

ACRONYMS

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| 1862s | Land-Grant Institutions Established by the Passage of the First Morrill Act (1862): the Morrill Act was intended to provide a broad segment of the population with a practical education that had direct relevance to their daily lives. |
| 1890s | 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and Tuskegee University (historically black land-grant colleges and universities): Through the Act of August 30, 1890 (the Second Morrill Act), and several other authorities, these institutions may receive federal funds for agricultural research, extension, and teaching. |
| 1994s | Native American Institutions which received land-grant status in 1994 as a provision in the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act, titled "The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994." |
| AA | The Administrative Advisor to a multistate research project, research coordinating committee, education/extension, research activity or research advisory committee. |
| AEA | Association of Extension Administrators: 1890 Extension Directors group |
| AASCARR | American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources: an affiliate of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), is an organization of approximately 60 state colleges and universities that offer undergraduate education in agriculture and renewable resources. AASCARR's purpose is to promote leadership in agricultural and renewable resource education. The association works closely with the Academic Programs Section of APLU and the Office of Higher Education at the U. S. Department of Agriculture to promote the importance of agricultural education. |
| ACOP | Academic (Programs) Committee on Organization and Policy: A unit of the APLU, CFERR, Board on Agriculture. The representative governing body of the APS. |
| AFRI | Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: a competitive research grants program administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of USDA. The purpose of the AFRI is to support high priority fundamental and mission-linked research of importance in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, and the environment. |
| APLU | The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities: The nation's oldest higher education association whose membership comprises 214 institutions, including state universities, all of the nation's land-grant colleges and universities, and several public university systems. It is a voluntary non-profit association of major public research universities with campuses located in all fifty states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Formerly call the National Association of State and Land Grant Colleges (NASLUGC) |
| AHS | Administrative Heads Section: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, Board on Agriculture Assembly. Members are the chief administrators of the member universities' agricultural programs. |

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| AIHEC | American Indian Higher Education Consortium: the entity representing the 30 Native American Colleges that were given land-grant status by the Congress of the United States in 1994 and who is a member of APLU as a system. |
| AMS | Agricultural Marketing Service: the USDA agency providing standardization, grading and market news for specific commodities and overseeing marketing agreements and orders. |
| APHIS | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: the USDA agency providing leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants. |
| APS | Academic Programs Section: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, Board on Agriculture Assembly; Members are the designated administrators of academic programs at the colleges of agriculture of all the states and territories. |
| ARD | Association of Research Directors: the official representative body of the agricultural research administrators at the 1890 land-grant universities. |
| AREERA | Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (the 1998 reauthorization of the research and education titles of the Farm Bill): this legislation ensures that federally-funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national or multistate significance. It was signed into law on June 23, 1998 and became Public Law 105-185. |
| ARS | Agricultural Research Service: The principal in-house research agency of USDA. |
| ASRED | Association of Southern Region Extension Directors |
| BAA | Board on Agriculture Assembly: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources. The purpose of this Board is the promotion of agriculture in all of its phases (food, environment, agriculture, natural resources, and international) in the state universities and land-grant colleges of the states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the territories of the Pacific, and the Virgin Islands. |
| BAC | Budget and Advocacy Committee: a standing committee of the BAA's Policy Board of Directors that serves at the pleasure of the BAAPBD and prepares annual budget recommendations and supporting advocacy materials for each year's budget cycle. |
| BNR | Board on Natural Resources: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources. The purpose of this Board is to promote university-based programs dealing with natural resources, ecology, energy, and the environment. The sections of the Board are: Fish and Wildlife Resources; Mineral and Energy Resources; Forest Resources; Water Resources; and, Ecology. |
| BOA | Board on Oceans and Atmosphere: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, |

Environment, and Renewable Resources. The purpose of this Board is to ensure that the nation maintains and benefits from a strong and diverse capability in the marine (including Great Lakes), oceanic, and atmospheric sciences.

