USDA science agencies play a crucial role in ensuring Americans have access to nutritious food options through cutting-edge food and nutrition research. For example, the USDA is working on developing alternative flours that allow consumers with certain dietary needs to enjoy certain foods without elevating their health risks. These new flours are gluten-free, 100% plant based, low calorie, and come in flavors like "GemWraps" are low carb alternatives to bread, tortillas, and tortilla chips.

As partially hydrogenated oils are increasingly removed from foods due to their negative health effects, USDA scientists are researching whether oil replacements have lower risks for health issues (for example, coronary heart disease). Scientists studied how vegetable oil replacements, as well as one type of partially hydrogenated, unhealthy monomounsaturated fats, modified LDL cholesterol (the bad cholesterol) and other risk factors of coronary heart disease in healthy adults, finding that replacing high-vviscosity soybean oil blended with fully hydrogenated soybean oil beneficially affect lipid and lipoprotein associated with reduced coronary heart disease risk.

USDA’s FoodAccess Research Atlas accesses data on food insecurity and provides access to food assistance programs. USDA’s Food Access Research Atlas provides comprehensive data on food insecurity and access to food assistance programs. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.