

# USDA

By Mariah

What does USDA Stand for?

The USDA stands for United States Department  
of Agriculture.

What does the USDA do?

USDA duties range from helping **farmers** with price support subsidies, to inspecting food to ensure the safety of the American public.

What does it regulate?

USDA is responsible for the safety of meat, poultry and egg products, while the FDA regulates all other foods

# How does the agency relate to animal production?

“Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), sometimes referred to as "mad cow disease", is a chronic degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of cattle. A system of interlocking safeguards protects human and animal health, as well as food safety, in the United States. Through applied research and developing technology, USDA helps to reduce economic losses of the livestock and poultry industries and the associated rural agricultural community from infectious, genetic, and metabolic diseases. This new technology also is aimed at prevention of suffering and death caused by diseases in agriculturally important livestock and poultry. Consumers are concerned not only with characteristics such as the nutritive content of animal products, but also want assurances that food animals are raised in humane conditions and receive humane treatment during handling and slaughter. USDA tracks animal health and welfare issues as they relate to food safety and the production and availability of animals for processing into meat. The Center for Veterinary Biologics regulates veterinary biologics, such as vaccines, bacterins, antisera, diagnostic kits, and other products of biological origin to ensure its safety and effectiveness.”

# FMD Outbreak impact

”To help improve the effectiveness of U.S. measures to prevent the introduction of FMD by international passengers, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to develop more effective signage about FMD for ports of entry.”

# Handling Outbreaks

“In carrying out our safeguarding mission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works to ensure the continued health of our Nation’s livestock and poultry. As part of these efforts, we protect livestock and poultry from the introduction of “high-consequence” foreign animal diseases and pests. These are serious diseases and pests that do not currently exist in the United States. If introduced here, they pose a severe threat to U.S. animal health and, in some cases, the economy and human health as well.”

# New State Activity that are concerning

You would have to worry about what types of land and soil that is in that region and what types of sicknesses and diseases are able to thrive down there so that you know how to fight them and make a cure for them.

# Websites Used

<https://www.usda.gov/topics/animals>

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/2013/fs\\_fmd\\_hcd\\_protection.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2013/fs_fmd_hcd_protection.pdf)

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/acah/downloads/documents/Discussions%20on%20FMD\\_Animal\\_Health\\_Advisory\\_03-04-2011.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/acah/downloads/documents/Discussions%20on%20FMD_Animal_Health_Advisory_03-04-2011.pdf)

[https://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/usda\\_commitments.html](https://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/usda_commitments.html)

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