

ACRONYMS

1862s	Land Grant Institutions established by the first Morrill Act (1862) which provided each state with 30,000 acres of federal land to be sold for an endowment to create a college.
1890s	A network of historically black colleges and universities that became Land Grant Institutions through the passage of the second Morrill Act (1890).
1994s	An act that provides support for American Indian tribal educational institutions recognizing them as Land Grant Institutions (1994).
ACE	Association of Communication Excellence: professional association for agriculture communicators.
ACOP	Academic Committee on Organization and Policy: a unit of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Council on Food, Environment, Renewable Resources, Board on Agriculture Assembly that is the representative governing body of the Academic Programs Section.
AEA	Association of Extension Administrators: the Extension administrators at the 1890 land-grant universities that make up one of five regions of the Cooperative Extension Section of the Board on Agriculture Assembly.
AES	Agricultural Experiment Stations: a structure for Land Grant agriculture research created by the Hatch Act in 1887, to address location-specific problems of farmers and to build a core of basic scientific knowledge related to agriculture.
AFRI	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: competitive grants program managed by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to support research, education and extension activities in priority areas.
AHS	Administrative Heads Section: a unit of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources, Board on Agriculture Assembly made up of administrative leaders of agriculture and Cooperative Extension holding titles of Dean, Associate or Assistant Provost or President.
AIHEC	American Indian Higher Education Consortium: a member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities representing the Native American Colleges given Land-grant status.
AMS	Agricultural Marketing Service: a USDA agency providing standardization, grading and market news for commodities and overseeing marketing agreements and orders.
ANREP	Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals: a national association for Cooperative Extension professionals working in environmental education, fisheries, forestry, wood sciences, range, recreation, waste management, water, wildlife, energy and related disciplines.
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: a USDA agency providing leadership to ensure the health and care of animals and plants.
APLU	Association of Public and Land-grant Universities: a membership based research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.
APS	Academic Programs Section: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, Board on Agriculture Assembly; administrators of academic programs at colleges of agriculture.

ARA	Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee: a committee of the National Association of Counties (NACo).
ARD	Association of Research Directors: the agricultural research directors at the 1890 Land-grant institutions that make up one of five regions of the Experiment Station Section of the Board on Agriculture Assembly.
AREERA	Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.
ARS	Agricultural Research Service: The principal in-house research agency of USDA.
ASRED	Association of Southern Region Extension Directors: one of five regions that make up the Cooperative Extension Section of the Board on Agriculture Assembly.
BAA	Board on Agriculture Assembly: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources that promotes agriculture (food, environment, agriculture, natural resources, and international) in state universities and Land-grant colleges.
BAC	Budget and Advocacy Committee: a standing committee of the BAA's Policy Board of Directors, it prepares annual budget recommendations and supporting advocacy materials for each year's federal budget cycle.
BLC	Budget and Legislative Committee: a representative standing committee of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy that identifies and supports federal budget priorities for the Cooperative Extension Section.
BNR	Board on Natural Resources: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources that promotes university-based programs dealing with natural resources, ecology, energy, and the environment.
BOA	Board on Oceans and Atmosphere: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources that ensures the nation maintains and benefits from marine (including Great Lakes), oceanic, and atmospheric sciences.
BoHS	Board on Human Sciences: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, comprised of lead administrators of Human Sciences academic units of state colleges and land-grant universities.
BVM	Board on Veterinary Medicine: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, that includes the administrators of veterinary medicine and veterinary science departments at APLU member institutions.
CAST	Council for Agricultural Science and Technology: a nonprofit organization composed of scientific societies, individuals, students, companies, and nonprofits, whose mission is to assemble, interpret, and communicate credible, balanced, science-based information to policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.
CARET	Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching: a national grassroots organization of lay persons from the constituencies served by Land-grant colleges of agriculture. Each state and territory may appoint up to three delegates who lobby and offer guidance for programs.
CBO	Congressional Budget Office: a nonpartisan entity that conducts objective, impartial budget analysis and economic information to Congress.
CC	Coordinating Committee: Multistate activity or project committee.

