



Agricultural Resources from the USDA's National Agricultural Library

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National Agricultural Library
January 28, 2025



Agenda

- I. About the National Agricultural Library
- II. NAL Resources
- III. USDA Resources
- IV. Contact Us



About the National Agricultural Library

- Houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences including more than 8.1 million print, physical and digital format items
- One of five U.S. National Libraries
- Congressionally designated depository for U.S. Government documents
- Departmental library for USDA

1.1 million+ print collection materials

8 million+ digital items

211,000+ items digitized for the Internet Archive

2,900+ journals indexed

400,000+ full-text articles in PubAg

6,900+ datasets in AgData Commons

National Agricultural Library (NAL) Mission

<https://www.nal.usda.gov>

NAL facilitates the creation of agricultural knowledge through the acquisition, curation, and dissemination of information needed to solve agricultural challenges.



NAL Orientation

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Topics ▾

[Animal Health and Welfare](#)

[Farms and Agricultural Production Systems](#)

[Human Nutrition and Food Safety](#)

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

[Plant Production and Gardening](#)

[Rural Development and Communities](#)

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Research Tools ▾

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[Food Data Central](#) 

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Collections ▾

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Data ▾

[Scientific Data Services](#)

[Data Management Planning Services](#)

[Create a DMP](#)

[DMP Feedback and Review](#)

[Find a Data Repository](#)


[Data Management Glossary](#)

[Data Management Videos](#)

Services ▾

[Reference and Research](#)

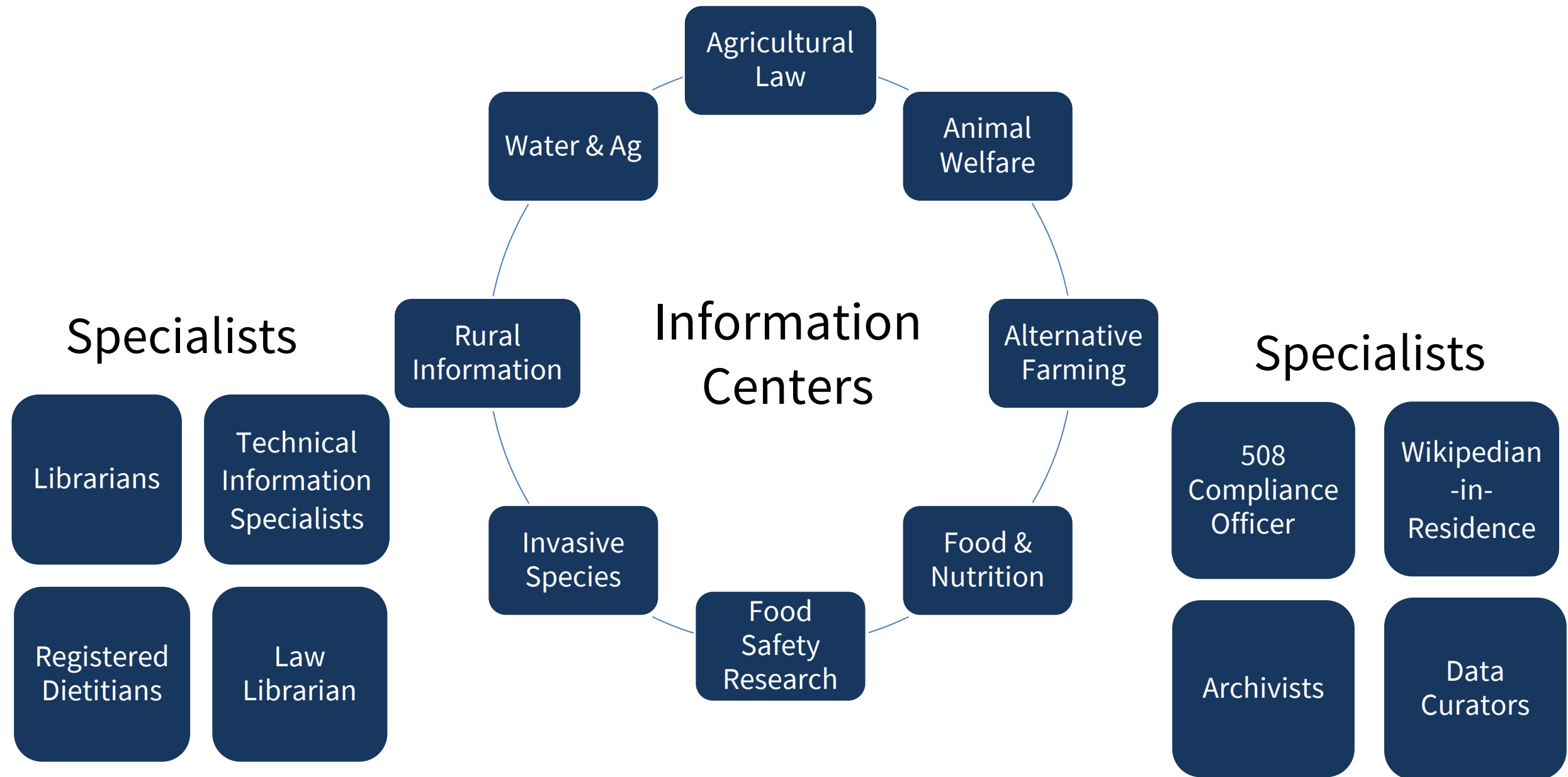
[Data Management Planning](#)

