

Growing Careers in Agricultural and Food Law for Law Students: Non-traditional Legal Paths And Opportunities










National Agricultural Law Center
American Agricultural Law Association

March 27, 2024



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USDA National Agricultural Library
Senior Law Librarian
DEIA Strategic Plan Project Manager



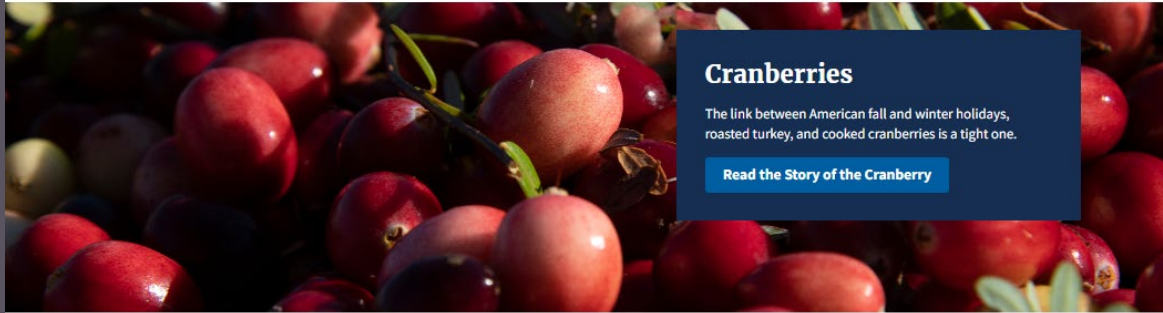
 <p>Journals</p> <p>Over 7,000 full-text journals on a wide range of subjects, across the fields of science, technology, medicine, humanities, social science, and the arts.</p> <p>Search the Journals List</p>	 <p>Databases</p> <p>30+ major citation databases including: AGRICOLA, Business Source Premier (featuring Harvard Business Review), Dimensions, PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science.</p> <p>Browse Our Databases</p>	 <p>News Sources</p> <p>Gain access to local, regional, and global news via The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, NewsBank, The Economist, and Regional Business News.</p> <p>Get your News Sources Here!</p>
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 <p>Topics</p> <p>List of broad topical areas covered by DigiTop. Find databases and journals that can help you find information in your subject area of interest.</p> <p>See the list of Topics</p>	 <p>Integrity and Impact in Scientific Publishing</p> <p>This page provides resources to identify trusted and non-preferred journals, confirm original content, and for analyzing impact in scientific literature. It also includes training resources along with key contacts.</p> <p>Get info on Scientific Publishing Integrity and Impact</p>	 <p>Alerts</p> <p>Alerts can be set up to help you stay current on the latest research in your field. Keep up-to-date with information on topics of interest as it becomes available.</p> <p>Set up Personalized Alerts</p>

National Agricultural Library Mission

- National Agricultural Library (NAL) facilitates the creation of agricultural knowledge through the acquisition, curation, and dissemination of information needed to solve agricultural challenges
- NAL supports the USDA's in-house research conducted by Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- NAL serves the public and supports all land grant Institutions

National Agricultural Library

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is one of five national libraries of the United States. It houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences.



Cranberries

The link between American fall and winter holidays, roasted turkey, and cooked cranberries is a tight one.

[Read the Story of the Cranberry](#)

Online Resources

AGRICOLA

Search citations from two agricultural science databases: indexed journal articles and the NAL catalog.

[Search the Catalog](#)

PubAg

Find full-text articles and citations to peer-reviewed journal articles in the agricultural sciences.

[Browse Journal Articles](#)

Ag Data Commons

Access open data relevant to agricultural research.

[Access Open Data](#)

Digital Collections

Explore NAL collection materials available in digital format.

[Explore Our Collections](#)

NAL Thesaurus

Browse an online vocabulary tool of agricultural terms in English and Spanish.

[Search the Thesaurus](#)

Invasive Species

Learn about invasive species that threaten the United States.

[Get Invasive Species Info](#)

Nutrition.gov

Uncover reliable resources on food, healthy eating, physical activity, and food safety.

