A black and white speckled chicken with a prominent red comb is the central focus, standing in a lush green field. The background is softly blurred, showing other chickens and more greenery. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Taking the Department to the People: Editing Wikipedia to Help Ensure Equitable Access

Jamie Flood

Senior Wikipedian & Outreach Specialist

USDA National Agricultural Library

# Agenda

- What is NAL?
  - Information Centers & services
  - Agricultural Law Information Partnership
- Knowledge Equity, Wikipedia, & USDA
- Contributing to Wikipedia
- Events at NAL
- Upcoming events





## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY MISSION

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

### SUPPORT

NAL supports USDA's in-house research conducted by Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

### SERVE

NAL serves the public and supports all Land Grant Institutions



- Houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences, with both physical and digital collections
- One of five U.S. National Libraries
- Congressionally designated depository for U.S. Government documents



## INFORMATION CENTERS & SERVICES

## INFORMATION CENTERS

- Agricultural Law Information Partnership
- Alternative Farming Systems
- Animal Welfare
- Food & Nutrition
- Food Safety
- Invasive Species
- Rural Information
- Water & Agriculture

## CATALOGS & COLLECTIONS

- AGRICOLA – NAL Catalog
- Digital Collections
- PubAg – peer-reviewed journal articles
- Special Collections

AGRICULTURAL LAW  
INFORMATION  
PARTNERSHIP

- Funded through an appropriation from the House Agriculture Committee
- Collaboration between NAL, National Agricultural Law Center, and the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School



# National Agricultural Law Center

- Located in Fayetteville, Arkansas
- The leading source of scholarly and authoritative agricultural and food law research and information
- Serve both public and private stakeholders.



# Center for Agriculture & Food Systems

- Located in Royalton at Vermont Law School
- Trains law and policy students to develop real-world solutions for a more sustainable and just food system







