

Discovering the Specialized Information Centers of the National Agricultural Library

Federal Depository Library Program Academy

April 06, 2021

National Agricultural Library (NAL) Mission

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

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Agricultural Library. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the USDA logo and the text "National Agricultural Library U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE". Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "What would you like to find?". A dark blue navigation menu contains links for Home, Topics, Publications, Collections, Data, Services, and About Us. A light blue notice box states: "Notice To help protect the public from the spread of COVID-19, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) building is currently closed to the public. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at <https://www.nal.usda.gov/>. USDA continues to monitor the situation closely. We will update the operating status of NAL public facilities on our website when it changes." Below the notice is a section titled "National Agricultural Library" with the text: "The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is one of five national libraries of the United States. It houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences." The main content area features a large watercolor illustration of a strawberry. A dark blue callout box on the right side of the strawberry reads: "Discover the Watercolors of Deborah Griscom Passmore Deborah Griscom Passmore (1840-1911) led the U.S. Department Agriculture, Division of Pomology starting in 1892. She painted thousands of pomological watercolors. Search the Digital Collection". At the bottom of the page, there are two columns of text: "indexed journal articles and the NAL catalog," and "journal articles in the agricultural sciences."



Information Centers



Information Center Services

- Curated topical content
- Answer research inquiries by subject matter experts
- Communicate with stakeholders
- Partner for special projects
- Offer information literacy training
- Assist with literature reviews, search strategies and bibliographies

The Experts At The Information Centers

Specialized degrees related to information and agriculture

- Registered Dietitians
- Nutrition and Food Scientists
- Veterinarians
- Plant Scientists
- Librarians
- Information Technology
- Education



Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC)

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

History: The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 established the Food and Nutrition Information and Education Resources Center (later known as the Food and Nutrition Information Center, or FNIC).

Mission: Provide accurate and credible resources for nutrition and health professionals, educators, government personnel, and consumers.

Audience: Educators, Health Professionals, Researchers.

Content highlights:

- DRI Calculator for Health Professionals.
- 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines.
- USDAARS Research Roundup.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Library

Ask A Question | Contact Us | Visit the Library

Today's hours: 08:30 AM - 04:30 PM

Topics Publications Collections Data Services About

Food and Nutrition Information Center Search FNIC

Home » Information Center » Food and Nutrition Information Center » Food and Nutrition Information Center

Food and Nutrition Information Center

Updated DRI Calculator for Health Professionals

This tool will calculate daily nutrient recommendations based on the Dietary Reference Intakes.

Popular Topics | What's Happening? | News | About FNIC | Contact US

Listed below are quick links to FNIC's most popular topics and topics of interest. These links rotate frequently so please check back often.

- [2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)
- [Dietary Reference Intakes](#)
- [Sign up for the FNIC Nutrition Talk Email List](#)
- [USDA Food Composition Databases](#)
- [Agricultural Research Service \(ARS\) Food and Nutrition Research Briefs](#)
- [DRI Calculator for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Food Labeling: Revision of the Nutrition and Supplement Facts Label](#)
- [Evaluating Health Information](#)

Nutrition.gov

<https://www.nutrition.gov>

History: Nutrition.gov was launched in 2004 as part of the USDA's Obesity Intervention Plan.

Mission: Serves as a gateway to providing reliable information on nutrition, healthy eating, physical activity, and food safety for the public.

Audience: General public.

Content highlights:

- MyPlate Resources.
- Basic Nutrition.
- Nutrition by Age.
- Recipes.
- Kid's Corner.



Nutrition.gov is a USDA-sponsored website that offers credible information to help you make healthful eating choices.