[DigiTop](#) 

[Borrow Materials](#)

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Main menus provide quick access to featured tools, information and services



NAL's Specialized Information Centers

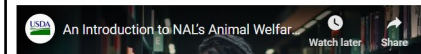
Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)

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.

Who is AWIC?

An Introduction to AWIC



Mission

Language in the 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) described Congress' vision for the Center:

The Secretary [of Agriculture] shall establish an information service at the National

Agricultural Law Information Partnership

About the Agricultural Law Information Partnership

The Partnership is a collaboration between the **National Agricultural Library (NAL)**, **National Agricultural Law Center (NALC)**, and the **Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS)** at Vermont Law School.

Overview

Our partners produce a range of tools and guides on agricultural and food systems legal research. Key audiences include attorneys, agricultural professionals, and the general public involved in agricultural industries in the United States.

Partners



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).

Featured Topics



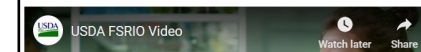
Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO)

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.

Explore FSRIO

An Introduction to FSRIO



Mission

The Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO) is aligned with the **Research, Economics, and Education (REE) mission area** of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). It was created by the **Agricultural Research, Extension and**

NAL's Specialized Information Centers (2)

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

Learn how climate change impacts invasive species

[Read about Climate Change](#)



What's New

Find the latest resources that have been added to NISIC's Web site

[See the Newest Resources](#)



News

Read the latest invasive species research news from ScienceDaily

[Get the Latest News](#)



Calendar and Events

Find invasive species related conferences and events around the world

[See Conferences and Events](#)

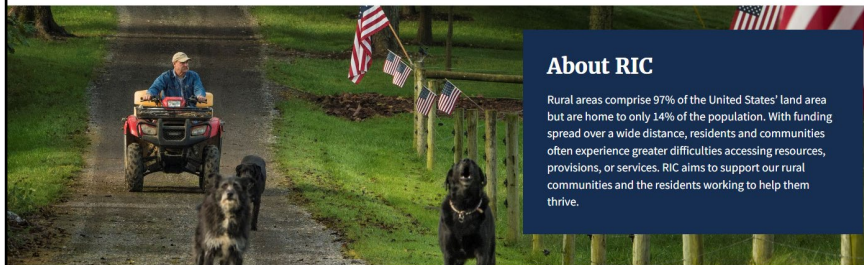
Water and Agriculture Information Center (WAIC)

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.