CES	Cooperative Extension System: a network of Cooperative Extension organizations located at Land Grant Institutions.
CES	Cooperative Extension Section: a unit of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources, BAA, comprising all Cooperative Extension Directors and Administrators.
CEO	Council on Engagement and Outreach: an APLU unit composed of university administrators responsible for outreach, engagement, community development, extension, and other related functions at their universities.
CFERR	Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources: the APLU unit that coordinates programs and develops policy positions on agriculture, human sciences, natural resources, oceans and atmosphere, ecological sciences, and veterinary medicine.
CICEP	Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Economic Prosperity: the APLU unit that includes professionals in university engagement, technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and others interested in economic development.
CIP	Commission on International Programs: the APLU unit that incorporates a global dimension into learning, discovery, and engagement activities of member institutions.
COB	Close of business: (if this request comes from Washington DC, it means 5pm Eastern Time)
CLP	Committee on Legislation and Policy: a standing committee of the BAA's Policy Board of Directors that prepares legislative recommendations and supporting materials for the Research, Extension, and Education Title of the Farm Bill and other legislation.
Cornerstone	Cornerstone Governmental Affairs: Washington DC lobbying firm employed by the BAA that works closely with the BAC, CLP and the Policy Board of Directors.
CRIS	Current Research Information System: a USDA NIFA reporting system used primarily by the Agricultural Experiment Station Section.
CRS	Congressional Research Service: works exclusively for the U.S. Congress conducting research, analyzing legislation, and providing information at the request of committees, Members, and their staffs.
CSRS	Civil Service Retirement System: A federal government retirement system that provides annuities to qualified employees who retire. Replaced temporarily by CSRS Offset until the new Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) was developed.
CY	Calendar Year: an accounting year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.
CYFAR	Children Youth and Families at Risk: a grant program for land-grant university extension services for community-based programs for at-risk children and their families.
ECOP	Extension Committee on Organization and Policy: a unit of the APLU CFERR BAA that is the representative governing body of the Cooperative Extension Section.
EA	Executive Administrator: an executive staff person employed by the 1890 associations.
ED	Executive Director: an executive staff person employed by ECOP or one of the regional associations.
EDA Team	Executive Director and Administrator Team: the national and regional executive staff persons supporting the regional and national associations.

EDEN	Extension Disaster Education Network: a network of Extension programs that provide education and resources to reduce the impact of, and recovery from, disasters.
EFNEP	Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program: an Extension education program designed to assist limited resource audiences in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes and changed behavior necessary for nutritionally-sound diets.
EMM	Extension Monday Minute: a weekly electronic publication for Extension Directors and Administrators produced by the National Extension Executive Director's Office.
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program: provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or conservation practices.
ERA	Education/Extension, Research Activity: Multistate activity comprised of participants from two or more sections.
ERS	Economic Research Service: The USDA Research Education and Economics mission area that provides information and analysis on agriculture, food, natural resources and rural America.
ESCOPE	Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy: a unit of the APLU CFERR, BAA that is the representative governing body of the Experiment Station Section.
ESP	Epsilon Sigma Phi: an Extension membership association that provides and facilitates professional development focusing on organizational and professional needs.
ESS	Experiment Station Section: a unit of the APLU, CFEER, BAA made up of the Directors of Land Grant institution's experiment stations.
eXtension	eXtension: a 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization with a Board of Directors representing the five Extension regions, ECOP, and USDA-NIFA to help Cooperative Extension professionals make a visible and measurable impact on local issues.
FALCON	First Americans Land Grant Consortium: a non-profit, professional association that represents administrators, faculty and staff at 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (Tribal Colleges and Universities).
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service: the USDA agency that represents the diverse interests of U.S. farmers and the food and agricultural sector abroad.
FERS	Federal Employee Retirement System: system that replaced CSRS and CSRS Offset in 1987 to provide retirement annuities for qualified employees.
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year: The federal 12-month accounting year (Oct. 1 through Sept.30).
FMLA	Family Medical Leave Act: a 1993 US labor law requiring covered employers to provide employees with job-protected and unpaid leave for qualified medical and family reasons.
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service: a USDA agency responsible for administering the nation's domestic nutrition assistance programs.
FRTEP	Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program: a competitive grant program providing assistance and education in agriculture, community development, family living, and societal issues facing Native Americans.
FS	Forest Service: the USDA agency that administers the lands and resources of the National Forest System.