Food Safety Research Information Office

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

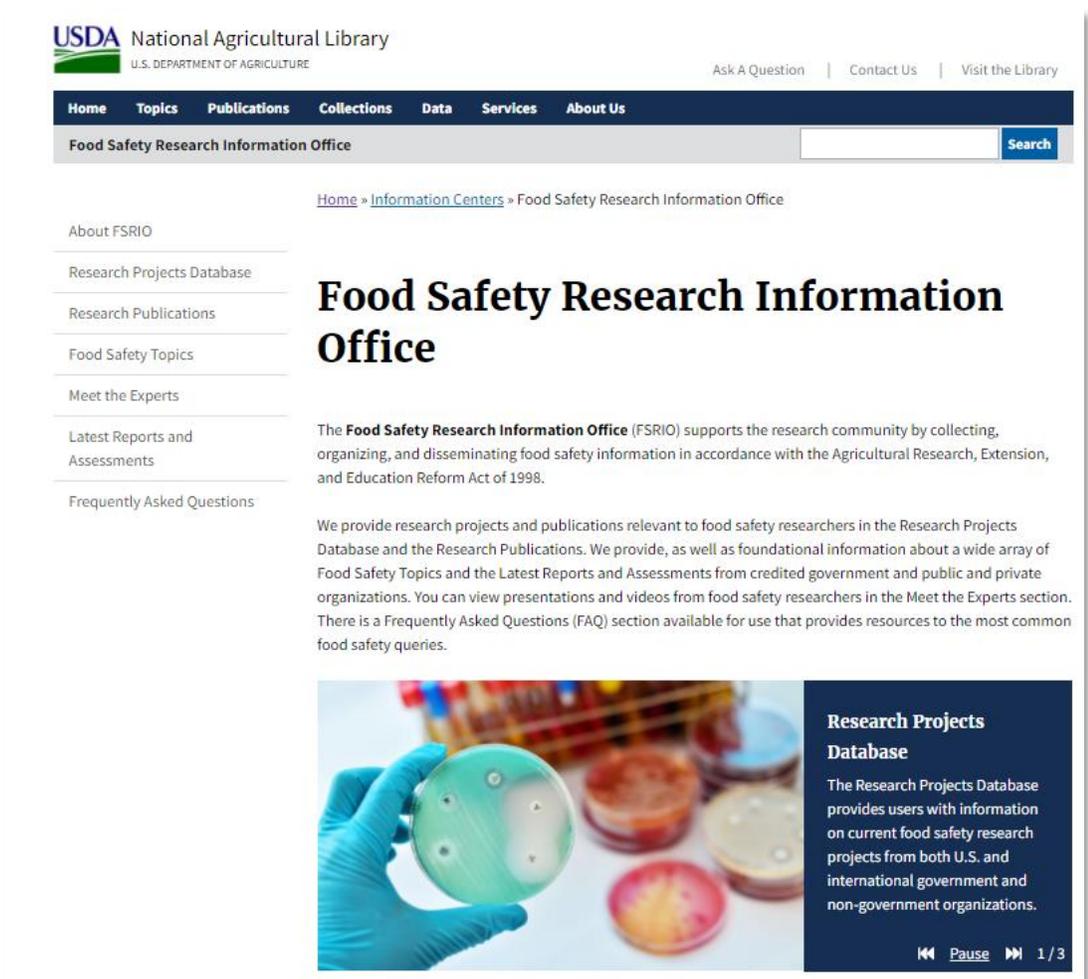
History: The Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO) was created by the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 launched in 2001.

Mission: Provide the food safety research community with information on publicly and privately funded food safety research, prevent unintended duplication of food safety research, and assess food safety research priorities.

Audience: Food Safety Researchers.

Content highlights:

- Research Projects Database that includes U.S., international, and non-government organizations.
- Research Publications from peer-reviewed journals.
- Meet the Experts videos highlighting USDA researchers.



USDA National Agricultural Library
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ask A Question | Contact Us | Visit the Library

Home Topics Publications Collections Data Services About Us

Food Safety Research Information Office

Home » Information Centers » Food Safety Research Information Office

About FSRIO

Research Projects Database

Research Publications

Food Safety Topics

Meet the Experts

Latest Reports and Assessments

Frequently Asked Questions

Food Safety Research Information Office

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.

We provide research projects and publications relevant to food safety researchers in the Research Projects Database and the Research Publications. We provide, as well as foundational information about a wide array of Food Safety Topics and the Latest Reports and Assessments from credited government and public and private organizations. You can view presentations and videos from food safety researchers in the Meet the Experts section. There is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section available for use that provides resources to the most common food safety queries.

Research Projects Database

The Research Projects Database provides users with information on current food safety research projects from both U.S. and international government and non-government organizations.

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Animal Welfare Information Center

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

History: The Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) was created by 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and established in 1986.

Mission: Help the regulated community with employee training and to promote the humane care and use of animals by providing information on alternatives.

Audience: Researchers concerned with meeting the requirements of the AWA.

Content highlights:

- Alternatives training workshops.
- Literature searching assistance.
- Animal Welfare Information Center Bulletin.

The screenshot shows the website for the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC). At the top, the USDA National Agricultural Library logo is visible, along with navigation links for 'Ask A Question', 'Contact Us', and 'Visit the Library'. Below the logo is a dark navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Topics', 'Publications', 'Collections', 'Data', 'Services', and 'About Us'. The main content area features a search bar and a list of menu items on the left, including 'About AWIC', 'Laws and Guidelines', 'Training', 'Alternatives Literature Searching', '3Rs Alternatives: Technologies and Approaches', 'Housing, Care and Welfare', 'Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees', 'Routine Procedures', and 'Organizations'. The main heading is 'Animal Welfare Information Center', followed by a brief description of the center's mandate under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). A large graphic of various animals (whale, horse, elephant, dog, cat, bird) is displayed, along with a dark blue box titled 'Animal Welfare Act History Digital Collection (AWAHDHC)' which states that the collection contains U.S. Government publications in legislative, regulatory, and USDA categories. At the bottom, there is an 'Events' section listing two workshops: 'AWIC Workshop Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act Mar. 2021' and 'AWIC Workshop Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act May 2021', both held in Beltsville, MD.

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center

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

History: The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC), founded in 1985, was one of the first USDA programs to focus on sustainable and organic agriculture.

Mission: Locating, organizing, and distributing information related to sustainable agricultural, crops, and livestock farming systems.

Audience: Researchers, farmers, students, and consumers.

