

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) works to support the American agricultural economy to strengthen rural communities, protect and conserve natural resources, and provide a safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply for the American people. Through a wide range of programs and responsibilities, the USDA touches the lives of every American every day. Led by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, USDA comprises 21 agencies, arranged into eight mission areas: Farm Production and Conservation; Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services; Food Safety; Marketing and Regulatory Programs; Natural Resources and Environment; Research, Education and Economics; Rural Development; and Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

### FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

Farm Production and Conservation is the department's focal point for the nation's farmers and ranchers and other stewards of private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest lands. Farm Production and Conservation agencies implement programs designed to mitigate the significant risks of farming through crop insurance services, conservation programs and technical assistance, and commodity, lending, and disaster programs.

### FOOD, NUTRITION AND CONSUMER SERVICES

The department seeks to improve the nation's health by providing ac-

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cess to nutrition information, while working to reduce hunger and obesity through the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services mission area, and its two agencies: the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The nutrition education provided by CNPP is embodied in MyPlate, a symbol used to illustrate the five food groups and remind Americans to eat healthfully.

### FOOD SAFETY

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry and processed egg products is safe, wholesome and correctly labeled and packaged. FSIS provides in-plant inspection of all domestic processing and slaughter establishments preparing meat, poultry and processed egg products for sale or distribution into commerce, as well as surveillance and investigation of all meat, poultry and egg product facilities.

### MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Marketing and Regulatory Programs facilitates domestic and international

marketing of U.S. agricultural products and ensures the health and care of animals and plants.

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America by providing financial programs to support essential public facilities and services as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities and electric and telephone service. Rural Development promotes economic development by providing loans to businesses through banks and community-managed lending pools, while also assisting communities to participate in community empowerment programs.

### TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs' (TFAA) role is to provide our farmers and ranchers with opportunities to compete in the global marketplace through the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). It oversees and facilitates foreign market access and promotes opportunities for U.S. agriculture through various trade programs and high-level government negotiations.

—GFS

#### SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Sonny Perdue

#### FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

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