Discovering the Specialized Information Centers of the National Agricultural Library

Federal Depository Library Program Academy
April 06, 2021
NAL facilitates the creation of agricultural knowledge through the **acquisition, curation, and dissemination of information** needed to solve agricultural challenges.
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.
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.

https://www.nutrition.gov
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.

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

https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov
**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.

[https://www.nal.usda.gov/waic](https://www.nal.usda.gov/waic)
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.
Disseminates agricultural and food law information to consumers, researchers, and legal professionals.

Agricultural Law Information Partnership
https://www.nal.usda.gov/aglaw/agricultural-law-information-partnership
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

George Washington Carver
House Agriculture Committee Timeline
How Did We Can?
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
Connect To USDA On Social Media

- Facebook.com/USDA
- Twitter.com/USDA
- Youtube.com/user/USDA
- Flickr.com/photos/usdagov
- NAL.usda.gov/rss-feeds
- Nutrition.gov Twitter
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](https://www.nal.usda.gov/ask-question)

Phone: 301-504-5755