- BoHS Board on Human Sciences: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources. The membership is comprised of lead administrators of academic units of state colleges and land-grant universities. The administrators are responsible for research, academic, and outreach programs addressing nutrition and health, food science and food safety, textiles and material science, human development from infancy to old age, family dynamics and functioning, design of living and working environments, and resource management. Some human sciences colleges also administer social work, education, and physical fitness programs.
- BVM Board on Veterinary Medicine: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources. The membership of this Board includes the administrators of veterinary medicine and veterinary science departments at APLU member institutions.
- Cage The Cage commonly refers to the USDA Secretary's suite of offices. Named because the outer (reception) office is square in shape with glass walls and doors.
- CARET Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching: a -affiliated national grassroots organization of lay persons from the constituencies served by the land-grant colleges of agriculture. Each state and territory may appoint up to three delegates. CARET members work closely with their respective agricultural programs. They offer guidance and support for programs in agricultural research, extension, and teaching.
- CBO Congressional Budget Office: provides Congress with objective, timely, non-partisan analysis needed for economic and budget decisions and to provide the information and estimates required for the Congressional budget process.
- CC Coordinating Committee: Multistate activity comprised of participants within one function ~~Synonymous with Information Exchange Group~~
- CCC Commodity Credit Corporation: a federally-owned and operated corporation within USDA created to stabilize, support, and protect agricultural prices and farm income through loans, purchases, payments, and other operations.
- CES Cooperative Extension System: a national, publicly-funded, nonformal educational system that links the educational and research resources and activities of USDA; land-grant universities in every State, territory, and the District of Columbia; and approximately 3,150 county administrative units. This unique federal, state and local partnership focuses on practical solutions to critical issues affecting people's daily lives.
- CES Cooperative Extension Section: A unit of the APLU CFERR, Board on Agriculture. Members are designated administrators of the cooperative extension services of all the states and territories.

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| CFERR | Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources: the APLU unit that monitors programs and develops policy positions in the areas of agriculture, human sciences, natural resources, oceans and atmosphere, ecological sciences, and veterinary medicine. |
| CFO | Chief Financial Officer: The Office of the CFO provides financial management leadership and service to support quality program delivery by USDA. |
| CGA | Council on Governmental Affairs: a unit of APLU composed of representatives, designated by the presidents and chancellors of member institutions, who serve as the principal points of contact for their respective institutions on legislative and regulatory matters at the federal level. |
| CIO | Chief Information Officer: The Office of the CIO has primary responsibility for supervision and coordination within the USDA for the design, acquisition, maintenance, use, and disposal of information technology by USDA agencies. |
| CIP | Commission on International Programs: the APLU unit that monitors programs and develops policy positions to incorporate a global dimension into the learning, discovery, and engagement activities of member institutions while striving to make internationalization an integral part of each university's mission and strategic plan. |
| CLP | Committee of Legislation and Policy: a standing committee of the BAA's Policy Board of Directors that serves at the pleasure of the BAAPBD and prepares legislative recommendations and supporting materials for the Research, Extension, and Education Title of the Farm Bill and other legislation. |
| Cornerstone | Governmental Affairs: Washington DC lobbying firm employed by the BAA that works closely with the BAC, CLP and the PBD. |
| CRI | Children's Research Initiative: a National Science Foundation grants program focusing on the areas of children's research that was funded initially in Fiscal Year 2001. |
| CRIS | Current Research Information System (USDA) |
| CRS | Congressional Research Service: works exclusively for the Congress of the United States, conducting research, analyzing legislation, and providing information at the requests of committees, Members, and their staffs. The Service makes such research available, without partisan bias, in many forms including studies, reports, compilations, digests, and background briefings. Upon request, CRS assists committees in analyzing legislative proposals and issues, and in assessing possible effects of these proposals and their alternatives. The Service's senior specialists and subject analysts are also available for personal consultations in their respective fields of expertise. |
| CSREES | Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service: unites the research, higher education, and extension education and outreach resources of USDA. CSREES contributions are strengthened by a broad spectrum of public and private partnerships, |

including other USDA agencies, federal and state government departments, non-profit organizations, and private sector entities. CSREES is also the federal partner of the Cooperative Extension System. CSREES became the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in 2009