Featured Topics

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.

Featured Topics



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.

Featured Topics

Find Topical Information on Alternative Farming Systems on the NAL Website

www.nal.usda.gov/programs/afsic



The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) supports all stages of agricultural production with information and research on topics that include:

- Various crop, livestock, and production practices systems (e.g., sustainable, biodynamic, agroforestry, hydro- and aquaponic)
- Post-harvest operational tools (e.g., small farm business aids, funding opportunity resources, and diverse marketing strategies)
- Local and regional food systems, food security, and Fair Trade
- AFSIC-associated USDA research programs, scientist videos, and dynamic searches



Find Topical Information on Water and Agriculture on the NAL Website

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/programs/waic>

The Water and Agriculture Information Center (WAIC) collects, organizes, and communicates the scientific findings, educational methodologies, and public policy issues related to the junction of water resources and agricultural production, including:

- Conservation practices, ecosystem services, and water management resources (e.g. availability and quality)
- Research supported by > 700 highly-advanced and topic-based dynamic searches
- Tools, databases, and databanks supporting direct-farming and field operations
- Agricultural environment management and long-term and conservation research (CEAP, LTAR)



National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC)

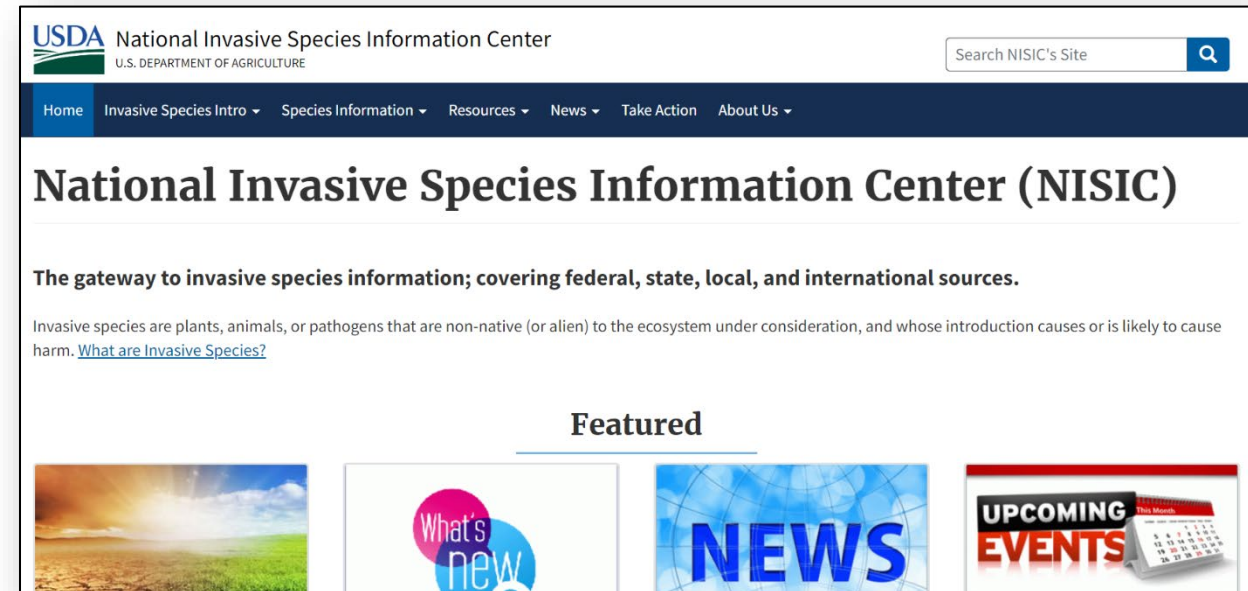
<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov>

NISIC provides an educational gateway to information, organizations, and services about invasive species.

Covers federal, state, local, and international sources.

