climate and the Partnerships for Dairy Net-Zero.

Participated in the delegation to negotiate the Summary for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Topics of high importance to USDA in the negotiations included agroecology and the language surrounding nutrition and sustainability. USDA successfully renegotiated the language around these topics to be more agreeable.

Contributed to fertilizer innovation efforts, including a proposal to establish a Global Fertilizer Innovation Challenge focused on strengthening food security by increasing fertilizer efficiency, improving nutrient management, and developing alternatives to alleviate pressure on both food and fertilizer supply.

The Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP)

Pesticide Risk Assessment and Regulatory Analysis

Worked actively with EPA on the registration and reevaluation of pesticide active ingredients; submitted comments on 65 pesticide regulatory actions. OPMP's comments resulted in re-consideration of several impactful restrictions and informed EPA's consideration of benefits to growers, resulting in less onerous interim decisions for multiple pesticide cases (anthraquinone, spirodiclofen, pyrethrins/PBO/MGK-264, Metaldehyde).

Analyzed and provided recommendations on several biological evaluations and biological opinions (malathion, diazinon, chlorpyrifos, and other) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation process, resulting in changes to the actions described in the biological opinions to actions more amenable to agricultural production practices. Commented on EPA guidance and rules on product performance data requirements and the Worker Protection Standard, and a Notice of Intent to Cancel Chlorpyrifos, as described in EPA's regulatory processes for rulemaking under FIFRA. Comments ensured grower perspective is considered in EPA decision making.

Prepared legal declarations to support the U.S. government's responses to pending pesticide litigation. Stakeholders have indicated to OPMP that these declarations are helpful in defending continued grower access to crop protection tools that were petitioned by plaintiffs for vacatur and/or remand.

Agricultural Biotechnology

Led ongoing USDA Biotechnology Coordinating Group (BCG) meetings and, through the BCG, coordinated the development of strategic USDA messaging points on genome editing.

Coordinated significant USDA input into the September 12, 2022, Executive Order on the Bioeconomy.

Led the U.S. delegation to a meeting of the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology.

Led the development of a Future of Microbial Biotechnology workshop, including participation from government, academia, industry, developers, and others to provide developers with information on the regulatory entities that should be included in pre-market discussions.

Critical Information Exchange with Stakeholders

Organized and exchanged information with growers, pesticide registrants, and regulators at multiple webinars and other events. Delivered presentations on the pesticide regulatory process and OPMP's role in the process to Regional IPM Centers, State lead agencies, grower groups, and industry trade associations.

Federal Leadership in Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Convened five meetings of the Federal IPM Coordinating Committee (FIPMCC), which brings together 10 Federal agencies to promote IPM strategies that reduce economic, environmental, and public health risks from pests and pest management tools. Maintained new IPM and FIPMCC webpages that house the National Roadmap for IPM. Worked closely with USDA-funded Regional IPM Centers to prioritize Pest Management Stewardship Plans for specialty crops.

Departmental Coordination on Pest Management Policy

Collaborated across USDA on activities and services, including research, extension, and education activities, regarding the development, availability, regulation, and use of economically and environmentally sound pest management tools and practices.

Provided ongoing advice on research for critical and emerging pests and diseases and pest management needs for specialty crops. Supported USDA efforts to clarify Departmental positions around USDA ownership of registrations and the outcome of a decision to transfer a product for the control of bee mites, and biological control agents subject to (or potentially subject to) regulation by another Federal agency.

Interagency and International Collaboration

Led USDA engagement with other Federal agencies around pest management and biotechnology related issues. Facilitated meetings between USDA and Federal regulators to ensure continued availability of effective pest management tools for USDA quarantine and forestry biocontrol programs.

Provided technical support to address international trade issue related to pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs). Collaborated with the Foreign Agricultural Service on a position statement related to the European Union's intention to include economic impact in the establishment of MRLs.