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| CSRS | Civil Service Retirement System: A federal government retirement system which provides annuities to qualified employees who retire because of age and years of service, involuntary separation not for cause, or disability, to widows or widowers and minor children of employees who die and, in certain circumstances, to the survivors of annuitants. |
| ECOP | Extension Committee on Organization and Policy: A unit of the APLU CFERR, Board on Agriculture. The representative governing body of the Cooperative Extension Section. |
| ED | Executive Director; an executive staff person employed by one of the regional associations. |
| EFNEP | Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program: an Extension education program designed to assist limited resource audiences in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes and changed behavior necessary for nutritionally-sound diets. |
| EIRP | Extension Indian Reservation Program: an Extension program providing assistance and education in agriculture, community development, family living, and societal issues facing Native Americans. (Separate from the Tribal Colleges Extension Program which provides funding to the thirty1994 institutions to conduct Extension programs.) |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency: an independent agency of the federal government providing leadership in the nation's environmental science, research, education, assessment, and enforcement efforts. |
| EQIP | Environmental Quality Incentives Program: provides a single, voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers who face serious threats to Farm Act. |
| ERA | Education/Extension, Research Activity: Multistate activity comprised of participants from two or more functions |
| ERS | Economic Research Service: The USDA/REE Agency that provides information and analysis on agriculture, food, natural resources and rural America. |
| ES | Extension Section: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, Board on Agriculture Assembly. Members are designated administrators of the cooperative extension services of all the states and territories. |
| ESCOP | Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy: A unit of the APLU CFERR, Board on Agriculture. The representative governing body of the Experiment Station Section (ESS). |
| ESS | Experiment Station Section: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, Board on Agriculture Assembly. Members are the designated administrators of the experiment stations of all the states and territories. |

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| FACT | Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (1990 Farm Bill): a five-year farm bill signed November 28, 1990. |
| FAIR | Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (1996 Farm Bill): the omnibus food and agriculture legislation signed into law on April 1996 providing a 7-year framework for the Secretary of Agriculture to administer various agricultural and food programs. |
| FAS | Foreign Agricultural Service: the USDA agency that represents the diverse interests of U.S. farmers and the food and agricultural sector abroad. |
| FCS | Food and Consumer Service: the USDA agency which administers nutrition assistance programs, with the dual mission of improving the nation's health by getting food to people who need it and strengthening the agricultural economy. |
| FF | Formula Funds, distributed from the federal government through the Hatch Act authority for the federal-state partnership. |
| FFY | Federal Fiscal Year: The federal, 12-month accounting year (October 1 through September 30) |
| FOIA | Freedom of Information Act: A federal statute which allows any person the right to obtain federal agency records unless the records (or part of the records) are protected from disclosure by any of the nine exemptions in the law. |
| FQPA | Food Quality Protection Act of 1996: the legislation that rewrote the laws under which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decides whether a pesticide is safe enough to us. This measure became Public Law 104-170 and was signed into law on August 3, 1996. |
| FS | Forest Service: the USDA agency that administers the lands and resources of the National Forest System |
| FSA | Farm Service Agency: the USDA agency with the mission to help farmers conserve land and water resources, provide credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and help farm operations recover from the effects of disaster. |
| FSIS | Food Safety and Inspection Service: the USDA agency with the mission to protect consumers by ensuring that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled. |
| FY | Fiscal Year: An accounting year of 12 months (usually July 1 through June 30) |
| GAO | General Accounting Office: Investigative arm of Congress. Charged with examining matters relating to the receipt and disbursement of public funds, GAO performs audits and evaluations of government programs and activities. |
| GASEPA | Globalizing Agricultural Science and Education Programs for America: is an agenda, developed by a committee representing major program areas within the colleges of agriculture, their affiliates, and stakeholders. This agenda is designed to meet the needs of |

American agriculture and its food systems, including increased competitiveness, market development, and increased market access in other nations.