Content highlights:

- Crop and livestock farming tools and production practices across multiple species.
- Small farm funding and business resources.
- Local and regional food systems.
- Sustainable Agriculture Education and Training Directory

The screenshot displays the website for the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC). At the top, the USDA National Agricultural Library logo is visible, along with navigation links for 'Ask A Question', 'Contact Us', and 'Visit the Library'. A dark blue navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'Topics', 'Publications', 'Collections', 'Data', 'Services', and 'About Us'. Below this, a search bar is present with the text 'Alternative Farming Systems Information Center' and a 'Search' button. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'Home » Information Centers » Alternative Farming Systems Information Center'. A left sidebar lists various topics with expandable icons: 'Contact AFSIC', 'About AFSIC', 'Crops', 'Livestock', 'Natural Resource Management', 'Production Practices', 'Energy', 'Small Farm Funding and Business', 'Education and Research', 'Local and Regional Food Systems', 'Environmental Justice and Quality of Life', and 'Videos'. The main heading reads 'Alternative Farming Systems Information Center'. Below the heading, there is a link to 'Coronavirus and USDA Service Centers - Committed to delivering USDA services to America's farmers and ranchers while taking safety measures in response to the COVID-19, or new coronavirus, outbreak.' A paragraph describes the center's mission: 'The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) specializes in identifying resources about sustainable food systems and practices in support of USDA's effort to ensure a sustainable future for agriculture and farmers worldwide.' A video player is shown at the bottom right, featuring a thumbnail of a bunch of purple grapes. The video title is 'Growing Alternative or Specialty Crops and Plants', and the description is 'Learn about floral, forest, heirloom, herb, nursery, nut, and other specialty crops or products.' The video player includes a 'Pause' button and a progress indicator showing '5 / 6'.

National Invasive Species Information Center

<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov>

History: The National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC) was established in partnership with the National Invasive Species Council in 2005.

Mission: Provide and educational gateway to information, organizations, and services about invasive species.

Audience: Land managers, policymakers, public.

Content highlights:

- Invasive species profiles.
- Location specific news and information.
- Federal government policy and response.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC). At the top left is the USDA logo and the text "National Invasive Species Information Center U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE". To the right is a "Select Language" dropdown menu and a search bar labeled "Search NISIC's Site". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, Invasive Species Intro, Species Information, Resources, News, Take Action, and About Us. The main heading is "National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC)". Below this is a featured article section for "Japanese Stiltgrass". It includes a photograph of the grass, a description: "The gateway to invasive species information; covering federal, state, local and international sources.", and a definition: "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. Learn what determines if a species is invasive." To the right of the photo is a text box: "Japanese Stiltgrass Can grow in a variety of habitats where it forms dense stands and crowds out native species (Fryer 2011)". Below the article is a "Featured" section with four tiles: "News" (Read the latest invasive species research news from ScienceDaily), "What's New" (See what's new on NISIC's Web site), "Identify" (Identify species that may be invasive), and "Calendar and Events" (Find invasive species related conferences and events).

Water and Agriculture Information Center

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

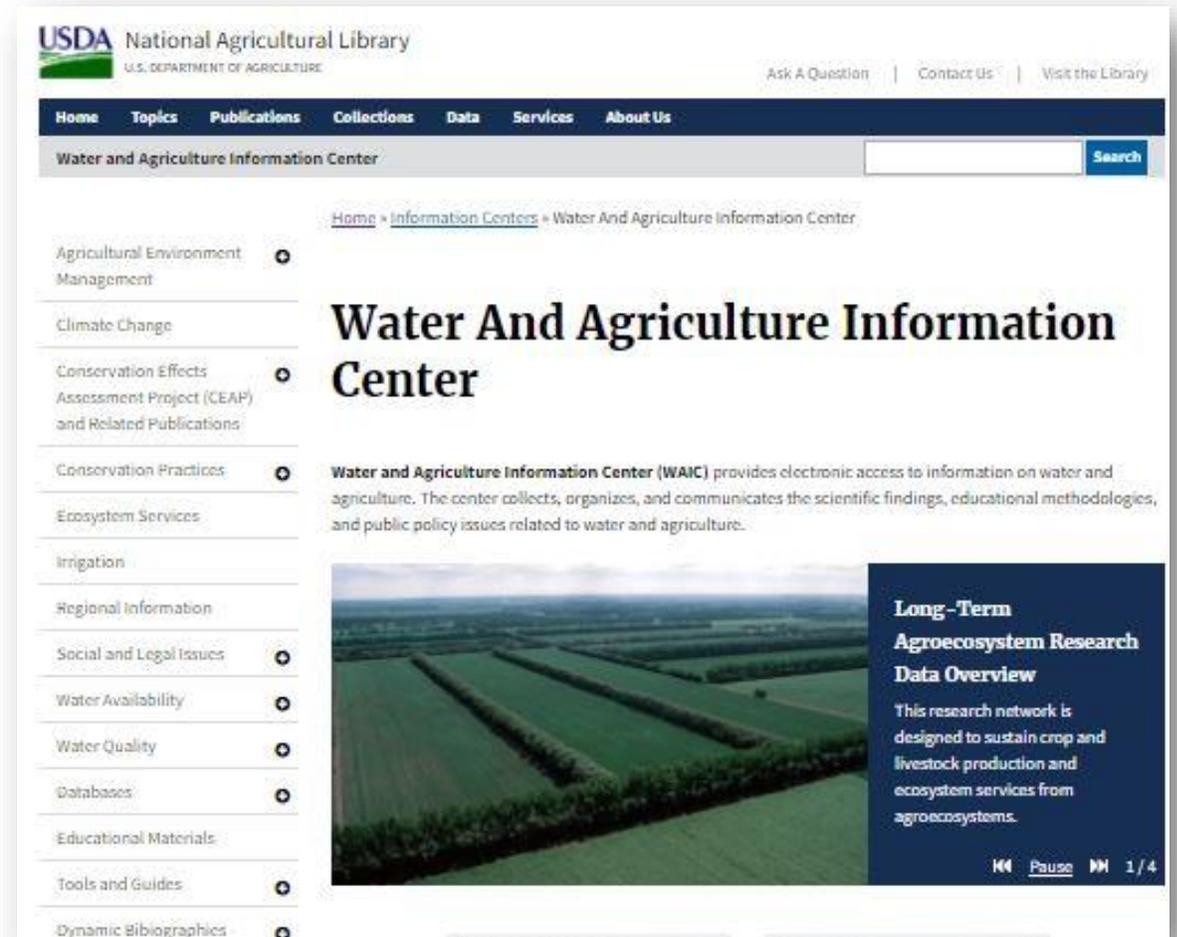
History: The Water and Agriculture Information Center (WAIC) was established in 1990 to support USDA's plans to address water quality concerns.