[Find Nutrition Info](#)

LCA Commons

Find Federal life cycle assessment data, research, and information systems.

[Access Data Repositories](#)

Topics

Animal Health and Welfare

Selected resources on humane animal care (e.g., proper nutrition, housing, and environment, as well as, prevention of pain, suffering, disease, and disability), laws and regulations and certificate programs.

[Find Animal Health and Welfare Information](#)

Farms and Agricultural Production Systems

Information on sustainable and organic farming, hydroponics, aquaculture, irrigation and urban agriculture, as well as farm ownership and heirs' property.

[Browse Farming and Farm Ownership Information](#)

Human Nutrition and Food Safety

Information on various nutrition and food safety topics including food security, nutrient composition, food defense, and local food systems.

[Discover Human Nutrition and Food Safety Information](#)

Natural Resources, Conservation, and Environment

Topics relating to the environment, including, weather and climate change, conservation practices, environmental justice, invasive species and soil.

[Explore Natural Resources, Conservation, and Environment](#)

Plant Production and Gardening

Community and container gardening, raised beds, seeds and plants, specialty and cover crops, growing vegetables, medicinal herbs and more.

[Review Plant Production and Gardening Information](#)

Rural Development and Communities

Resources on community development; environmental justice, rural funding, sustainable rural communities, and links to past and present USDA rural development collections.

[Examine Rural Development and Communities Information](#)

Economics, Business, and Trade

Information about agricultural subsidies, funding for farms and businesses, trade policy, food waste and more with these agricultural marketing and trade resources.

[Find Economics, Business, and Trade Information](#)

NAL Information Centers

Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)

About AWIC

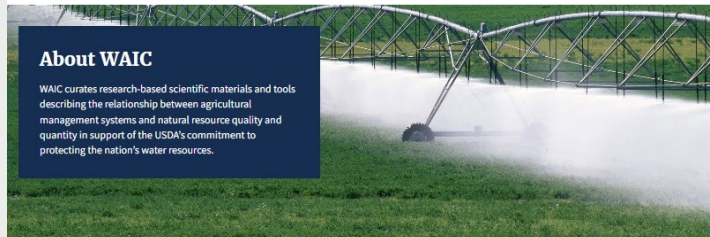
The Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) was established in 1986 as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, Maryland. As a library service, AWIC provides information, products and services related to the improved care and use of animals in research, testing, and teaching as described in the Animal Welfare Act.



Water and Agriculture Information Center (WAIC)

About WAIC

WAIC curates research-based scientific materials and tools describing the relationship between agricultural management systems and natural resource quality and quantity in support of the USDA's commitment to protecting the nation's water resources.



Rural Information Center (RIC)

About RIC

Rural areas comprise 97% of the United States' land area but are home to only 14% of the population. With funding spread over a wide distance, residents and communities often experience greater difficulties accessing resources, provisions, or services. RIC aims to support our rural communities and the residents working to help them thrive.



Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC)

About FNIC

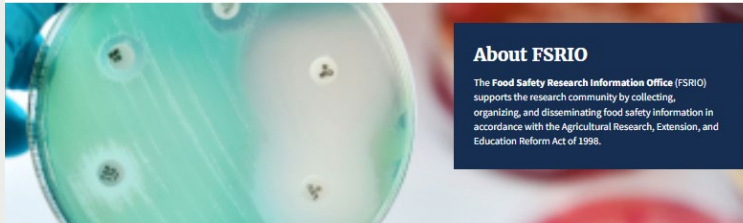
FNIC provides information about food and human nutrition for the professional community as described in the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (Farm Bill).



Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO)

About FSRIO

The Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO) supports the research community by collecting, organizing, and disseminating food safety information in accordance with the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.



Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC)

About AFSIC

The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) provides research-based resources for nontraditional food production and crop management practices to support the USDA's mission of promoting a sustainable future and agricultural economic viability for farmers worldwide.



National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC)

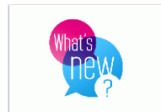
The gateway to invasive species information; covering federal, state, local, and international sources.