- GPRA Government Performance and Results Act: a law passed in 1993 which requires that federally funded agencies develop and implement an accountability system based on performance measurement, including setting goals and objectives and measuring progress toward achieving them.
- HACCP Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point: a meat and poultry inspection process that targets pathogens that cause foodborne illness, strengthens industry responsibility to produce safe food, and focuses inspection and plant activities on prevention objectives.
- HEP Higher Education Programs: the Higher Education Program administered by CSREES NIFA.
- HSI Hispanic-Serving Institution: A two- or four-year institution with at least a 25% Hispanic student enrollment. While not designated as land-grant institutions, HSIs participate in specified USDA programs as authorized by Congress to promote and strengthen the ability of these schools to carry out education, applied research and community development programs.
- IACC International Agriculture Coordinating Committee: a committee charged with formulating, coordinating and implementing an advocacy strategy to increase the awareness that international agriculture is a fundamental component of the development process, to enhance the resources available to the university community to internationalize all aspects of their campus activities, and to engage more widely the capacities of U. S. universities in solving problems of the world's poor. The purpose of this group is: to establish an advocacy agenda with relevant federal agencies and the U. S. Congress; to enhance communication, coordination, and cooperation among APLU-member institutions; and, to ensure broad dialogue and communication within the university community to enhance the resource base for international activities on campuses. The Committee is composed of 45 university members who directly support the advocacy efforts.
- IAS International Agriculture Section: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, Board on Agriculture Assembly. Members are the designated administrators of international agriculture programs at the colleges of agriculture of all the states and territories.
- ICOP International Committee on Organization and Policy: the representative governing body of the International Agriculture Section.
- IEG Information Exchange Group: Synonymous with Coordinating Committee
- ~~IFAFS Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems: an initiative legislated by Congress and authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a research, extension and education competitive grants program to address a number of critical emerging agricultural issues. These issues related to future food production, food safety, environmental quality, natural resource management, and farm income. Priority program areas were established to address these emerging issues: 1) Agricultural Genome; 2) Food safety, food technology, and human nutrition; 3) New and alternative uses and~~

~~production of agricultural commodities and products; 4) Agricultural Biotechnology; 5) Natural resource Management, including precision agriculture; and 6) farm efficiency and profitability, including the viability and competitiveness of small and medium-sized dairy, livestock, crop and other commodity operations. Priority for funding was for those proposals that were multiState, multi-institutional, or multi-disciplinary.~~

- IPM Integrated Pest Management: the control of pests or diseases by using an array of crop production strategies, combined with careful monitoring of insect pests or weed populations and other methods.
- MRF Multistate Research Funds: That portion of the federal formula funds that is allocated to the states and territories for support of multistate research projects.
- NAL National Agricultural Library: Part of the Agricultural Research Service, NAL is a major international source for agriculture and related information and is one of four national libraries in the U.S.
- NAREEEAB National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board: established by the FAIR Act of 1996, this Board is charged with reviewing long-term and short-term national policies and priorities relating to agricultural research, extension, education, and economics and advising the Secretary of Agriculture on such matters.
- NASS National Agricultural Statistics Service: The USDA/REE Agency that Administers USDA's program for collecting and publishing timely national and state agricultural statistics.
- NASULGC National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges: the nation's oldest higher education association whose membership comprises 214 institutions, including state universities, all of the nation's land-grant colleges and universities, and several public university systems. It is a voluntary non-profit association of major public research universities with campuses located in all fifty states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. NASLUCG became the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) in 2008.
- N-CFAR National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research: a national broad-based stakeholder coalition in the food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and natural resources sectors to: (1) increase and enhance federal investments in U. S. food and agricultural research and education and (2) expand participation by stakeholders in priority setting and funding.
- NCRA North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
- NCCEA North Central (Regional) Cooperative Extension Association (NCCEA)
- NERA Northeastern Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
- NEED Northeast (Regional) Extension Directors Association

