

USDA Engagement with PFAS

PFAS chemicals can impact agriculture and food. The US Department of Agriculture has several different programs to assess and address inadvertent PFAS contamination in agricultural and food operations. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) conducts testing of products it regulates (beef, swine, poultry and catfish). FPAC has programs to test PFAS on farms and provides indemnity for dairy operations contaminated with PFAS. USDA also conducts and funds research about many topics involving PFAS, including the fate and transport, bioaccumulation, and remediation.

Future federal policy about PFAS in agriculture and food will be informed by evidence, data, and analysis from both public and private research. Scientists conducting research in this area should focus on experiments and analysis that can inform policy questions, such as which crops and animals bioaccumulate PFAS and which crops can be safely grown on PFAS contaminated farms. Making research and data publicly available will help USDA and other federal partners as we establish policy going forward.