Invasive species are plants, animals, or pathogens that are non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm. [What are Invasive Species?](#)

Featured



Climate Change



What's New



News



Calendar and Events

Agricultural Law Information Partnership

The Agricultural Law Information Partnership was established by the 2014 Farm Bill to create and disseminate agricultural and food law content through tools, guides, conference and publications.

Audiences:

Legal Practitioners
Agricultural Professionals
Policymakers
Academic Institutions
General Public



KEY PRODUCTS



Understanding FSMA's Preventive Controls Rule

A new guide from the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems in partnership with the Artisan Grain Collaborative to break down complicated federal food safety regulations related to FSMA for food-grade grain farmers and processors.

[Review the Guide](#)



Heirs' Property

A resource guide explaining heirs' property and highlighting tools available through federal, state, and non-governmental organizations.

[Find Heirs' Property Resources](#)



Defining Local Food: An Analysis of State Approaches and Challenges

A report put together by Center for Agriculture and Food Systems to analyze the term "local" from a legal perspective. The report describes various definitions for "local" and includes a scan laws from U.S. states.

[Explore the Report](#)



Family Law Issues in Agriculture

This fact sheet series by the National Agricultural Law Center covers topics in family law and agriculture such as farm succession, estate planning, keeping a farm business intact, issues related to animal law, child support, equitable distribution, and mental health.

[Search the Publication](#)



Farmland Access Legal Toolkit

The Farmland Access Legal Toolkit, created by the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, includes legal resources to help farmers and landowners affordably access, transfer, and conserve farmland.

[Use the Toolkit](#)



Ag Issues & Economic Recovery

This question and answer style guide explores agricultural issues and support for economic recovery, including information on stimulus packages, agricultural labor, and direct marketing of specialty crops.

[Search the Resources](#)

Recent Programming:

- Land Matters: Understanding Heirs' Property
- Food, Agriculture & Environmental Justice
- Advancing Equity through Food and Nutrition

- Water Rights: Infrastructure, Inequities & Solutions
- Seed Stories: Preserving Culture and Culturally Appropriate Foods
- Farm & Line Worker Rights



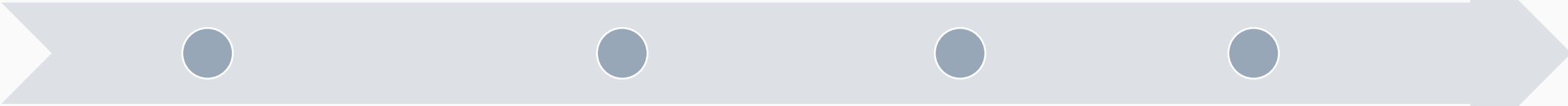
MY PATH TO AGRICULTURAL LAW



1995
Masters in Library Science
University of Missouri-Columbia

Steptoe

1999-2022
Research Librarian
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP



1999
Juris Doctor
University of Baltimore



2002-2003
Reference Librarian
University of MD Carey School of Law



Career Path





2002-2005
DLA Piper
Research Analyst

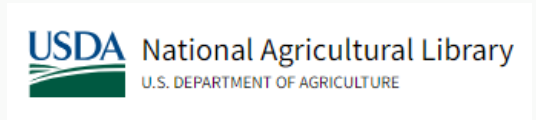


2007 – 2014
Morningstar, Inc.
Librarian Relations Manager



2005 – 2007
Blank Rome, LLP
Information Center Manager

2014 - present
NAL Law Librarian
Coordinator, Ag Law Information Partnership



Career Path





USDA Office of the Secretary
Office of the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer
Senior Diversity & Inclusion Program Specialist
January – June 2023



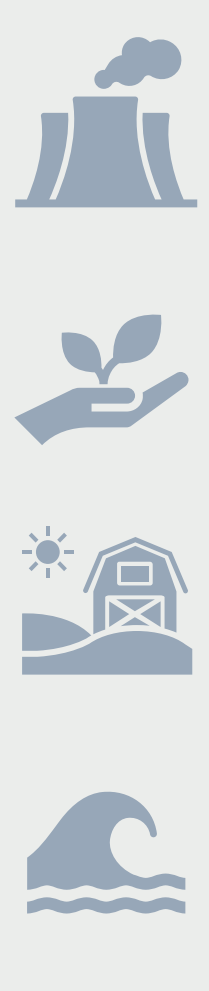
The Chief Diversity and Inclusion Office (CDIO) leads USDA's work to build an organization that reflects the diversity of the communities USDA serves, bringing the best talent to USDA, retaining and investing in our workforce, and creating a culture where everyone feels welcomed.



