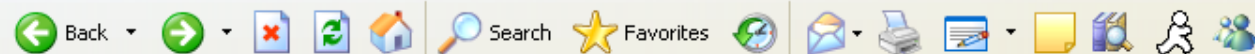


# **An Introduction to the USAIN Legislative and Government Web pages**

The quick way to find information on  
agriculture and government relations

May 2005





Welcome to the USAIN Legislative and Government Relations Committee web page. This is a first iteration of what we plan to be a continually updated resource to support USAIN member's public relations activities. In these changing times for our profession where budgets are increasingly constrained and costs are continually rising, it is more important than ever that we inform our institutions, government officials, and various constituencies of the importance of a strong national library system. It is also essential that we communicate the essential role agriculture and its related fields contribute to the overall well-being of our society. We hope the information we have put together here will help you in these efforts and we look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Barbara Hutchinson, Chair  
Diana Farmer  
Kathy Fescemyer  
Paul Kelsey

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- [Who Should I Contact at the State and National Levels?](#)
- [What Is the Process for Lobbying Congress for Support?](#)
- [Policy Statement Guidelines from Council of Scientific Society Presidents](#)
- [Annotated Briefing Documents on U.S. Agriculture Policy](#)
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Updated 25 May 2004

URL: <http://usain.org/governmentrelations/governmentrelations.html>

Suggestions, or corrections for the web site? Contact [Carla Casler](#)



# Legislative and Government Relations: What is the Budget Process for NAL and Agricultural Information Programs?

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- [The National Agricultural Library Budget Process](#)
- [The National Agricultural Library Budget Timeline](#)
- [Useful Links](#)

## The National Agricultural Library Budget Process

The federal government fiscal year begins October 1 and ends September 30 of the following calendar year. Each fiscal year is given the name of the calendar year in which it ends, i.e. Fiscal Year 2004 began on October 1, 2003 and will end on September 30, 2004. Government agencies are constantly preoccupied with budget matters. At any given time, the agency is managing the budget for the current fiscal year, is preparing or defending proposals for the next two fiscal years, and may be closing the books and reporting on the previous fiscal year. While Congress has had suggestions that the government might move to two year fiscal periods, the suggestions have not gained ground.

Funding for the National Agricultural Library comes from two sources, appropriated and non-appropriated funds. In requesting appropriated funds, the Library follows procedures and guidelines of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Department of Agriculture. ARS is given budget targets based on Departmental budget targets established by the administration. Library budget proposals are reviewed by ARS, the Department and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before they are submitted to Congress as part of the Departmental budget request. The proposals are divided into two parts, a program budget and a facilities budget; funds for each part are appropriated separately by Congress and cannot be transferred from one part to the other. In addition to appropriated funds, the Library has authority to accept gifts and receive revenue from sales or licensing of information products. As well, the Library may receive "soft funding", which is funding received from other government entities or non-governmental sources, in support of specific activities whose existence and continuation are partially or totally dependent on this funding.

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## The National Agricultural Library Budget Timeline

An indicative timeline for budget work is shown below.



# Legislative and Government Relations: Who Should I Contact at the State and National Levels?

## Table of Contents

- [US House Committee on Agriculture](#)
- [US House Committee on Appropriations](#)
- [US Senate](#)
- [US Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee](#)
- [US Senate Committee on Appropriations](#)
- [Useful Links](#): Contact Information for US Congress, Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee members, & State Legislatures

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## [US House Committee on Agriculture](#)

The U.S. House Committee on Agriculture is invested with broad jurisdiction over all “subjects relating to agriculture.” The committee is responsible for agricultural trade, agricultural research, crop insurance, the farm bill, farm credit, food safety, and welfare and nutrition programs. The committee submits an Oversight Plan (at the beginning of each congress) outlining topics of pending oversight activity for the committee – the Oversight Plan can be accessed by selecting the “Plan for Legislative Work” from the pull down menu on the home page.