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| NIAS | National Institute for Agricultural Security: a member institute dedicated to supporting education and research related to agrosecurity; originated in 2002 by ESCOP. |
| NIFA | National Institute of Food and Agriculture: Entity within REE that assumed all of the functions of CSREES as a result of the 2008 Farm Bill |
| NIMSS | National Information Management and Support System: electronic management system for multistate projects |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Agency: the USDA lead agency for conservation technical assistance to help people conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources and the environment. |
| NRI | National Research Initiative: a competitive research grants program administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of USDA. The purpose of the NRI is to support high priority fundamental and mission-linked research of importance in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, and the environment. The NRI became the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative as a result of the 2008 Farm Bill |
| NRSP | National Research Support Project: National research support projects supported by Multistate Research Funds (taken off-the-top) and other sources of funds. |
| NSF | National Science Foundation: an independent agency of the federal government to: promote the progress of science; advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and, secure the national defense. |
| NSTC | National Science and Technology Council: coordinates research and development activities and programs that involve more than one federal agency. |
| OBPA | Office of Budget and Program Analysis: USDA office which coordinates the preparation of the Department's budget estimates, legislative reports and regulations. |
| OED | Office of the Executive Director |
| OGC | Office of General Counsel: Serves as the legal advisor and counsel for the Secretary and program agencies of the USDA. |
| OMB | Office of Management and Budget: Assists the President in overseeing the preparation of the Federal budget and supervises its administration in Executive Branch agencies. |
| OSTP | Office of Science and Technology Policy: provides the President with timely policy advice and coordinates the U. S. science and technology investment. |
| PBD | Policy Board of Directors: the nine-member governing body of the Board on Agriculture Assembly which takes appropriate action on key matters affecting the interests of the member institutions of the Assembly and is responsible to the Association for the management of Assembly affairs. The Policy Board of Directors acts as a Legislative |

Committee for the Assembly.

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| PCAST | President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology: advises the President on issues involving science and technology and their roles in achieving national goals and assist the NSTC in securing private sector participation in its activities. |
| POW | Plan of Work: A plan of projected activities that must be file and approved by NIFA for expenditure of formula funds. |
| PY | Professional Year: A full-time equivalent graduate student or postdoctoral research associate. |
| REE | Research, Education and Economics: A USDA mission area comprised of four agencies: the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) , National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS), and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). |
| RMA | Risk Management Agency: USDA agency with the mission to improve the economic stability of agriculture by offering producers a sound system of crop insurance. |
| SAAESD | Southern (Regional) Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors |
| SAES | State Agricultural Experiment Stations: a structure for federated, yet independent, research institutions in each State and territory to address the location-specific problems of farmers and to build a core of basic scientific knowledge related to agriculture. On March 2, 1887, President Grover Cleveland signed legislation promotion "scientific investigation and experiment respecting the principles and applications of agricultural science" through annual grants to each State and territory to establish agricultural experiment stations under the direction of the land-grant colleges. |
| SERD | Science and Education Resources Development: provides national leadership for strengthening college and university programs in the food and agricultural sciences and producing graduates to fulfill the nation's requirements for scientific and professional expertise, as well as important data bases for management and information. |
| SY | Scientist Year: A full-time equivalent research scientist. |
| TEFAP | Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program: provides food assistance to needy Americans through the distribution of USDA commodities. |
| TY | Technical Year: A full-time equivalent technical support staff person. |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture: The third-largest civilian department of the U.S. government, overseeing a variety of agencies, government corporations, and other entities that employ more than 100,000 people at over 15,000 locations in all 50 states, the U.S. territories, and 80 countries. |

- USTR United States Trade Representative: directs all trade negotiations of and formulates trade policy for the United States.
- WAAESD Western (Regional) Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
- WEDA Western (Regional) Extension Directors Association
- WIC The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children: a grant program whose goal is to improve the health of pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to 5 years old, by providing supplemental food, nutrition education, and access to health care.