Working collaboratively with our Equity partners, these DEIA efforts support the [USDA Strategic Plan](#): Goal 6 – Attract, Inspire, and Retain an Engaged and Motivated Workforce that's Proud to Represent USDA.



Ag Legal Careers



- Agriculture/Agricultural Law
- Animal Health & Welfare
- Bankruptcy
- Biotechnology and Genetically Modified Organisms
- Climate Change
- Economics
- Environmental Justice
- Environment/ Sustainability
- Estate Planning
- Family Law
- Finance
- Food Justice
- Food Labeling
- Food Safety
- Food Systems
- Food to Institution
- Nutrition & Food Security
- Immigration
- Indigenous Law
- Intellectual Property
- Labor & Employment
- Land Use/Conservation
- Legal Advocacy/Litigation
- Policy
- Public Health
- Research
- Rural Issues
- Trade
- Urban Agriculture

Areas of Specialization



Career Options in Law & Ag Law



Education and Academic Administration

- Professor
- Clinic Director
- Law Librarian/Library Director
- Disability services Coordinator
- Student Affairs Director
- Admissions Counselor
- Alumni Relations

Banking and Finance

- Risk Manager
- Estate Planning Advisor
- Trust Officer
- Financial Planner
- Commercial Loans Officer
- Mutual Fund Administrator

Conflict Resolution

- Arbitrator or Mediator
- Labor Union ADR
- Insurance Mediator

Government and Politics

- Policy Analyst
- Legislative Affairs Staff
- Strategic Policy Advisor
- Speechwriter
- Political Fundraiser
- Campaign Manager
- Lobbyist or Government Relations Advisor
- Political Candidate

Law Firms

- Law Firm Administrator
- Head of Associate Recruiting
- Marketing Director
- Professional Development Manager
- Research Analyst or Legal Researcher
- Competitive Intelligence Analyst
- Research Librarian
- New Associate Training/Onboarding

Coordinator

- Legal Records Management Administrator

Legal Writing, Editing and Publishing

- Author
- Reporter/Editor/Columnist
- Legal or business columnists
- Content creators for law firm websites
- Editor for legal textbooks and online content (think Lexis & Westlaw)

Non-Profit/Advocacy

- Director
- Policy Advisor
- Legislative Affairs Director
- Technical Assistance Advisor
- Researcher

Careers in Legal Information

LEAD · INNOVATE · TRANSFORM



- Law Library Director
- Law Librarian
- Chief Knowledge Officer
- Competitive Intelligence Research Analyst
- Professor
- Reference Librarian
- Digital Assets Librarian
- Data Analyst
- Legal Research Specialist
- Information Center Director
- Knowledge Management Specialist
- Legal Research Trainer
- Business Development Manager
- Marketing Research Specialist
- Vendor Relations Manager/Negotiator