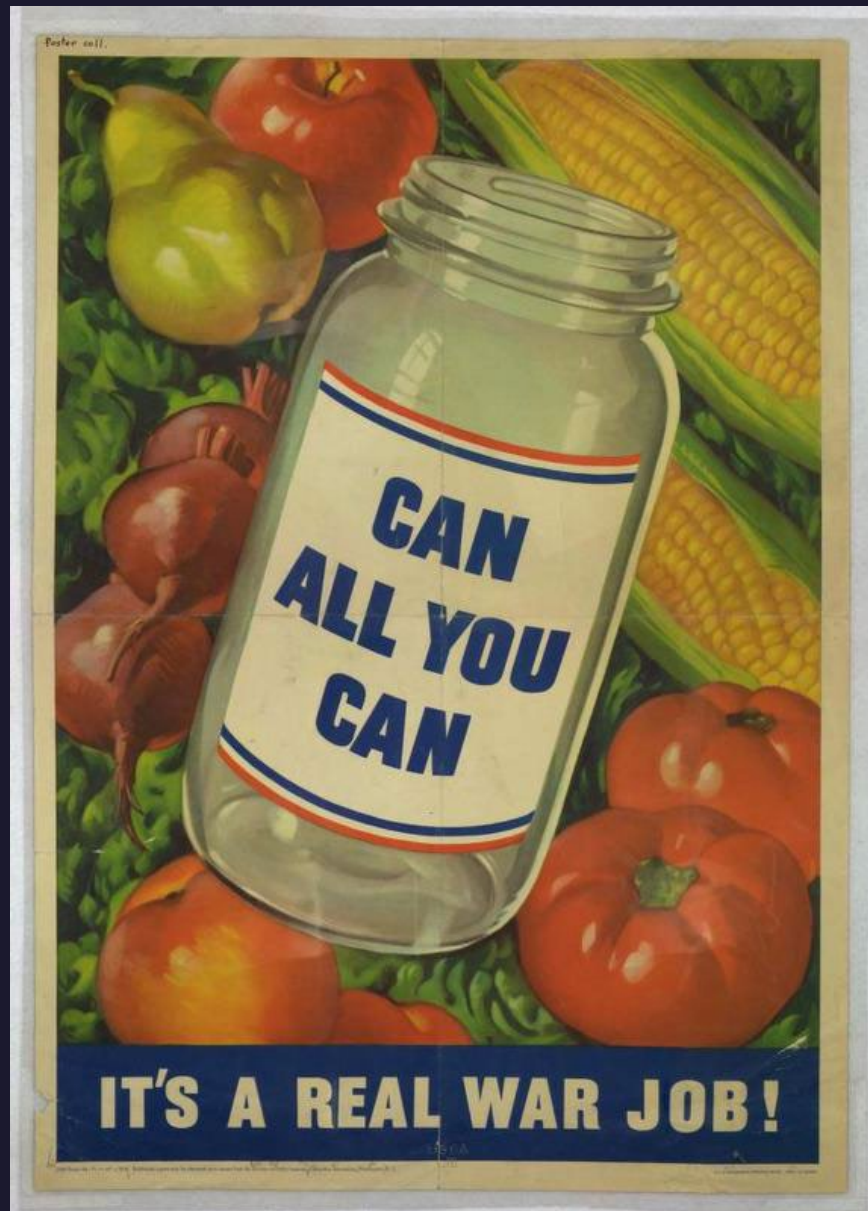
# Knowledge Equity, Wikipedia & USDA

Over the past several years, USDA has prioritized advancing racial justice, equity and access in its mission and programs. Including the creation of Equity Commission.

# Knowledge Equity, Wikipedia & USDA

- NAL supports USDA's Equity commitments in three ways:
  - Enhancing Wikipedia content
  - Holding equity-related programming (often with editing components)
  - Supports the Equity Commission through research





# Meaningful Contributions

- Contributing to Wikipedia does NOT have to mean writing new articles – it can mean:
- Adding references
- Adding media to Wikimedia Commons (Participating in the DPLA Pipeline, if you are a DPLA contributing institution)
- Adding images from Commons to Wikipedia
- Updating facts in articles
- Improving articles about research, government information and programs, etc.

# DPLA Pipeline

- DPLA members are eligible to participate in the Wikimedia/DPLA pipeline
- This eases access to digital items and saves institutions time on Commons uploads
- Makes items readily accessible, and easy to formulate events and initiatives around.



# Choosing topics

- Partners
  - Emerging research
  - Upcoming report releases
- USDA/NAL
  - Reference request trends
  - Webinars/meetings
  - Requests
- Equity Commission
  - Key topics/discussions



# Implementing Wikipedia programming

- Focus: Align Wikipedia goals with Departmental goals – how can you address goals with Wikipedia programming?
- The topic and outreach matters!
  - Outreach is done based on topic. Consider what will interest your colleagues and others.
  - Is this an opportunity for public outreach? Sharing the mission with a broader audience?
- Successful events typically include some kind of informational session & editing



# Engage

- With the Wikipedia community! That's how you get experienced editors.
- Reach out to local user groups:
  - Wikimedia DC
  - Wikimedia New York City
  - Wikimedians of Indiana
- Connecting with the community is a sign of good faith, encourages experienced editors to join, and creates community support when it is needed.



# Speakers

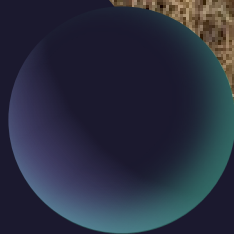
- Communication plan from the beginning
- Look for internal speakers
- Consider collaborators
  - Who is bringing unique experiences and can help understand the experiences of historically excluded individuals/communities?





# Inclusive Language

- Consider your target audience & appropriate language
  - Check with equity office to use appropriate language
- Be mindful of framework around issues you may be discussing



# Notes on events

- Start early
- Plan for accommodations as needed (start at least 2 weeks early)
- Plan for a moderator – keeps conversation flowing, filters out unnecessary questions
- Plan for *after*
  - Should it be recorded?
  - How will the recording be accessed?
  - Does it need captions?



# Events at NAL

- Heirs' Property
- Food System Equity/Justice
- Nutrition Security
- Cooperative Agriculture
- Predictive Microbiology & Food Safety
- Land Access



**USDA National Agricultural Library Speaker Series:  
Alternative Land Ownership Models**

**Thursdays at 2:00pm**

- Sept. 1 - [Transitional Lands: Farm to Forest](#)
- Sept. 22 - [Emerging Land Ownership Models: Agrarian Commons](#)
- Sept. 29 - [Equitable Land Access: Resources & Tools](#)

Register on Eventbrite

Hosted By:  
USDA National Agricultural Library  
Agricultural Law Information Partnership

VL  
USDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY  
AGRICULTURAL LAW INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP

# Recordings

- YouTube videos
  - [Heirs' Property](#)
  - [Birth & Beyond](#) – Nutrition Security
  - [Advancing Equity Through Food & Nutrition](#)
  - [Cooperative Agriculture](#)
- Planning web content for the videos to accompany
  - [Heirs' Property webpage](#)



# What's next?

- Currently planning FY 25:
  - Edit





# Thank You!

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