

Preserving the Digital Publications of the USDA



**Evelyn Frangakis
National Agricultural Library**

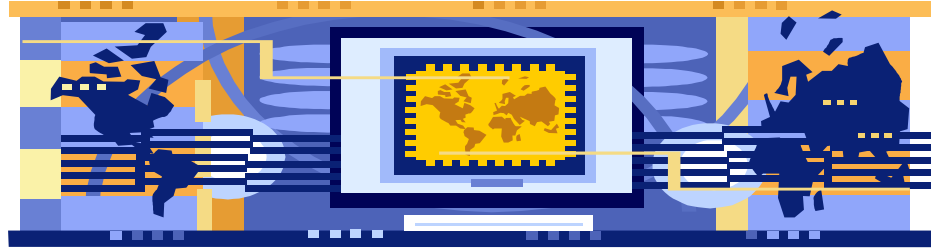


United States Department of Agriculture

Genesis of Digital Effort



- March 1997 National Conference: **“USDA Digital Publications: Creating a Preservation Action Plan”**
 - Sponsored by NAL, ERS, GPO, Cornell University, with the Farm Foundation
 - Identified major elements and requirements of a USDA digital publications preservation plan



Framework for the Preservation of and Permanent Public Access to USDA Digital Publications

<http://preserve.nal.usda.gov:8300/npp/frameprt.html>

Framework Recommendations



- Appointment of National Steering Committee to Oversee Plan

- Appointment of Task Groups to Explore Issues of:
 - Inventory and Life Cycle Management
 - Technical Requirements
 - User Access and Retrieval

Steering Committee Charge



- Oversee implementation of the *Framework for the Preservation of and Permanent Public Access to USDA Digital Publications*

Steering Committee Composition



- USDA Mission Areas
- Federal Stakeholders
- Agricultural Research Community
- Agribusiness
- Research Library Community

Definition of Digital Publication

A data or information product prepared by the USDA in digital form intended to be disseminated to the public.



USDA Digital Publication



- This report analyzes the economic aspects of several key areas--agricultural research policy, industry structure, production and marketing, consumer issues, and future world food demand--where agricultural biotechnology is dramatically affecting the public policy agenda.
- <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib762/>

Critical Information Available Worldwide

- **USDA Announces Additional Measures to Guard Against Foot-And-Mouth Disease**

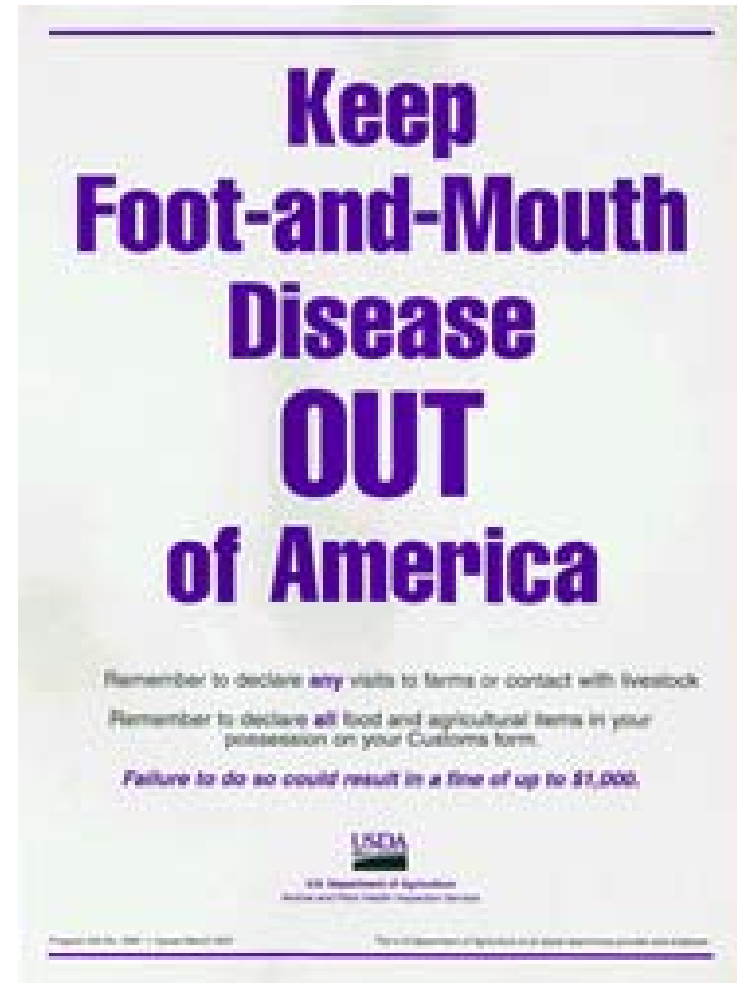
***** CLARIFICATION *****

WASHINGTON, Mar. 13, 2001-- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it is temporarily prohibiting the importation of swine and ruminant, and any fresh swine or ruminant meat (chilled or frozen) and other products of swine and ruminants from the European Union. This does not include cooked pork products.

This temporary action is being taken following confirmation of foot-and-mouth disease in France. On February 21, USDA announced similar actions regarding the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. These measures are part of a coordinated prevention program to ensure the disease does not spread into the United States.

USDA Foot-and-Mouth Disease Product Restrictions

- <http://www.usda.gov/index.html>



Key Issues Identified



- Managing Technology Over Time
- Metadata
- User Access
- Organizational Buy-In
- Operational Considerations
- Cost

Action Agenda



- Undertake Inventory Pilot Project
- Develop Guidelines for Preserving Electronic Publications
- Hold Metadata Conference for USDA
- Develop Technical Requirements
- Provide Education Throughout USDA

Committee Accomplishments



- The **Inventory and Life-Cycle Management** planning group developed a survey instrument to identify digital publications produced by USDA. It was validated by a small-scale pilot project using the Economic Research Service as the pilot agency.

Committee Accomplishments



- The **Inventory & Life Cycle Management and Technical Requirements** planning groups produced a 1999 metadata conference. The goal was to educate USDA information producers, IT professionals, webmasters, librarians, and public affairs specialists on opportunities for using metadata to improve customer access to information resources and enhance long-term preservation and access to these materials for future customers.

Committee Accomplishments



- The **User Access and Retrieval** planning group developed draft guidelines for USDA agencies producing digital publications. The guidelines were sent to the USDA OCIO for approval as Departmental policy.

Challenges Still Ahead



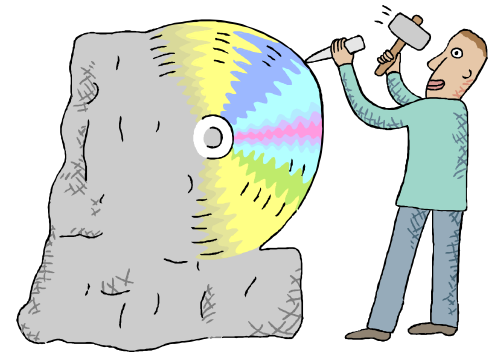
- Continue to Get Organizational Buy-In
- Develop Technical Requirements
- Manage Technology Over Time
- Obtain Funding for Digital Publication Preservation

Preservation Office

www.nal.usda.gov/preserve

National Agricultural Library
Preservation Office, Room 013
10301 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Telephone: (301) 504-6813
E-mail: efrangak@nal.usda.gov



Track USDA Digital Publications Preservation Program
Progress at:

<http://preserve.nal.usda.gov:8300/npp/npp.htm>

Electronic Government

The problem of preserving
digital collections

is

complex and vexing.

Katie Hafner, *New York Times*, 4/18/99