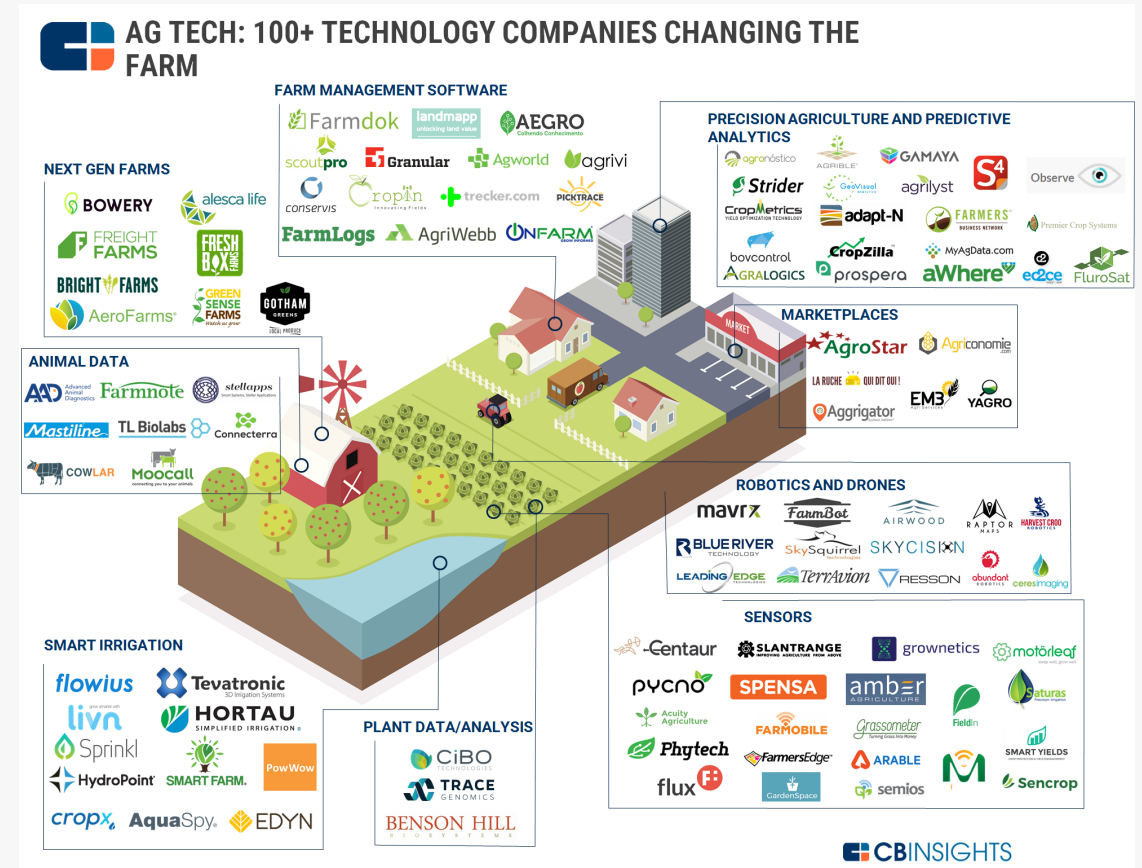
Corporate Opportunities

Food Corporations

- Nestle
- General Mills
- Kellogg's
- Mars

Ag Corporations

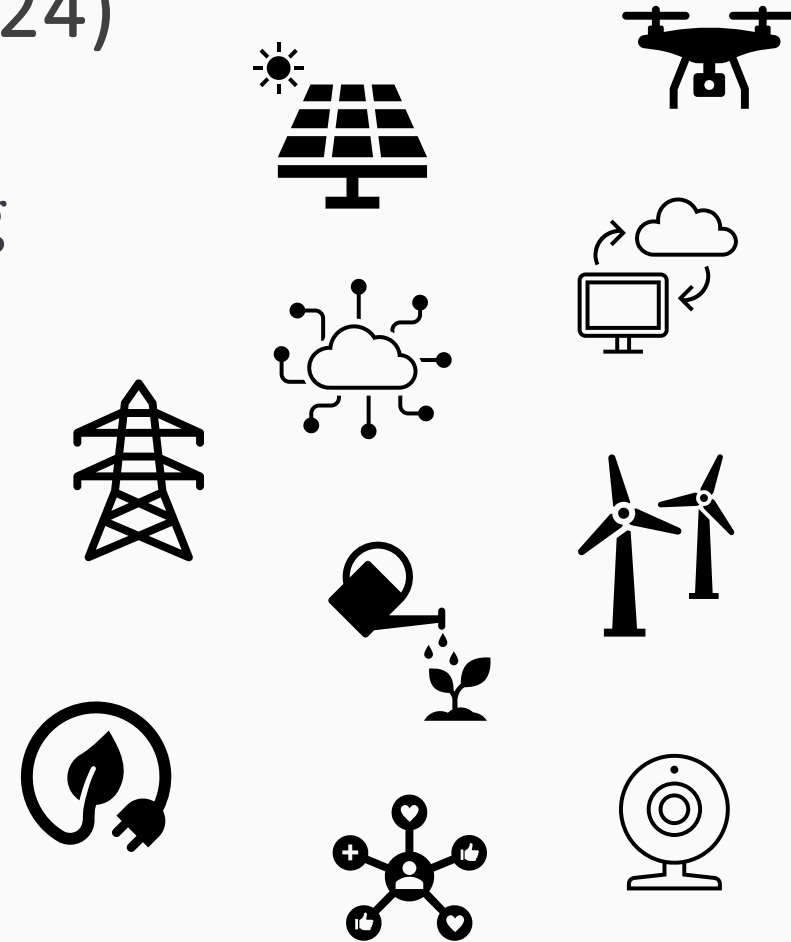
- John Deere
- Cargill
- Bayer
- The Archer-Daniels-Midland