Resources:

- Invasive species profiles
- Location specific news and information
- Federal government policy and response
- Invasive species-related conferences and events



Rural Information Center

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/programs/ric>



The Rural Information Center (RIC) provides information, research, and referral services to:

- Rural government officials
- Community organizations
- Libraries
- Businesses
- Citizens in rural communities

Featured RIC Topics



- What is Rural?
- Downtown Revitalization
- Rural Housing
- Rural Emergency Response
- Tribal Communities

RIC Services

- On-request information guides
 - Funding resources
 - Agritourism information
 - Emergency preparedness
- Reference services
 - Specific funding topics
 - Historic information
 - Data and statistics

Funding Resources

The process of securing funding through grants involves multiple stages, from initial discovery to application and management. This guide provides links to tools and databases that provide substantial support for each phase of the grant-seeking process.

USDA and Federal Information

[National Agricultural Library - Guide to Funding Resources](#): A clearinghouse of information for every part of the funding process, including grant-writing resources.

[National Agricultural Library - Funding Resources by Topic](#): Curated lists and descriptions of funding opportunities organized by specific topics of interest within agriculture and rural development.

[USDA Rural Development State Offices](#): Employees in these offices are experts in federal funding opportunities provided by the USDA and can offer guidance on application procedures and eligibility requirements. Additionally, they may have insights into other local funding opportunities.

[Congressional Research Service - Resources for Grantseekers](#): Describes key sources of information on government and private funding and outlines eligibility for federal grants. This report also includes some sources for information on writing grant proposals.

State and Local Funding Information

Community Foundations: The Council on Foundation [Community Foundation Locator](#) provides a map of accredited community foundations across the country. Community foundations are public charities that are focused on supporting a specific geographic location.

[State Departments of Agriculture](#): Various states have funding opportunities specific to their agricultural needs and initiatives.

Public and University Libraries: Libraries often provide free access to the Foundation Directory Online (FDO), a comprehensive tool for finding funding sources, including grants and scholarships. The FDO is equipped with advanced visualization tools that allow users to analyze funding distribution across various topics and regions within the United States. Consult your [local](#) or university librarian for assistance using the FDO and finding local funding resources.

Alternative Online Research Tools: [Charity Navigator](#) and [GuideStar](#) provide information about numerous charitable organizations and their operations. These platforms are accessible alternatives for those who do not have access to fee-based databases, providing substantial insights into the non-profit sector.

Agricultural Law Information Partnership

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/aglaw/>

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.

Audience:

- Legal Practitioners
- Agricultural Professionals
- Policymakers
- General Public



Wikipedia Edit-A-Thons

Cooperative Agriculture: Planning & Practice

**Two part event:
Informational speaking session &
Wikipedia edit-a-thon**

**Wednesday July 13th
10:00am-3:00pm
Virtual via Zoom**



Ag Law Partner Content and Resources

- [Farmland Access Legal Toolkit](#) (Center for Agriculture and Food Systems)
- [Cooperatives](#) (legal resources) (National Agricultural Law Center)
- [Cooperative Agriculture: Planning and Practice](#) (with Doug from NCBA – video/webinar)
- [Hot Topics in Agriculture & Food Law](#) (video/webinar)
- [Community Land Trusts 101: A Beginners Guide](#) (video/webinar)



Research and Data Services



NAL SEARCH

<https://search.nal.usda.gov>

- Find agricultural literature across 3 NAL databases including:
 - AGRICOLA – NAL catalog & articles index
 - PubAg – peer-reviewed article citations and access to USDA-funded full-text documents
 - NAL Digital Collections – historic materials
- 8,000,000+ records as far back as the 15th century
- Print and Electronic Materials from the NAL Collection and beyond:
 - scientific research
 - policy documents
 - technical reports
 - historical documents








PubAg

<https://pubag.nal.usda.gov/>

PubAg is a free, searchable database containing links to
USDA –authored and funded peer-reviewed journal articles
300,000+ full-text articles relevant to the agricultural sciences

- indexed citations to peer-reviewed journal articles in the agricultural sciences

