

FY 2014 Contingency Planning

Most USDA activities will be shut down or significantly reduced and most USDA employees will be furloughed. However, certain USDA activities would continue because they are related to law enforcement, the protection of life and property, or are financed through available funding (such as through mandatory appropriations or user fees). These include:

- Meat, poultry and processed egg inspection services.
- Grain and other commodity inspection, weighing and grading services funded by user fees.
- Inspections for import and export activities to prevent the introduction and dissemination of pests into and out of the U.S.
- Forest Service law enforcement and emergency and natural disaster response efforts.
- Continuity and maintenance of some research measurements and research-related infrastructure, such as germplasm, seed storage, and greenhouses.
- Care for animals, plants and associated infrastructure to preserve agricultural research.
- Eligible households will still receive monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for October.
- Selected domestic nutrition assistance programs, such as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, can continue to operate at the State and local level with any funding, including WIC contingency, and commodity resources that remain available. Additional Federal funds and commodities will not be provided during the period of the lapse.
- The Child Nutrition (CN) Programs, including School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Feeding, Summer Food Service and Special Milk will continue operations into October. Meal providers are paid on a reimbursement basis 30 days after the end of the service month. Limited carryover funding will be available during a lapse to support FY 2014 meal service.

Most other USDA activities would not be continued during a government shutdown. These activities include:

- All farm loans and other farm payments (including direct payments, market assistance loans, and disaster assistance programs).
- Provision of conservation technical and financial assistance (such as Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and easement programs).
- Provision of new rural development loans and grants for housing, community facilities, utilities and businesses.
- Agricultural export credit and other agricultural trade development and monitoring activities.
- All recreation sites across the U.S National Forest System.
- Most forest fuels reduction activities in and around communities.
- Market news reports, NASS statistics, and other agricultural economic and statistical reports and projections.

- Investigation of packers and stockyards related to fraudulent and anti-competitive activities.
- Assistance for the control of most plant and animal pests and diseases unless funded by cooperators or other non-appropriated sources.
- Research facilities except for the care for animals, plants and associated infrastructure to preserve agricultural research.
- Provision of new grants or processing of payments for existing grants to support research, education, and extension.
- ERS Commodity Outlook Reports, Data Products, research reports, staff analysis, and projections. The ERS public website would be taken offline.
- Most departmental management, administrative and oversight functions, including civil rights, human resources, financial management, audit, investigative, legal and information technology activities.
- Mandatory Audits (Financial Statements, FISMA, and potentially Improper Payments) will be suspended and may not be completed and released on the date mandated by law.