The web site is well organized and easy to navigate. The front layer features three pull down menus offering easy access to all sections of the Committee on Agriculture site. The front layer also features an “at work on your concerns” with links to highlighted subjects. Currently “America’s Harvest” (viewable only in Explorer), “Crop Insurance” (providing an overview of the new crop insurance covered by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act available for farmers) and information about the “New Farm Bill for 2002” are featured.

The full text of the farm bill is accessible from the site, as well as the Statement of Managers resolving items of disagreement between the House and Senate on the farm bill. The statement also presents a narrative outlining the original positions taken by both the House and Senate on the bill. The text of the original farm bills of both the House and Senate is posted. A list of the House and Senate Conference Committee members formed to finalize the farm bill is also available. The transcript from President Bush’s address as he signed the farm bill is now accessible.

The committee web site features a list of the current members of the Committee on Agriculture, with links to each member’s congressional web site. The site also includes a page listing the following five Subcommittees with a separate page for each of the following subcommittees:

[Text Navigation \(site map\)](#)



Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
Room SR-328A  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6000  
Telephone: 202-224-2035  
TTY/TDD: 202-224-2587

- [accessibility](#)
- [senators](#)
- [subcommittees](#)
- [news](#)
- [hearings](#)
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Today in agriculture...

### Ag Budget Plan Agreement

**Agriculture Committee will determine** the means of \$3 billion, 5-year deficit reduction plan through review of farm supports, conservation and nutrition. [news release](#)

### USDA's Conner Confirmed

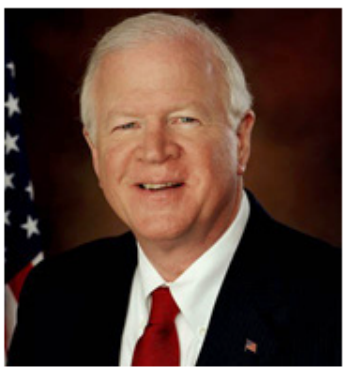
**Charles F. Conner's confirmation** as Deputy Agriculture Secretary came by unanimous consent of the Senate on Wednesday, April 27. Background from the Committee's [April 6 hearing](#)

### Nominee Testifies

**Thomas Dorr of Iowa** responded to Senators' questions for his nomination as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and member of Commodity Credit Corporation Board of Directors. [Listen to hearing's audio replay](#) (2 and a half hours) [RealPlayer™ software](#) free download link  
Sen. Grassley and Mr. Dorr's [opening statements](#)

### Fielding the Farm Bill

On-line help for producers, on-target answers to food and fiber policy, and on-the-record talk with Chairman Saxby Chambliss. [The 2005 Crop Year](#)



Saxby Chambliss  
Chairman



Homeland Security:  
Keeping America's  
Food and Agriculture  
Safe

Senators of the 109th Congress

Choose A State Choose a Senator Choose a Class What is a class?

Santorum, Rick- (R - PA) Class I
511 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-6324
Web Form: santorum.senate.gov/contactform.cfm

Specter, Arlen- (R - PA) Class III
711 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-4254
Web Form: specter.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactInfo.Home

States Leadership

Statistical Information

The Senators page on Statistics & Lists is a great resource for information about current and former Senators. Statistics are available on a variety of topics, including biographical characteristics and Senate service records.

Go

Senators Phone List

This list of Senators' suite and phone numbers in pdf format is updated every couple of weeks at the beginning of a new Congress.

Go

Organizational Chart

See the relationships among Senate leaders and officers who manage the flow of legislative and administrative business in the Senate.

Go

Contact Your Senator

Can't find your senator's name in the list of Senators? Perhaps he or she is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, or a Senator in your State Legislature.





## Legislative and Government Relations: Policy Statement Guidelines from Council of Scientific Society Presidents

The [Council of Scientific Society Presidents](#) is comprised primarily of president-elects, presidents, and immediate past presidents of over 60 scientific federations and societies. It serves as a strong national voice in fostering science policy, in support of science and science education, as the premier national science leadership development institute and as a forum for open, substantive exchanges on current scientific issues. In addition to information about the Council and its activities, the site currently features a Legislative Action Center and a Policy Statements page.