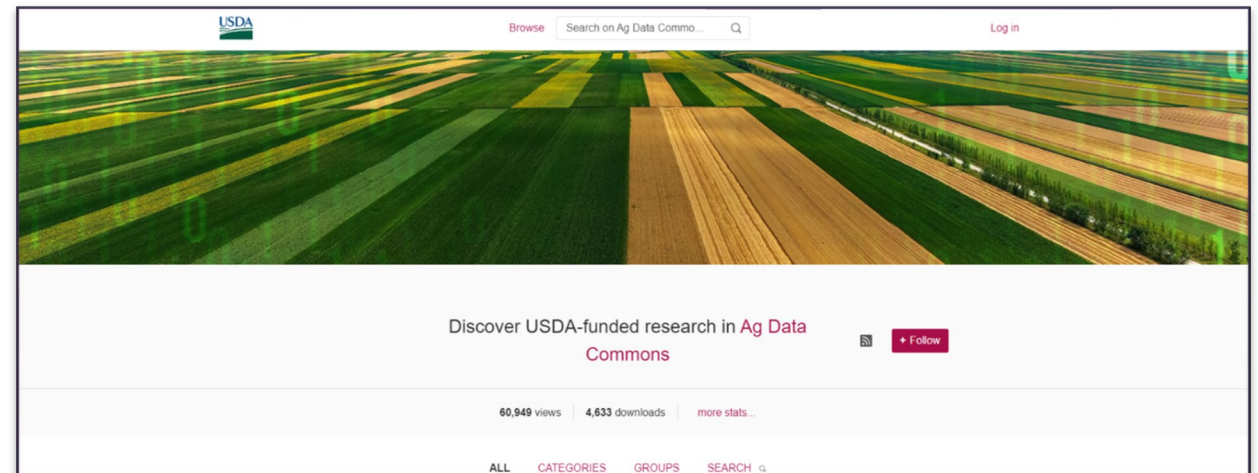
 National Agricultural Library U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	NEW SEARCH	PUBAG	AG DATA COMMONS	DIGITAL COLLECTIONS	BROWSE	JOURNAL SEARCH	...		 Sign in
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PubAg ▼  

ADVANCED SEARCH

Ag Data Commons

- Platform for sharing, discovering and accessing data outputs for USDA-funded research
<https://agdatacommons.nal.usda.gov/>
- Services to create, curate, and enable access to machine-readable scientific metadata, helping make USDA-funded data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR)
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/services/agdatacommons>



Collections and Exhibits



Digital Collections

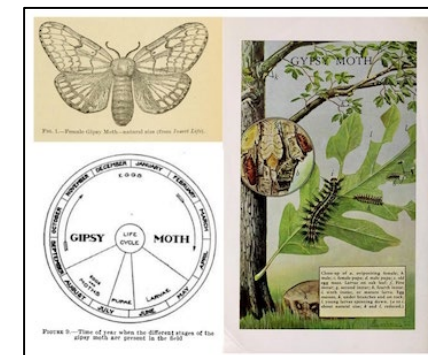
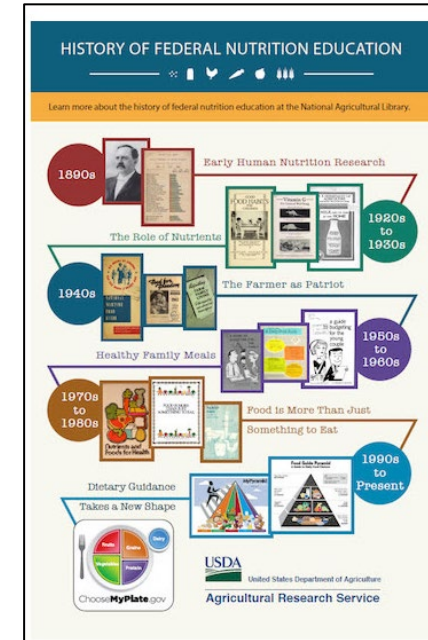
https://search.nal.usda.gov/discovery/collectionDiscovery?vid=01NAL_INST:MAIN

NAL Digital Collections (NALDC):

- Historical Dietary Guidance
- Organic Roots
- Fruit & Vegetable Market News
- USDA Publications
- USDA Pomological Watercolors
- and more!