Ag tech companies are stepping up to the plate, **building software and hardware** solutions for the **sustainability** and management issues facing the agricultural sector. Whether they're **building smart**, electric-powered tractors, or developing crop monitoring solutions that can help restore soil health and conserve water, these **ag tech** companies in are helping prepare **agriculture for the future**.

Ag Tech Startups (2024)

- OnePointOne
- EOS Crop Monitoring
- Telesense
- Cisbay
- Monarch Tractors
- Kakaxi
- The Crop Project
- FarmLead
- AvidWater
- Arbonics

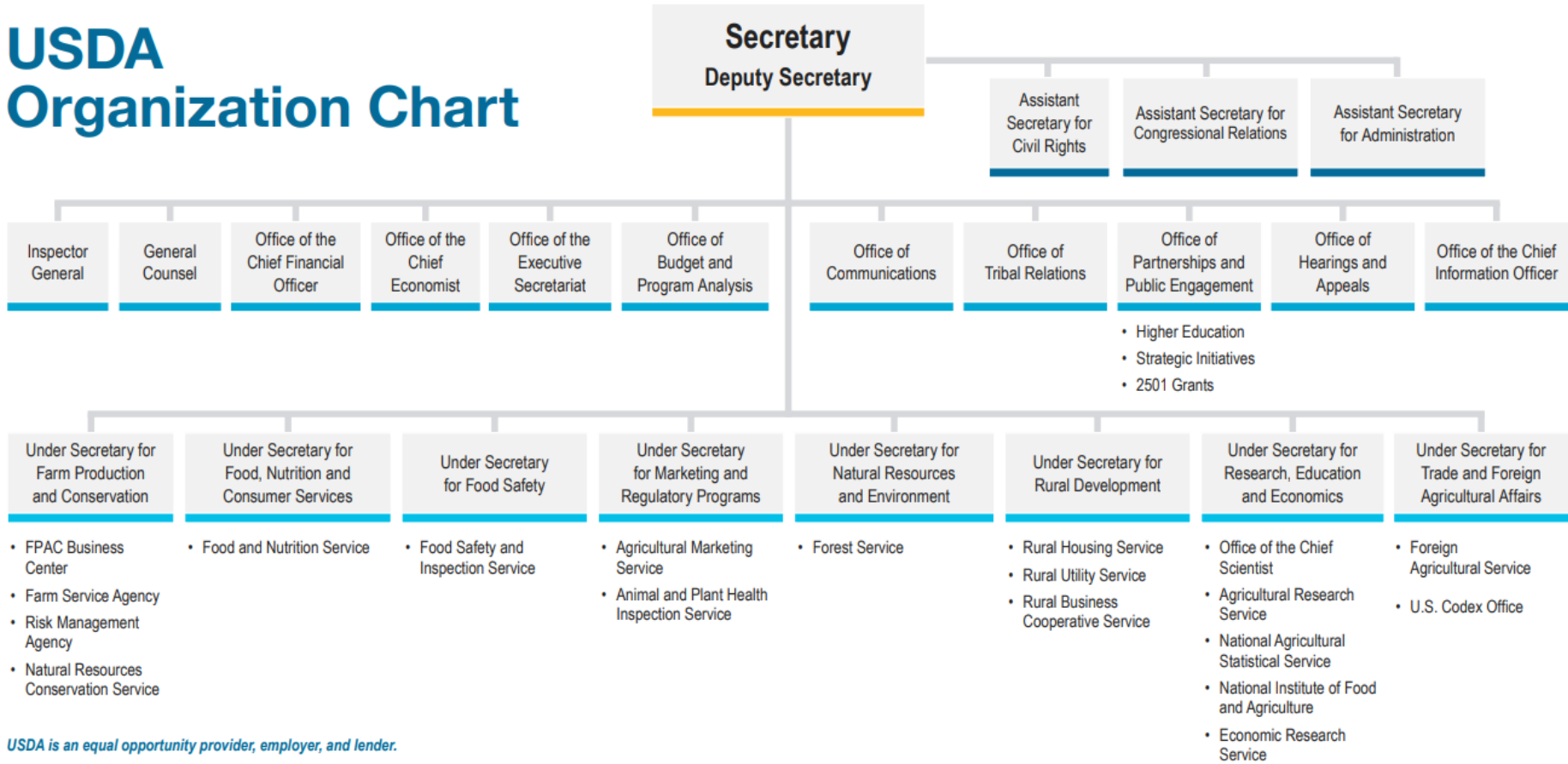




STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAREERS



USDA Organization Chart



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

UPDATED 10/19/21 This organization chart displays the names of USDA offices, agencies, and mission areas. Each office, agency, and mission area is placed within a cell connected by lines to show the structure and hierarchy (Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or Secretary) for which they fall under. An HTML version that lists [USDA Agencies and Offices](#) and [USDA Mission Areas](#) is also available on usda.gov. The [Secretary's Memorandum 1076-031](#) was signed August 12, 2019 effectuating a change to Rural Development.

Office of Technology Transfer (REE-ARS)

The Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) helps move Agricultural Research Service (ARS) research discoveries to market to solve agricultural problems and expand the economic impact of ARS research and development.

BN Nakanishi, Brian - REE-ARS
Asst Administrator OTT
ARS-OTT

People reporting to Nakanishi, Brian - REE-ARS (8)

- GA** Gaudet, John - REE-ARS
Technology Licensing Specialist
- AA** Atkinson, Ari - REE-ARS
Supervisory Patent Advisor
- DP** Penot, Debbie - REE-ARS
Patent Licensing Specialist
- CB** Boettinger, Carla - REE-ARS
Legal Instruments Examiner (...)
- HA** Halsey, Diana - REE-ARS
Business Licensing Officer