Mission: Advancing access to global information where agriculture and water-use intersect. Includes scientific findings, methodologies, and public policy issues related to natural resources and conservation effects.

Audience: Researchers, growers, and water professionals.

Content highlights:

- Dynamic bibliographies across 400 topics.
- Tools and databases to assess water availability and quality.
- Regional information and ecosystem services.
- Conservation practices and publications.



The screenshot shows the website for the Water and Agriculture Information Center (WAIC). At the top, there is the USDA National Agricultural Library logo and navigation links for 'Ask A Question', 'Contact Us', and 'Visit the Library'. Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Topics', 'Publications', 'Collections', 'Data', 'Services', and 'About Us'. The main heading reads 'Water and Agriculture Information Center' with a search box to the right. A breadcrumb trail indicates 'Home > Information Centers > Water And Agriculture Information Center'. On the left side, there is a vertical menu of topics: Agricultural Environment Management, Climate Change, Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) and Related Publications, Conservation Practices, Ecosystem Services, Irrigation, Regional Information, Social and Legal Issues, Water Availability, Water Quality, Databases, Educational Materials, Tools and Guides, and Dynamic Bibliographies. The main content area features the title 'Water And Agriculture Information Center' and a brief description: 'Water and Agriculture Information Center (WAIC) provides electronic access to information on water and agriculture. The center collects, organizes, and communicates the scientific findings, educational methodologies, and public policy issues related to water and agriculture.' Below the text is a large image of a green agricultural field with a dark blue overlay box on the right containing the text 'Long-Term Agroecosystem Research Data Overview' and a sub-description: 'This research network is designed to sustain crop and livestock production and ecosystem services from agroecosystems.' At the bottom right of the image, there are navigation icons and the text '1 / 4'.

Rural Information Center

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

History: The USDA established the Rural Information Center (RIC) in 1987 in response to a congressional request to create a nationwide information provider to rural communities within the National Agricultural Library.

Mission: RIC acts as a rural assistance clearinghouse for any individual or body seeking to maintain the vitality of America's rural areas.

Audience: Rural governments, local officials, community organizations, libraries, businesses, and citizens.

Content highlights:

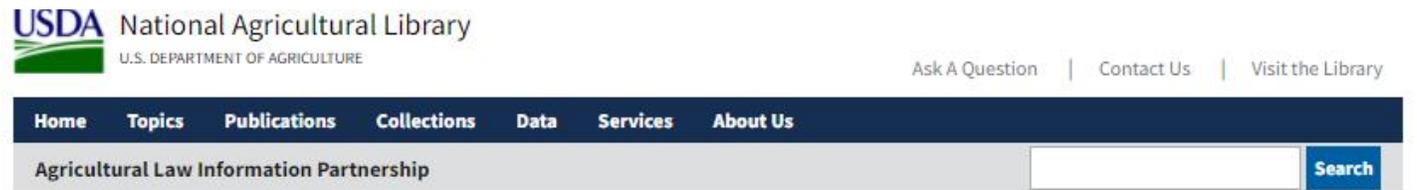
- Community development, citizen services, and disaster assistance.
- USDA Environmental Justice resources.

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Rural Information Center. At the top left is the USDA logo and the text 'National Agricultural Library U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'. To the right are links for 'Ask A Question', 'Contact Us', and 'Visit the Library'. Below this is a dark navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Topics', 'Publications', 'Collections', 'Data', 'Services', and 'About Us'. A search bar is located on the right side of this bar. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: 'Home » Information Centers » Rural Information Center'. On the left is a sidebar menu with expandable sections: 'About RIC', 'Community Development Resources', 'Rural Citizen Services', 'Sustainable Rural Communities', and 'Rural Resources and Publications'. The main content area features a large heading 'Rural Information Center' and a featured article titled 'April 13, 2020: USDA's Federal Rural Resource Guide was unveiled today to help Rural Communities address the COVID-19 Pandemic'. Below the article is a link: 'USDA Implements Immediate Measure to Help Rural Residents, Businesses, and Communities Affected by COVID-19.' (Updated September 1, 2020). At the bottom of the article is a paragraph: 'The Rural Information Center (RIC) provides services for rural communities, local officials, organizations, businesses and rural citizens working to maintain the vitality of America's rural areas.' To the right of the article is a dark blue box with the heading 'Rural Environmental Justice Resources' and a short description: 'The environmental justice resource guide compiles relevant and current resources related to supporting and fostering environmental, economic, and health prosperity in rural communities.' At the bottom right of this box are navigation icons and the text 'Resume 1 / 3'. The background of the bottom section shows a green street sign that says 'MAIN ST'.

