

# 2017

## SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION



*Take care of the land  
and the land will take care of you.*



United States Department of Agriculture

# About This Summary

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summary of Performance and Financial Information for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 includes the most relevant performance and financial information in a brief, user-friendly format that is easily understood by a reader with little technical background in these areas. The goal of this summary is to increase accountability of agency heads and program managers by making the financial and performance information more transparent and accessible to Congress, the public, and other key constituencies. USDA's plans and reports are available at [www.performance.gov](http://www.performance.gov) and [www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance](http://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance).

## Who We Are and What We Do

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President Abraham Lincoln founded the USDA in 1862 with the goal of providing effective leadership to the Nation on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues. Since 1862, the dedicated public servants at USDA help millions of Americans every day. As Americans, you are part of the USDA story that has had a tradition of excellence in public service for over 150 years.

We would like you to learn more about USDA and the Agencies and Offices that touch every American, every day. More information about the Department, our history, and our leaders can be found at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

# USDA Program Performance

## USDA Performance and Results for FY 2017

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The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) mission is to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.

For purposes of the Summary of Performance and Financial Information (SPFI), a performance summary is provided using the Department's key performance indicators as a mechanism to gauge progress in achieving its mission. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, USDA had 37 key performance indicators.

The following tables and discussion provide a high-level description of key focus areas for the Department that are being tracked and managed through USDA's performance management process, in alignment with the Department's mission areas. The tables provide key performance indicator historical results, and includes FY 2017 actual results.

Performance information and a detailed discussion of the Department's FY 2017 performance results, assessment methodologies, metrics, external reviews, and documentation of performance data will be presented in the FY 2017 USDA Annual Performance Report. The report is planned to be released with the President's 2019 budget in February and will be available on the [USDA Performance Improvement and Accountability](#) website.

The data used by the Department to measure performance is collected using standardized methodology. This methodology has been vetted by federally employed scientists and policymakers, and, ultimately, the leadership and Under Secretaries of each respective mission area. All attest to the completeness, reliability, and quality of the data.

## FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS) 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. FFAS 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.

**EXHIBIT 1:** Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Measures

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) restored wetland acreage (millions of acres)	2.09	2.00	1.93	2.09	1.90	2.16
Percentage of Direct and Guaranteed lending to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers (SDA)	13.60	14.20	15.00	15.90	14.10	16.47
Percentage of Direct and Guaranteed lending to Beginning Farmers (BF)	70.0	79.2	85.6	95.5	77.5	100.0
Normalized value of risk protection provided to agricultural producers through the Federal Crop Insurance Program (\$ in billions)	66.00	67.90	68.70	74.00	63.60	74.60
Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) land with conservation applied to improve water quality (millions of acres)	N/A	18.2	18.1	15.8	15.8	15.8
CTA cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality (millions of acres)	N/A	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9
CTA grazing and forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base (millions of acres)	N/A	13.1	13.1	11.1	13.0	11.6

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) land with conservation applied to improve water quality (millions of acres)	N/A	12.3	12.7	10.5	13.5	11.3
EQIP cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality (millions of acres)	N/A	3.1	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.0
EQIP grazing land and forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base (millions of acres)	N/A	14.8	13.9	12.6	13.5	12.8
EQIP non-Federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality (millions of acres)	N/A	1.4	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.9

## FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) works to harness the Nation's agricultural abundance to end hunger and improve health in the United States. Within FNCS, the Food and Nutrition Service administers federal domestic nutrition assistance programs, and the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion links scientific research to the nutritional needs of consumers through science-based dietary guidance, nutrition policy coordination, and nutrition education.

### EXHIBIT 2: Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Performance Measures

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Prevalence of food insecurity in households with children (percentage)	19.5	19.2	16.6	16.5	18.5	Deferred <sup>1</sup>
Annual percentage of eligible people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	85	85	N/A	Deferred <sup>2</sup>	85	Deferred <sup>2</sup>
SNAP payment accuracy rate (percentage)	96.80	96.34	N/A	N/A	96.34	Deferred <sup>3</sup>
SNAP benefits redeemed annually at farmers markets and direct marketing farmers (\$ in millions)	17.5	18.8	19.4	20.2	20.0	Deferred <sup>4</sup>
Annual percentage of eligible people participating in the National School Lunch Program	55.7	54.8	55.4	54.7	58.3	58.0
Annual percentage of children participating in the free/reduced price school lunch program that participate in summer feeding programs	16.3	17.5	17.1	16.7	17.4	Deferred <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The most recent annual report, Household Food Security in the United States in 2016.

<sup>2</sup> FY 2016 data will be available in 2018. FY 2017 data will be available in 2019.

<sup>3</sup> FY 2017 data will be available in June 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Data is not yet available.

<sup>5</sup> Data is not yet available.

## FOOD SAFETY

USDA protects public health by ensuring the safety of the Nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products. This mission area also plays a key role in supporting Healthy People 2020 goals<sup>6</sup> and other crosscutting and targeted activities that promote food safety with partner agencies, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### EXHIBIT 3: Food Safety Performance Measures

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Percentage of establishments that meet pathogen reduction performance standards <sup>7</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	77.0	77.2
Percentage of establishments whose non-compliance rate decreases 120 days after receiving an early warning alert <sup>8</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70.0	72.7

## MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Marketing and Regulatory Programs facilitate domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products and ensure the health and care of animals and plants. MRP agencies are active participants in setting national and international standards.