The Legislative Action Center (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>) provides an easy to use mechanism to locate elected officials, determine current legislation, key votes, etc. and an easy to use mechanism to find and contact national and local media.

The Policy Statements page (<http://www.scipres.org/Policy/>) provides access to full text policy statements recommended by CSSP Committees on issues important to the scientific community. The policy statements are usually one page and present, in one sentence, CSSP's position on an issue and the reason for the position. This is followed by key points/reasons with a one or two sentence summary of the data/arguments supporting the point.

### Example policy statement:

**CSSPS Issue:** A Sustainable Future.

**CSSP Position:** Only by increasing U.S. actions and leadership to achieve fully sustainable development can the needs of present generations be met without compromising those of future generations.

### Other issues:

- Science and mathematics education
- Federal research and education budget
- University-based research
- Responsible conduct of science
- Merit review of federally supported science projects
- Unimpeded exchange of scientific information
- Minority participation in scientific careers
- Appropriate use of animals in research
- International scientific cooperation
- Magnifying public science literacy



# Legislative and Government Relations: Annotated Briefing Documents on U.S. Agriculture Policy

## Table of Contents

- [Trends in U.S. Agriculture, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services](#)
- [Agriculture Policy and Farm Bill Briefing Book](#)
- [USDA Farm Bill 2002](#)
- [2002 Farm Bill: Overview and Status](#)
- [Food and Agriculture Research in Changing Times](#)
- [Food and Agricultural Policy: Taking Stock for the New Century](#)
- [Congressional Research Service Report for Congress: RS20765: Agriculture: Prospective Issues for the 107th Congress](#)
- [Congressional Research Service Issue Brief for Congress: IB96030: Soil and Water Conservation Issues](#)
- [The Executive Committee of US Agricultural Experiment Station Directors: Science Roadmap for Agriculture](#)
- [The Extension System: A Vision for the 21st Century: A Resource Document](#)
- [Returning to Our Roots: Executive Summaries of the Reports of the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land Grant Universities](#)
- [Selected List of Resources in Agriculture from The University of Arizona Library](#)
- [UNEP Synthesis GEO-3: Global Environmental Outlook 3: Past, Present and Future Perspectives](#)

## Trends in U.S. Agriculture, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services

This website highlights changes in US agriculture that have taken place in the past century. Several factors have resulted in a reduction of the US labor force working and/or living on farms, causing the health of rural economies to suffer. Productivity gains have taken place without the need to commit additional resources to the production process, due to availability and adoption of new or improved technologies. Economic realities in the farm sector required operators to improve resource management for more efficiency, and to market products more effectively. While they have fluctuated considerably, agricultural prices farmers receive for their production have gone down over the entire century, compared with the costs associated with producing agricultural commodities. US farmers and ranchers began to rely more heavily on export markets to sell excess production.

What is in store for the future?

- Specialization and growth in sustainable agriculture, organic farming, niche farming, and direct marketing
- Genetic engineering to lower costs, improve productions and promote environmentally-friendly practices





## Legislative and Government Relations: Related Resources

### State

[Farm Bureau Listings by State](#)

[State & County Facts from the US Census Bureau](#)

[First Gov: Statistics at the State & Local Levels](#)

### Federal

[The White House](#)

[US House of Representatives](#)

[US Senate](#)

[Legislative Information on the Internet](#)

[Status of FY2003 Appropriations Bills](#)

[Capitol Hill publication: Roll Call](#)

### Associations

[Association of American Universities](#)

[American Association for the Advancement of Science](#)

[American Physical Society](#)

[National Association of State University & Land Grant Colleges](#)

[American Library Association: Issues and Advocacy](#)

[American Library Association: Legislative Action Center](#)

[Special Libraries Association](#)

[Research! America: An Alliance for Discoveries in Health](#)

[Council for Agricultural Science and Technology](#)

[National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research](#)

[National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges](#)

# For help in using the Legislative pages

- Barb Hutchinson
- Kathy Fescemyer
- Paul Kelsey
- Diana Farmer