

Overview of Key Agencies Supporting and Regulating Food and Agriculture

Introduction

More than half of our country's private land is used for agriculture. The choices farmers make in managing those lands affect the quality of our waters, the ability to feed our people and the future of the land itself. Those choices to a large extent are influenced by the actions of the federal government through the departments and agencies that provide support to farmers and consumers in a variety of ways, promulgate regulations to ensure safe, nutritious food and to protect the environment, and enable competitive markets. This section briefly describes the responsibilities and programs of those federal entities. Information is presented in separate chapters as follows:

1. United States Department of Agriculture
2. Agriculture's Role in American Nutrition
3. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
4. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
5. Food Labeling
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
7. Interaction Among Food Safety Agencies
8. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
9. Antitrust Enforcement Agencies and Legislation