FSA	Farm Service Agency: the USDA agency that helps farmers conserve land and water resources, provide credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helps farm operations recover from the effects of disaster.
FSIS	Food Safety and Inspection Service: the USDA agency that protects consumers by ensuring that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.
FTE	Full time equivalent: a unit that indicates the full time workload of an employed person.
FY	Fiscal Year: An accounting year of 12 months (usually July 1 through June 30).
GAO	General Accounting Office: investigates how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars, examines and audits the receipt and disbursement of public funds.
HACU	Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities: a national educational association committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, and Spain.
HSI	Hispanic-Serving Institution: a 2 or 4 year institution with at least 25% Hispanic student enrollment.
IAS	International Agriculture Section: a unit of the APLU, CFERR, BAA who are designated administrators of international agriculture programs at the colleges of agriculture.
ICOP	International Committee on Organization and Policy: the APLU, CFEER, BAA representative governing body of the International Agriculture Section.
IPM	Integrated Pest Management: the control of pests or diseases by using an array of crop production strategies, combined with monitoring of insect pests or weed populations and other methods.
JCEP	Joint Council of Extension Professionals: a partnership of professional Extension organizations that focuses on strengthening the efforts of the member organizations.
JoE	Journal of Extension: the official refereed journal of the Cooperative Extension System.
kglobal	kglobal: a public relations and communications organization employed by the BAA that works closely with the BAC, CLP, the Policy Board of Directors, and Cornerstone.
LGU	Land Grant University: an institution of higher education in the US designated by a state to receive the benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. A 1994 expansion gave land grant status to several tribal colleges and universities.
LUCC	Large Urban Counties Caucus: a committee of the National Association of Counties (NACo) that focuses on urban challenges and solutions.
MRC	Multi-state Review Committee: reviews, monitors, evaluates, and recommends all aspects of multistate research projects.
MRF	Multistate Research Funds: That portion of the federal Hatch funds that is allocated to the state and territory Experiment Stations to support multistate research projects.
NACAA	National Association of County Agricultural Agents: professional association for cooperative extension agents and specialists who are employed by cooperative state extension services.

NACDEP	National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals: an organization dedicated to improving the visibility, coordination, professional status and resource base of community and economic development Extension programs and professionals.
NACo	National Association of Counties: an organization representing county governments in the US.
NAE4-HA	National Association of 4-H Agents: organization for those dedicated to promoting, strengthening, enhancing and advocating for the 4-H youth development profession.
NAEPSDP	National Association of Extension Program and Staff Development Professionals: provides an organized forum for Extension professionals who are engaged in program and staff development.
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement: an agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States, creating a trilateral trade bloc in North America.
NAL	National Agricultural Library: Part of USDA ARS, NAL is a major international source for agriculture and related information and is one of four national libraries in the U.S.
NAREEE Board	National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board: is charged with reviewing long-term and short-term national policies and priorities relating to agricultural research, extension, education, and economics and advising the Secretary of Agriculture on such matters.
NASDA	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture: grows and enhances agriculture by forging partnerships and creating consensus to achieve sound policy outcomes between state departments of agriculture, the federal government, and stakeholders.
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service: the USDA Research Education and Economics mission area that collects and publishes national and state agricultural statistics.
NCCEA	North Central Cooperative Extension Association: one of five regions that make up the Cooperative Extension Section of the BAA.
NC-FAR	National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research: a broad-based stakeholder coalition to increase and enhance federal investments in U. S. food and agriculture research and education and expand participation by stakeholders in priority setting and funding.
NCRA	North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors: one of five regions that make up the Experiment Station Section of the BAA.
NEAFCS	National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences: educates and recognizes Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities.
NEDA	National Extension Directors and Administrators: the annual meeting of the Cooperative Extension Section of the APLU, CEEFR, BAA.
NERA	Northeastern Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors: one of five regions that make up the Experiment Station Section of the BAA.
NEED	Northeast Extension Directors Association: one of five regions that make up the Cooperative Extension Section of the BAA.
NIDC	National Impact Database Committee: the ECOP and ESCOP appointed committee that oversees the national impact database.