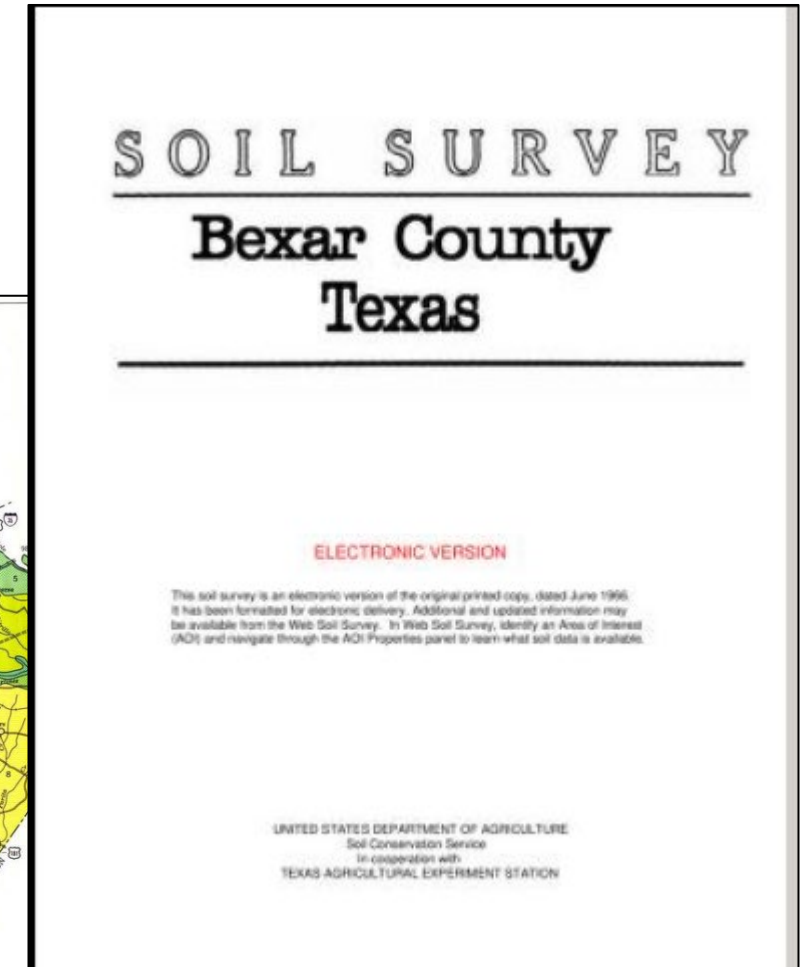
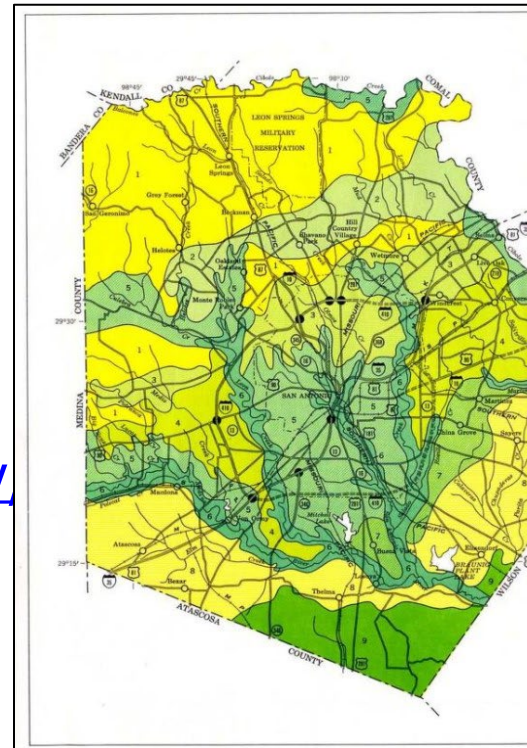
NAL Internet Archives Collection:

<https://archive.org/details/usdanationalagriculturallibrary>



USDA Soil Surveys Collection

- NAL collaboration with NRCS
- Soil Sample Surveys are a much-used resource
- Example of science data unlocked and made discoverable and accessible through NAL digitization
- Housed on the Internet Archive
- Current soil surveys can be found at:
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>



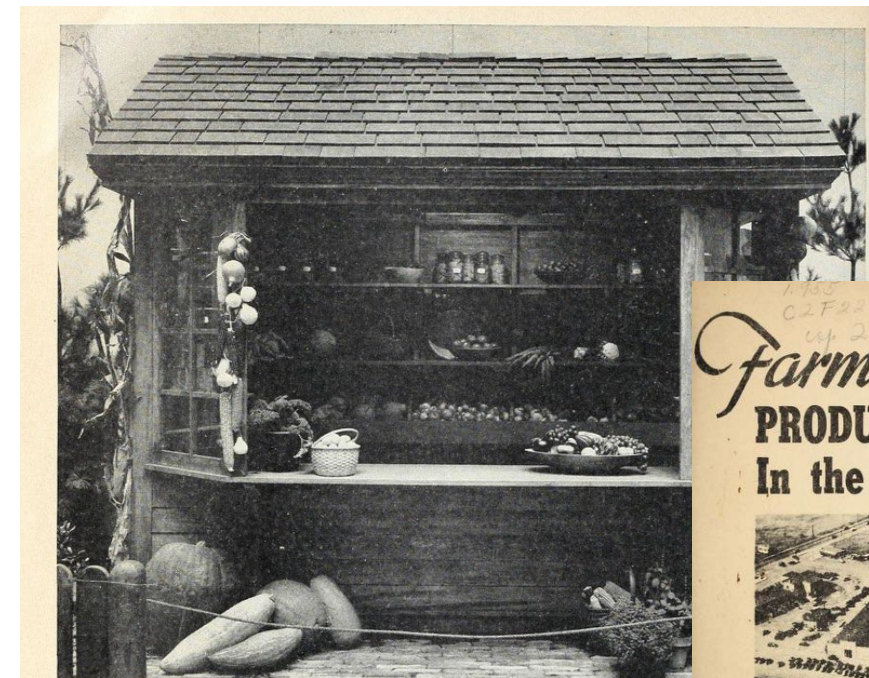
Local Foods: Then and Now

Local foods has been a long-standing focus of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the best ways to get food from producers to consumers.

This exhibit features historical and current materials documenting the ways that food makes its way from the farm to our tables.

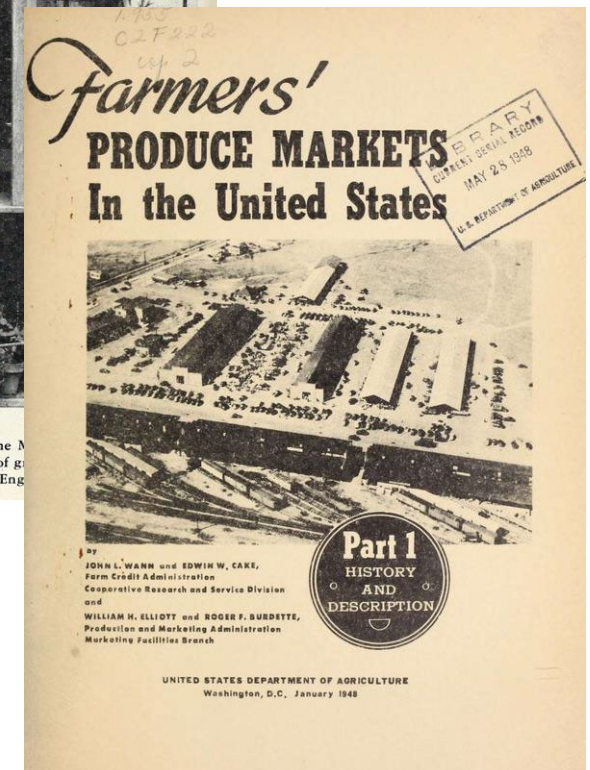
Sections include:

