



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST

Research, Education, and Economics

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) provides leadership and coordination to ensure that high quality, scientific knowledge informs USDA's decisions, policies, and regulations across its seven Mission Areas and numerous programs. OCS establishes linkages between the USDA and other science-performing organizations in government, academia, industry, and non-profit organizations. OCS also ensures that science performed by the Department is disseminated to decision leaders nationally and internationally.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) designated the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) as USDA's Chief Scientist and authorized the establishment of OCS. USDA's Chief Scientist directs the activities of OCS. The staff is comprised of a Director, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Officer, Senior Advisor for International Affairs, Veterinary Science Policy Advisor, Departmental Scientific Integrity Officer, six Congressionally-mandated senior Advisors, and Science Fellows.

Senior Advisors:

The Senior Advisors are subject matter experts on detail from USDA Mission Areas and other organizations to OCS. Each Senior Advisor fills one of the following positions:

- Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities
- Agricultural Systems and Technology
- Animal Health and Production and Animal Products
- Food Safety, Nutrition and Health
- Plant Health and Production and Plant Products
- Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment

Special Advisors:

Special Advisors are additional subject matter experts appointed by the Chief Scientist or the Director. Currently these positions include:

- Senior Advisor for International Affairs
- Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Officer
- Departmental Scientific Integrity Officer
- Veterinary Science Policy Advisor
- Science Fellows

FUNCTION

To fulfill its mission, OCS pursues a range of objectives, including, but not limited to, the following:

Strengthen Science Leadership

- Assist the Under Secretary/Chief Scientist identify, prioritize, and address emerging agricultural research, education, and economic needs by incorporating public and private-sector input into the Department's science agenda.
- Advise the Secretary of Agriculture and Departmental leadership, through the Chief Scientist, on high-priority emerging science issues.
- Raise the visibility of the USDA by identifying and engaging with key scientific organizations policymakers and decision leaders.
- Provide leadership for the Department on scientific integrity: Develop and maintain

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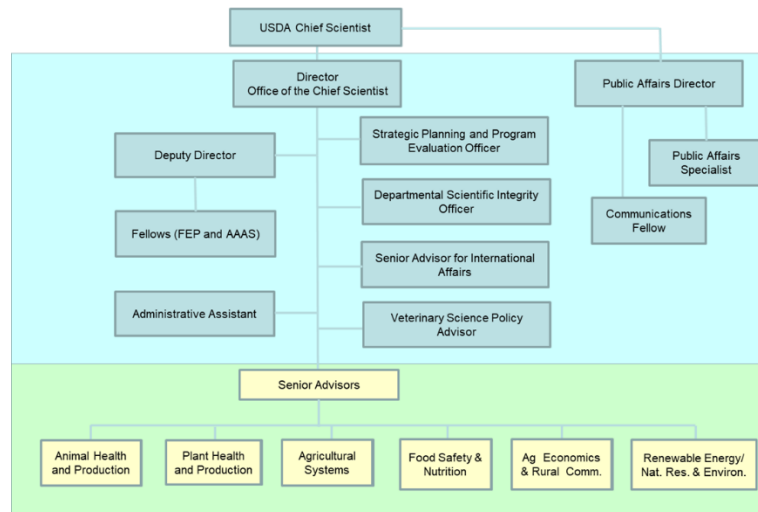
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United States Department of Agriculture

The Office of the Chief Scientist coordinates and delivers USDA science research and program services to all Federal Agencies' decisionmakers and to national and international agriculture stakeholders

Office of the Chief Scientist USDA Staff Office



Improve National Coordination

- Provide the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief Scientist, information on topics that benefit from scientific input, thus ensuring informed decision-making.
- Ensure that the USDA Science Council facilitates the coordination and collaboration of science within the Department on high-priority policy issues that benefit from intra-departmental collaboration.
- Build partnerships within the scientific community through interactions with state and federal agencies, universities, and members of the scientific community for the purpose of exploring common scientific interests and shared goals.
- Represent USDA science interests and expertise in promoting and enhancing national and international science programs, and in working with other agencies and institutions to achieve national priorities for the President or Congress.

Enhance Outreach and Awareness

- Document how the components of the agricultural research, education and extension program work together to advance science and to address needs and opportunities of agriculture nationally.
- Communicate and promote the benefits of agriculture research, education, and extension to representatives of the science community, industry and the general public, and obtain their input on issues important to agriculture.
- Interact with USDA advisory boards, inter-agency and multi-departmental efforts to identify and recommend opportunities to better advance and coordinate federal science activities.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.



Help Shape the Future of Agricultural Science

Senior Advisor Opportunities



Office of the Chief Scientist

The Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) coordinates and delivers USDA science research and program services to help decision-makers at all Federal agencies, as well as agriculture stakeholders at home and abroad.

OCS advises USDA's Chief Scientist and the Secretary of Agriculture in the following areas of science:

- **Agricultural Systems and Technology**
- **Animal Health and Production and Animal Products**
- **Plant Health and Production and Plant Products**
- **Renewable Energy Natural Resources, and Environment**
- **Food Safety, Nutrition and Health**
- **Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities**

OCS provides strategic coordination that supports the scientific prioritization of USDA's agricultural research, education, and extension needs. We also provide scientific leadership by ensuring that USDA-supported research and scientific advice provided to the Department and its stakeholders is held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity.

Become a Senior Advisor

OCS regularly recruits scientists from Federal agencies, universities, and other organizations to serve in an exciting detail capacity as Senior Advisors. During their detail at OCS, Senior Advisors have an opportunity to expand their scientific horizons and network across the Federal government, while working with the most talented scientists and researchers in the country. For more information, look online at: <http://www.usda.gov/ocs>

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