NIFA	National Institute of Food and Agriculture: created in 2008, this unit within USDA, REE oversees research, higher education, and extension education and outreach resources.
NIMSS	National Information Management and Support System: electronic management system for multistate projects.
NLC	National League of Cities: an advocacy association that serves the interests of 19000 cities, towns and villages in the US as well as professionals working in municipal government.
NMCC	National Multistate Coordinating Committee: activity or project committee that is national in scope. May include research, Extension, and/or teaching.
NPL	National Program Leader: USDA NIFA employee who provides leadership for a program portfolio.
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Agency: the USDA lead agency for conservation technical assistance to help people conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources and the environment.
NSF	National Science Foundation: an independent agency of the federal government that promotes the progress of science, advances the nation's health, prosperity, and welfare.
NUEL	National Urban Extension Leaders: a collaboration to advance the strategic importance and long-term value of urban extension and related activities.
OBPA	Office of Budget and Program Analysis: USDA office that coordinates the preparation of the Department's budget estimates, legislative reports, and regulations.
OGC	Office of General Counsel: Serves as the legal advisor and counsel for the USDA Secretary and program agencies.
OMB	Office of Management and Budget: Assists the President in overseeing the preparation of the Federal budget and supervises its administration in Executive Branch agencies.
OPPE	Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement: created by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to improve customer service and maximize efficiency.
OSTP	Office of Science and Technology Policy: provides the President with timely policy advice and coordinates the US science and technology investment.
PBD	Policy Board of Directors: the nine-member governing body of the BAA which takes action on key matters affecting the interests of the member institutions.
PILD	Public Issues Leadership Development: an annual conference sponsored by JCEP designed to enhance advocacy and public policy education skills for Extension administrators, professionals, and volunteers.
PILT	Payment in lieu of taxes: (sometimes PILOT) is a payment made to compensate a government for some or all of the property tax revenue lost due to tax exempt ownership or use of real property.
POW	Plan of Work: a state plan of projected activities that must be filed and approved by NIFA for expenditure of capacity formula funds.
RAC	Rural Action Caucus: a committee of NACo that serves as the voice for America's rural counties before Congress and the Administration.

RD	Rural Development: an agency with the United States Department of Agriculture that runs programs intended to improve the economy and quality of life in rural America.
REE	Research, Education and Economics: A USDA mission area comprised of four agencies: the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS), and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).
RFA/RFP	Request for Applications or Request for Proposal
RMA	Risk Management Agency: USDA agency to improve the economic stability of agriculture by offering producers a sound system of crop insurance.
ROA	Report of Accomplishment: a state report of activities, accomplishments, and impacts that is filed and approved by NIFA.
RRDC	Regional Rural Development Centers: four regional centers that conduct research and develop Extension programs addressing economic and community development data, decision tools, education, and guidance for our nation's rural communities.
SAAESD	Southern Association of Agriculture Experiment Station Directors: one of five regions that make up the Experiment Station Section of the BAA.
SARE	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension: grants and education program to advance agricultural innovation that promotes profitability, stewardship of the land, air and water, and quality of life for farmers, ranchers and their communities.
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: administered by USDA FNS to offer nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.
SNAP ED	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education: is an evidence-based program that teaches people using or eligible for SNAP about good nutrition, making their food dollars stretch further, and physical activity for health.
SoAR	Supporters of Agriculture Research: a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of partners working toward the mutual goal of increasing federal investments in agricultural research.
SRS	Secure Rural Schools Act: provides funding in lieu of taxes for over 775 rural counties and 4,400 schools located near national forests across the US.
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture: US government department responsible for developing and executing federal laws related to farming, forestry, and food.
WAAESD	Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors: one of five regions that make up the Experiment Station Section of the BAA.
WEDA	Western Extension Directors Association: one of five regions that make up the Cooperative Extension Section of the BAA.