Agricultural Law Information Partnership

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/aglaw/agricultural-law-information-partnership>

Disseminates agricultural and food law information to consumers, researchers, and legal professionals.



Agricultural Law Information Partnership



Farmers Market Legal Toolkit

The Farmers Market Legal Toolkit, created by the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, includes legal resources and case studies for producers selling at markets.





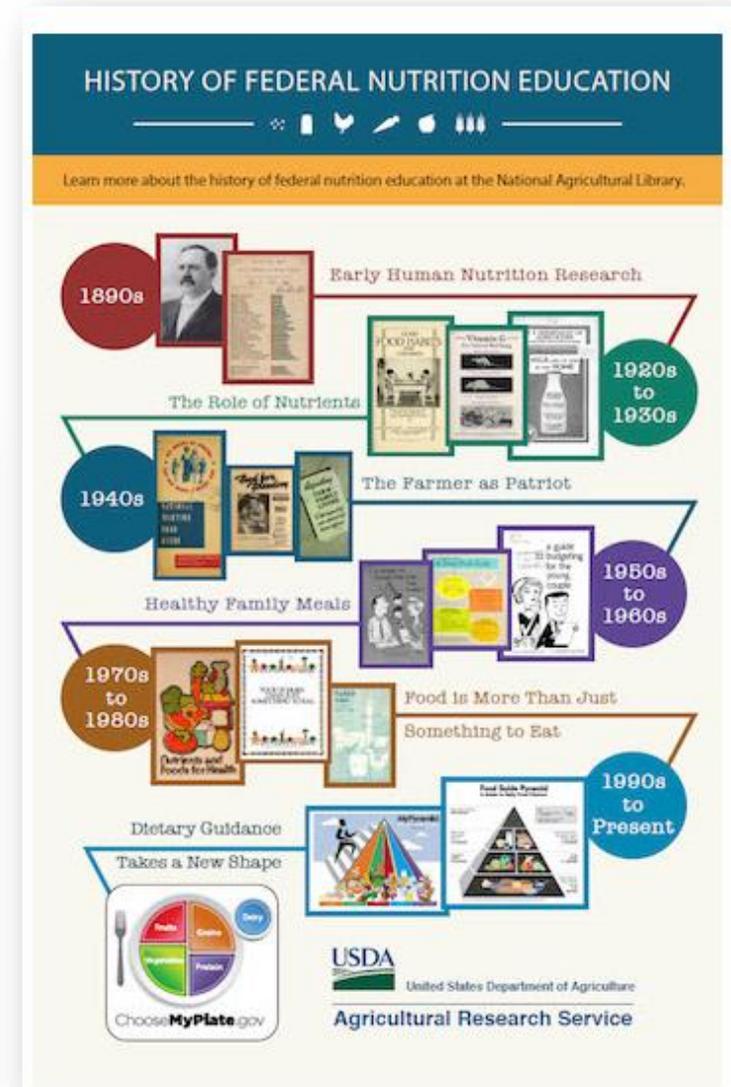
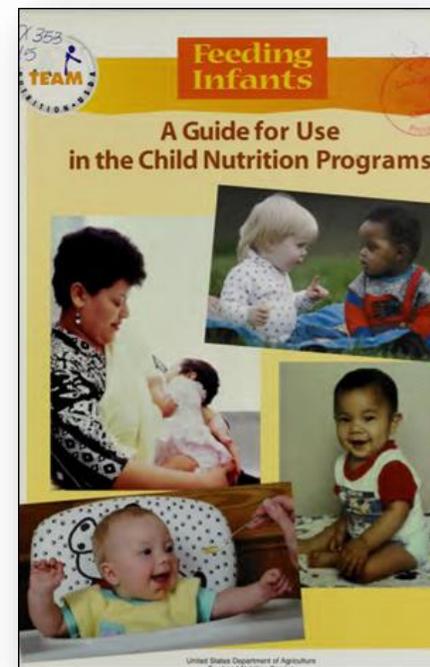
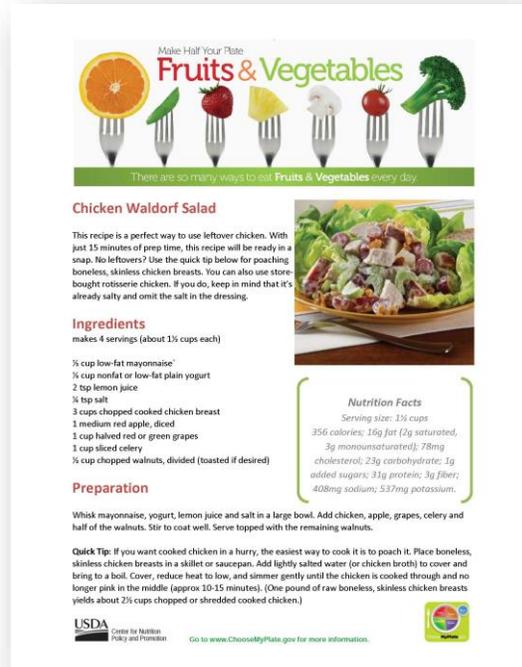
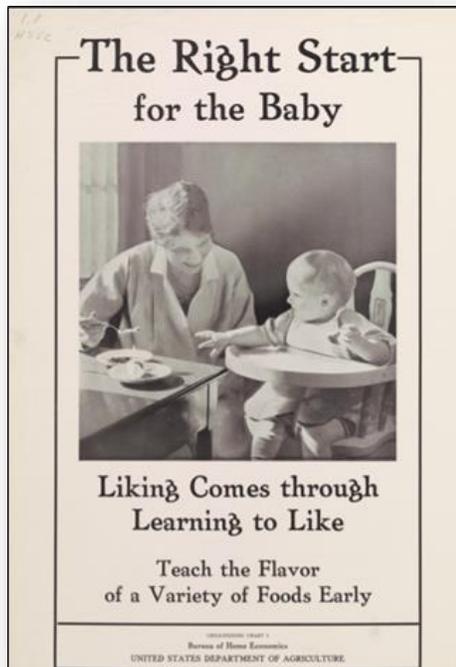
Digital Collections and Exhibits