- CC** Contreras, Vince - REE-ARS
Technology Licensing Specialist
- MM** Moore, Mary (CTR) - REE-ARS
Legal Instruments Examiner (...)
- TT** Tyson, Latoya - REE-ARS
Legal Instruments Examiner (...)

JD Preferred Jobs

Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist- FBI

Public Affairs Specialist- US Office of the Secretary of the Interior

International Trade Analyst- U.S. International Trade Commission

Government Information Specialist-US Dept. of State

International Trade Specialist- US Foreign Agricultural Service

Economic Development Program Specialist (Agriculture) – Dept. of Agriculture & Markets (NY)

Migrant Farmworker Advocacy Director-Florida Rural Legal Services Inc

Assistant Director, Educational - Food and Drug Law Institute

Legal Policy Director - Farmworker Justice

Assistant Director of Government & Community Affairs- Florida Farm Bureau Federation

TAKEAWAYS

Q & A



Ask a Question

Use this form to ask a general question, or connect with us via Chat.
Online Chat hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30 pm (ET). Closed on Federal holidays.

<p>Your Information</p> <p>Name *</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>Chat with Us</p> <p>Please enter your name.*</p> <input type="text"/>
<p>Email *</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>Email Address*</p> <input type="text"/>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Receive an email confirmation of your submission.</p>	<p>Start Chat</p>
<p>Your Question</p> <p>Question *</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>We do not collect any personally identifiable information (PII), without your explicit consent. Learn more about how we handle your information when you visit our website.</p>
<p>More Detail/Explanation</p> <input type="text"/>	

Click to choose files or drag them here. Maximum file size: 20.0 MB [Clear files](#)

Fields marked with * are required.

[Submit Your Question](#)

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