- Farm-To-Table
- Roadside Stands and Farmers Markets
- Current USDA Local Food Initiatives



ROADSIDE STAND FROM NEW YORK

This roadside stand, shown at the national Rural Arts Exhibition, was designed by the New York. The country products were arranged by members of the club, and the supply of goods during the exhibition by a member of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.



USDA Resources



USDA Programs

- Programs to support small and mid-size farmers:

- Farm Storage Facility Loan and Microloan Program
- Risk and land management
- Farm to School Program

<https://www.usda.gov/farming-and-ranching/resources-small-and-mid-sized-farmers/programs-and-support-small-and-mid-sized-farmers>

- Farm Service Agency provides information on:

- Programs and loans
- Conservation
- Disaster recovery
- Outreach & education

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources>

Farmers.gov

www.farmers.gov

- Create an account to manage loans, farm records, and documents
- Tools and resources for:
 - How to start a farm
 - FSA Loans
 - Local agriculture data
 - Disaster assistance
 - H-2A visa checklist
 - Urban Growers



Organic Farmers and Ranchers

- Financial Resources for Organic Farming and Ranching
 - Loans
 - Financing
 - Conservation Assistance
 - Crop Insurance
 - Marketing Programs

<https://www.usda.gov/farming-and-ranching/organic-farming/financial-resources-organic-farmers-and-ranchers>

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Services

- Commodity Procurement
- Grants and Opportunities
- Import/Export Certificates
- Local Food Research & Development
- Market & Facility Design
- Organic Certification & Accreditation
- And more!



<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services>

Contact NAL With Your Questions

Use our chat service for a quick response!

Chat with us or email at:

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/ask-question>

Phone: 301-504-5755



Thank You!

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Overview of Resources

- **National Agricultural Library (NAL):** <https://www.nal.usda.gov/>
- **Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC):** www.nal.usda.gov/programs/afsic
- **Water and Agriculture Information Center (WAIC):** <https://www.nal.usda.gov/programs/waic>
- **National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC):** <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov>
- **Rural Information Center (RIC):** <https://www.nal.usda.gov/programs/ric>
- **Agricultural Law Information Partnership (AgLaw):** <https://www.nal.usda.gov/aglaw/>
- **NAL SEARCH:** <https://search.nal.usda.gov>
- **Digital Collections:** <https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/>
- **USDA Soil Surveys Digital Collection:** <https://archive.org/details/usda-soil-surveys>
- **Current Soil Surveys:** <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>
- **USDA Programs to Support Small and Mid-Sized Farmers:** <https://www.usda.gov/farming-and-ranching/resources-small-and-mid-sized-farmers/programs-and-support-small-and-mid-sized-farmers>
- **Farm Service Agency Resources:** <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources>
- **Farmers.gov:** www.farmers.gov
- **Organic Farmers and Ranchers:** <https://www.usda.gov/farming-and-ranching/organic-farming/financial-resources-organic-farmers-and-ranchers>
- **Agricultural Marketing Service Services:** <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services>
- **Ask Us a Question:** <https://www.nal.usda.gov/ask-question>

Photo Credits

- Slide 1: Agricultural Research Service
- Slide 2: National Agricultural Library
- Slide 18: Microsoft 365
- Slide 19: National Agricultural Library
- Slide 22: Microsoft 365
- Slide 26: USDA Flickr
- Slide 28: USDA Flickr
- Slide 30: USDA Flickr
- Slide 31: USDA Flickr