Historical Dietary Guidance

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

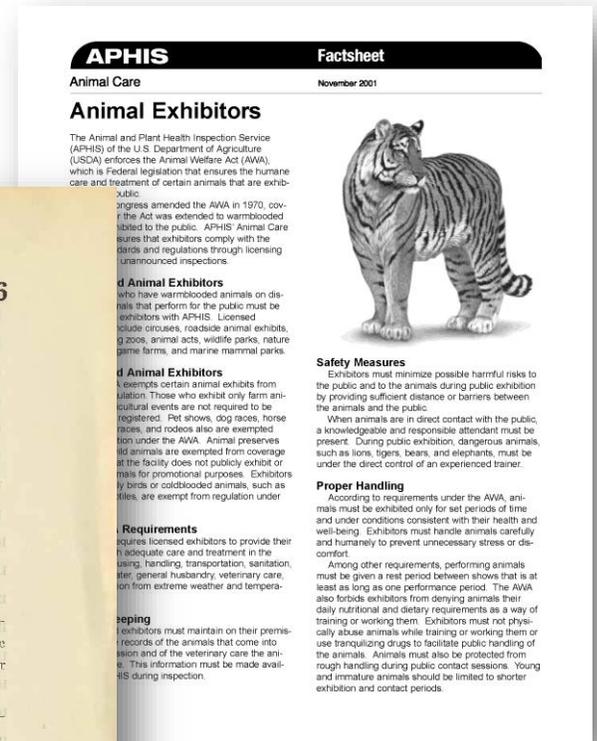
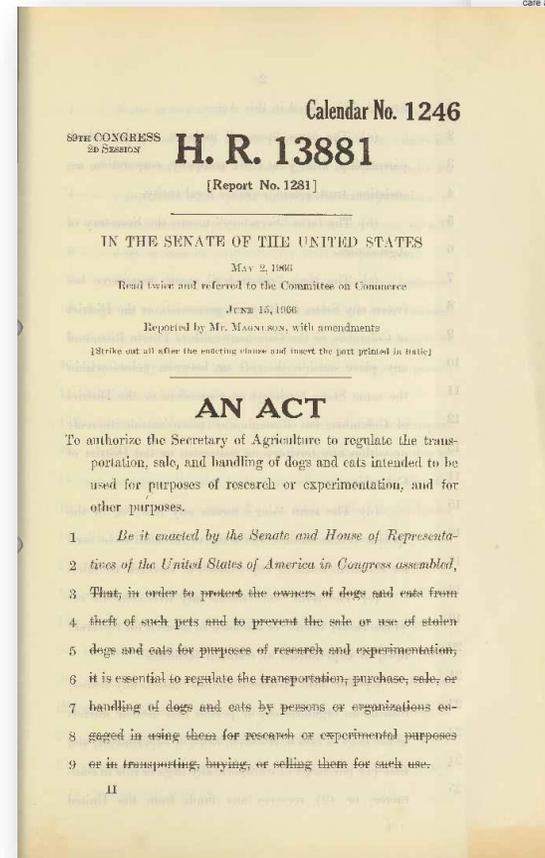
- History of U.S. government dietary advice.
- Covering over one hundred years.
- More than 1,800 brochures, pamphlets, posters, recipes, etc.
- Resources for everyone across different life stages.



