

## Public Access to USDA Funded Research Results

- The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act (12/2010) directed the National Science and Technology Council to coordinate the dissemination and long-term stewardship of the results of unclassified research, including digital data and peer-reviewed scholarly publications, supported wholly, or in part, by funding from the Federal science agencies.
- The Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) Public Access Memo (02/2013) directed Federal science agencies to develop plans to increase access to the results of federally funded scientific research.
- Executive Order M-13-13 (05/2013) directed Federal agencies to make open and machine readable the new default for government information.
- USDA established a Scientific Data Management Committee (SDMC) under the USDA Science Council in 2013. The SDMC was charged to develop public access policies and an implementation plan.
- USDA joined other Federal agencies to participate in a two-day public consultation hosted by the National Academy of Sciences in May 2013. Thirty-nine USDA stakeholders were invited to the public consultation.
- USDA submitted a public access implementation plan to OSTP in early 2014. The plan was approved by OSTP in November, 2014.
- USDA developed a draft public access policy for scholarly publications resulting from USDA funds. The draft policy was approved by the USDA Science Council in 2014. USDA will work in full and open consultation with stakeholders to finalize the policy.
- USDA is currently developing a draft public access policy for scientific datasets resulting from USDA funds. USDA will work in full and open consultation with stakeholders to develop the policy.
- USDA has provided more than 10 public access presentations to stakeholders in 2014 and 2015.
- USDA met publishers to explore options for automatic publication ingestion, preprocessing, and access in 2014 and 2015.
- USDA launched a system called PubAg (<http://pubag.nal.usda.gov/pubag/home.xhtml>) in October 2014. The PubAg system provides public access (subject to a one year embargo period) to scholarly publications authored by USDA employees.
- USDA established a USDA Science Output Access Policy (SOAP) Council within the USDA Science Council in 2015. The SOAP Council was charged to oversee the implementation of USDA public access plan.
- USDA is currently developing a prototype system called Ag Data Commons (ADC) to store, manage, and disseminate digital scientific datasets resulting from USDA funds.
- USDA will conduct additional listening sessions to solicit views from stakeholders. The next two sessions are:
  - November 23, 2015 – focusing on public access to scholarly publications.
  - December 4, 2015 – focusing on public access to digital scientific datasets.