### EXHIBIT 4: Marketing and Regulatory Programs Performance Measures

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Cumulative number of biotechnology products deregulated by USDA based on scientific determinations that they do not pose a plant pest risk to agriculture	102	109	117	124	127	127

<sup>6</sup> See [Healthy People 2020. Work is underway to develop Healthy People 2030 goals.](#)

<sup>7</sup> This is a new performance measure for FY 2017, actual data from 2013-2016 is not available.

<sup>8</sup> This is a new performance measure for FY 2017, actual data from 2013-2016 is not available.

## NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Natural Resources and Environment ensures the health of the land through sustainable management. Its agency works to prevent damage to natural resources and the environment, restore the resource base, and promote good land management.

**EXHIBIT 5:** Natural Resources and Environment Performance Measures

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Annual acres of public and private forest lands restored or enhanced (millions of acres)	2.53	2.91	3.10	3.22	2.90	3.26
Volume of timber sold (billion board feet)	2.610	2.831	2.867	2.942	3.000	2.920
Percentage of National Forests and Grassland watersheds in properly functioning (Class 1) condition	52	52	52	53	53	53
Acres of Wildland Urban Interface hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire (millions of acres)	1.74	1.73	1.58	2.02	1.80	1.59

## 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 such as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities, and electric and telephone services. 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.

**EXHIBIT 6:** Rural Development Performance Measures

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Number of jobs created or saved through USDA financing of businesses	44,419	41,202	52,697	51,286	39,764	41,765
Homeownership opportunities provided	170,055	146,388	141,314	123,817	173,678	141,258



Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Health Facilities: Percentage of customers who are provided access to new and/or improved essential community facilities	5.4	6.8	12.0	11.7	5.0	6.4
Safety Facilities: Percentage of customers who are provided access to new and/or improved essential community facilities	3.4	3.7	7.2	5.0	3.2	14.9
Educational Facilities: Percentage of customers who are provided access to new and/or improved essential community facilities	9.3	6.2	7.9	14.9	5.0	12.6
Number of borrowers/subscribers receiving new and/or improved electric facilities (millions)	8.7	4.6	5.5	5.5	5.1	6.6
Number of borrowers/subscribers receiving new or improved telecommunications services (millions)	.120	.084	.095	.079	.100	.158
Number of population receiving new and/or improved service from agency funded water facilities (millions)	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.2	1.7	2.5

## 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. TFAA is the Department's lead on trade policy with the primary responsibility to ensure that USDA speaks with a unified voice on international agricultural issues domestically and abroad. It oversees and facilitates foreign market access and promotes opportunities for U.S. agriculture through various trade programs and high-level government negotiations.

### EXHIBIT 7: Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Performance Measures

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Value of agricultural exports resulting from participation in foreign food and agricultural trade shows (\$ in billions)	1.48	1.50	1.52	1.28	1.50	2.35
Value of trade preserved annually through USDA staff intervention leading to resolution of foreign market access issues such as U.S. export detainment, restrictive Sanitary/ Phytosanitary or Technical Barrier to Trade issues and trade regulations (\$ in billions)	3.8	6.4	3.6	5.0	3.8	7.5

## DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Departmental Management (DM) provides management leadership to ensure that USDA's administrative programs, policies, advice, and counsel meet the needs of USDA program organizations, consistent with laws and mandates. DM is also tasked with providing safe and efficient facilities and services to customers.

### EXHIBIT 8: Departmental Management Performance Measures

Fiscal Year	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2017 Actual
Number of employees participating in core telework	9,723	10,455	11,798	12,342	12,240	14,124
Amount of leased office and warehouse space controlled by USDA (millions of square feet)	25.6	24.9	23.9	23.2	23.2	25.0

## Financial Information

The following table presents a snapshot of USDA's results of operations and financial position. This information is based on the same underlying data as the financial statements presented in the Agency Financial Report (AFR) ([https://www.ocfo.usda.gov/docs/Fiscal\\_Year\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ocfo.usda.gov/docs/Fiscal_Year_2017.pdf)).

### EXHIBIT 9: A Snapshot of USDA's Results of Operations and Financial Position (In Millions)

	FY 2017
<b>Gross Costs</b>	\$148,007
Less: Earned Revenue	9,433
<b>Net Cost of Operations</b>	<b>\$138,574</b>
<b>Assets:</b>	
Fund Balance with Treasury	\$121,572
Direct Loan and Loan Guarantees, Net	99,816
Other	4,327
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$225,715</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>	
Debt	\$118,031
Other	46,322
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$164,353</b>
<b>Net Position (Assets Minus Liabilities)</b>	<b>\$61,362</b>
<b>Total Budgetary Resources</b>	<b>\$253,834</b>
<b>Outlays, Net</b>	<b>\$137,120</b>

## Significant Management Challenges

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The Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 requires the USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) to report annually on the most serious management challenges facing the Department.

In September, 2017, the OIG reported the following major management challenges. A detailed description of the challenges and assessment of the Department's progress in addressing these challenges may be found in the FY 2017 AFR.

- USDA Needs to Improve Oversight and Accountability for its Programs.
- Information Technology Security Needs Continuous Improvement.
- USDA Needs to Strengthen Program Performance and Performance Measures.
- USDA Needs to Strengthen Controls over Improper Payments and Financial Management.
- USDA Needs to Improve Outreach Efforts.
- Food Safety Inspections Need Improved Controls.
- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Needs to Strengthen Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Management Controls.