Animal Welfare Act History Digital Collection (AWAHDC)

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

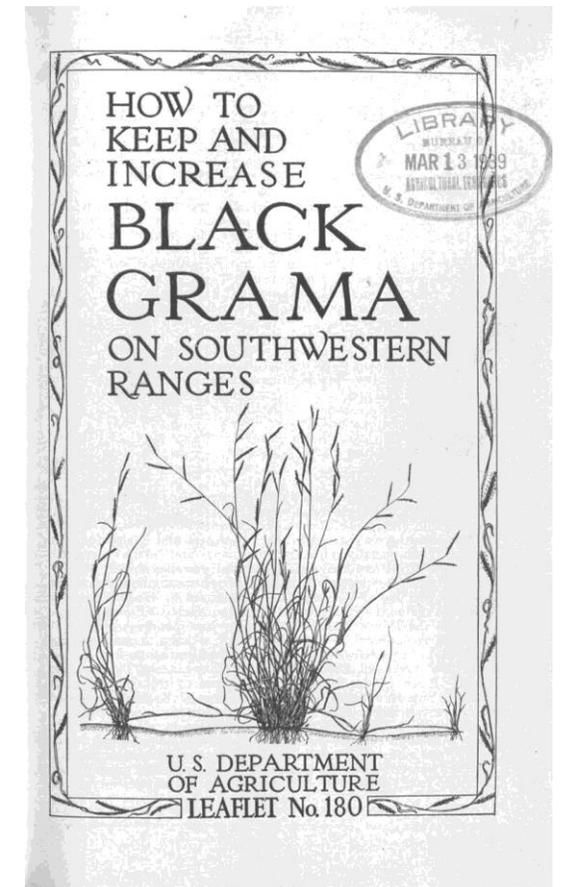
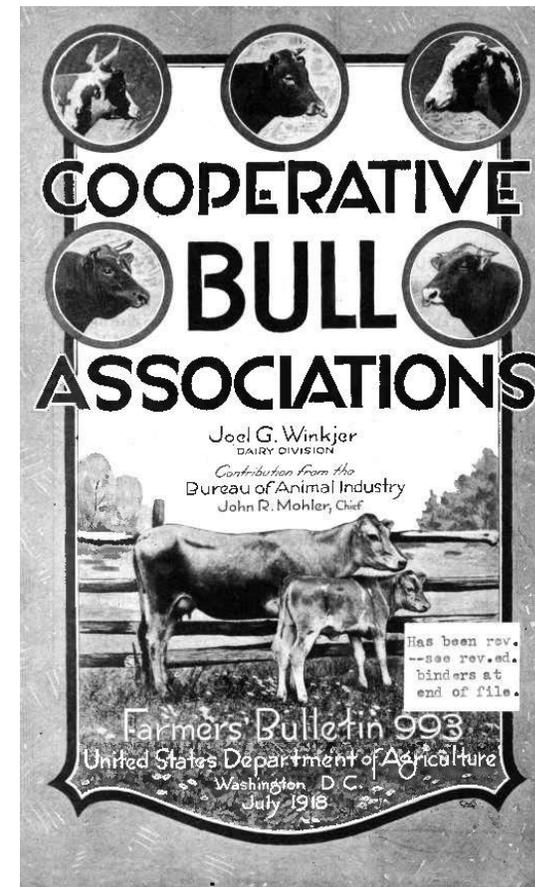
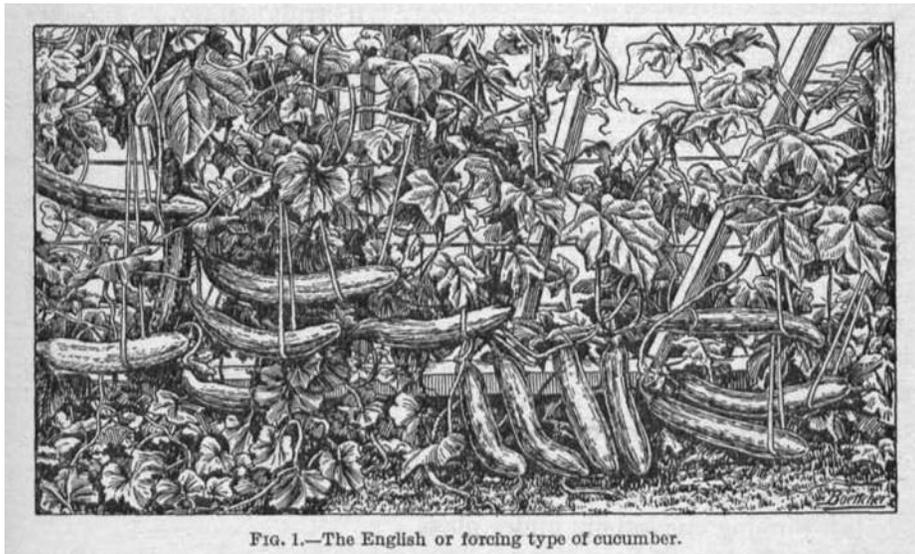
- Online library of full-text legislative & regulatory documents highlighting the history and intent of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).
- Documents within the collection fall into 3 categories:
 - Legislative documents (including public laws, hearings, Congressional reports, and excerpts from the Congressional Record).
 - Regulatory documents (Federal Register docs).
 - USDA Publications Related to the AWA.
- Contains an interactive timeline of important moments in the history of animal welfare and the AWA.



Organic Roots

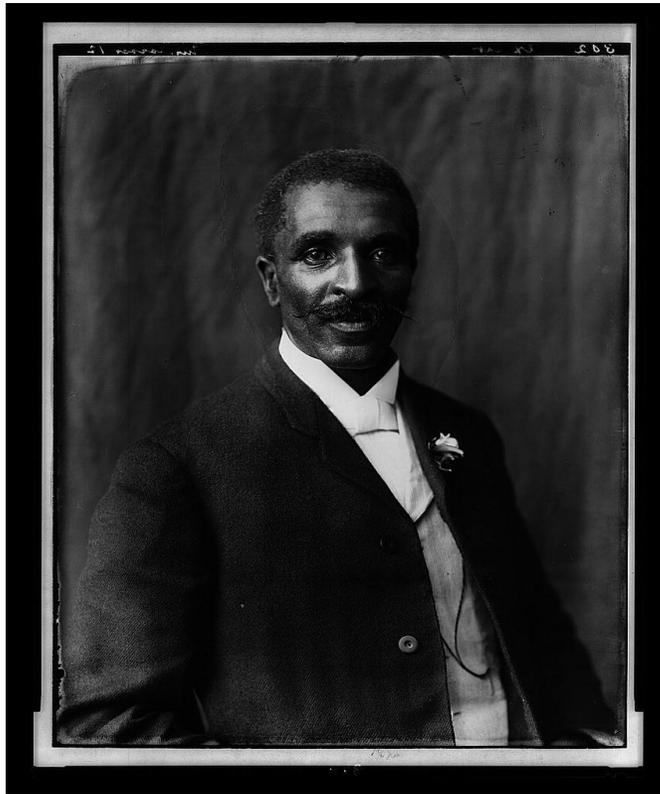
<https://naldc.nal.usda.gov>

- USDA documents published before 1942 (before synthetic chemicals became widely used).
- Relevant to today's sustainable and organic farmers.



Exhibits

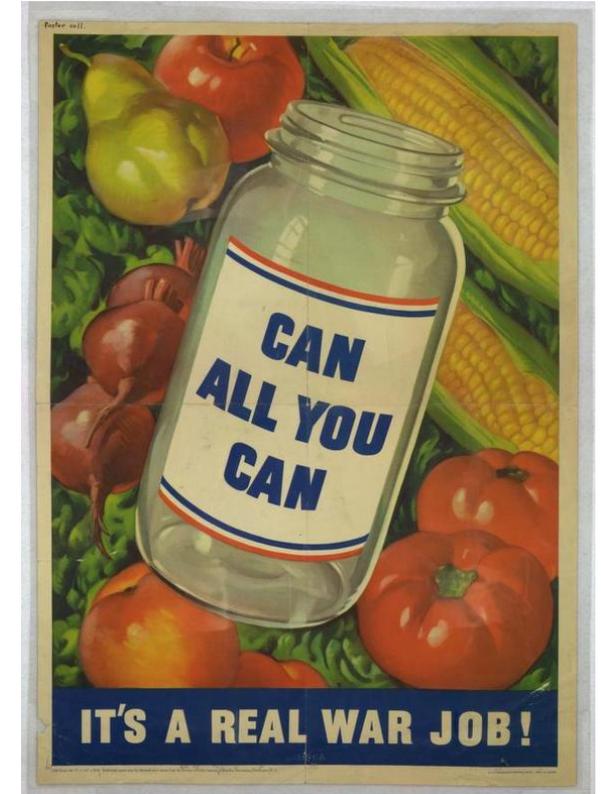
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/main/collections/exhibits>



George Washington Carver



House Agriculture Committee Timeline



How Did We Can?



Connect With Us



National Agricultural Library Newsletters

- Collections at NAL Information
- Food & Nutrition Updates Information
- Food Safety News and Information
- Ag Data Commons Announcements Information
- Nutrition.gov Twitter Digest Information
- Animal Welfare Information Center Information
- Alternative Farming Systems Information Center News Update Information
- Rural Agriculture Information Center News Update Information
- Water and Agriculture Information Center News Update Information

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Your email address

Sign up

Connect To USDA On Social Media

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- [Twitter.com/USDA](https://twitter.com/USDA)
- [Youtube.com/user/USDA](https://www.youtube.com/user/USDA)
- [Flickr.com/photos/usdagov](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov)
- [NAL.usda.gov/rss-feeds](https://nal.usda.gov/rss-feeds)
- [Nutrition.gov Twitter](https://twitter.com/Nutrition.gov)



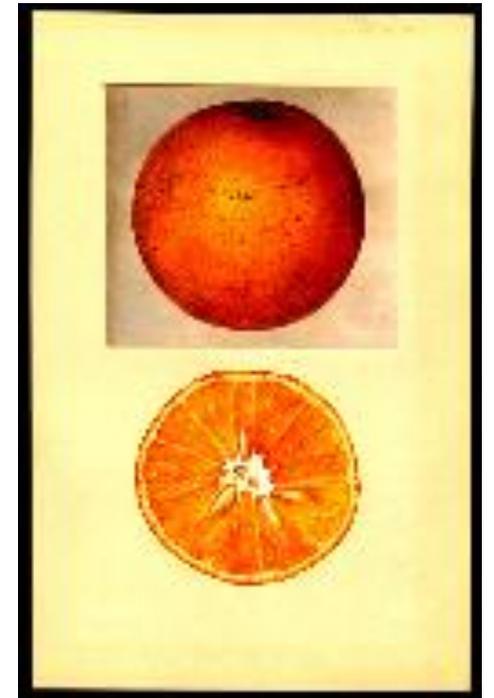
Contact NAL With Your Questions

Use our newly launched chat service for a quick response!

Chat with us or email at:

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

Phone: 301-504-5755



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Pomological Watercolor Collection.
Rare and Special Collections,
National Agricultural Library,
Beltsville, MD 20705