



# **Implementation Plan to Increase Access to USDA-funded Research Results**

**Q & A Session  
2/20/2024**



# Today's Agenda

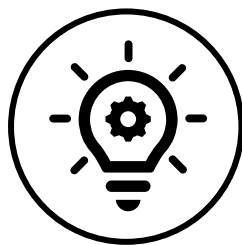
- Introductions
- History of Public Access Policy @ USDA
- Implementation Plan Details
- Question and Answer Period

# Public access makes scientific information freely available to all.

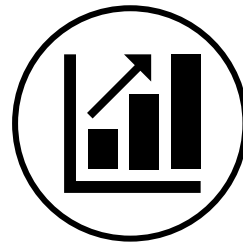
**Benefits of public access include:**



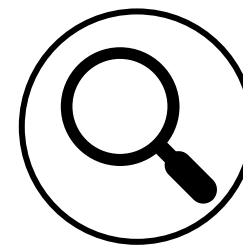
**Equal access to research products**



**Discovery and innovation in agricultural research**



**Enablement of data-driven decision-making**

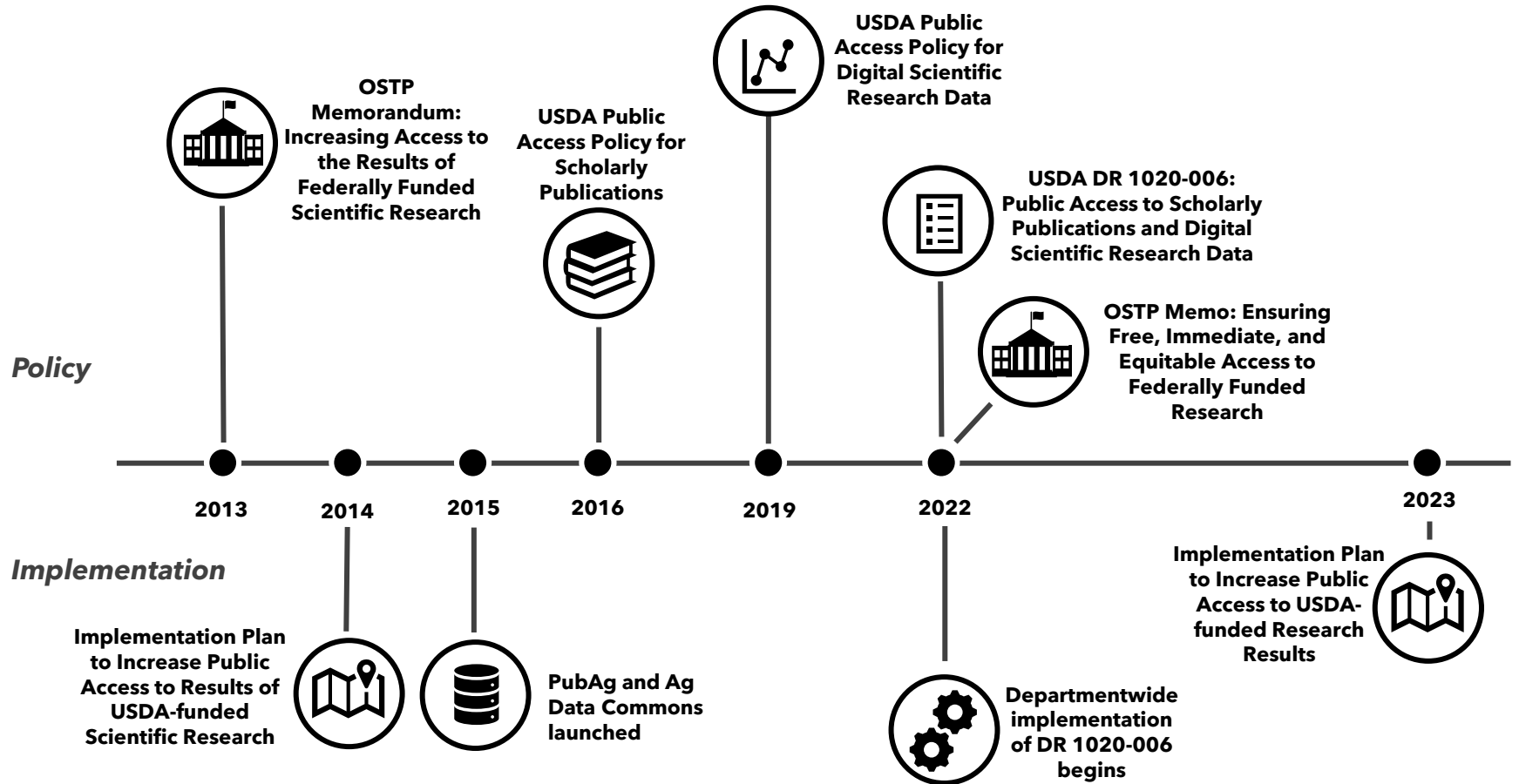


**Scientific accountability, transparency, and integrity**

# Federal Drivers of Public Access

- Federal requirements laid out in two White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memorandums:
  - [Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research](#) (2013)
  - [Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research](#) (2022)
- Implementation is ongoing across federal science agencies; coordination through NSTC Subcommittee on Open Science
- Alignment with implementation of other external drivers (e.g., OPEN Government Data Act of 2018)

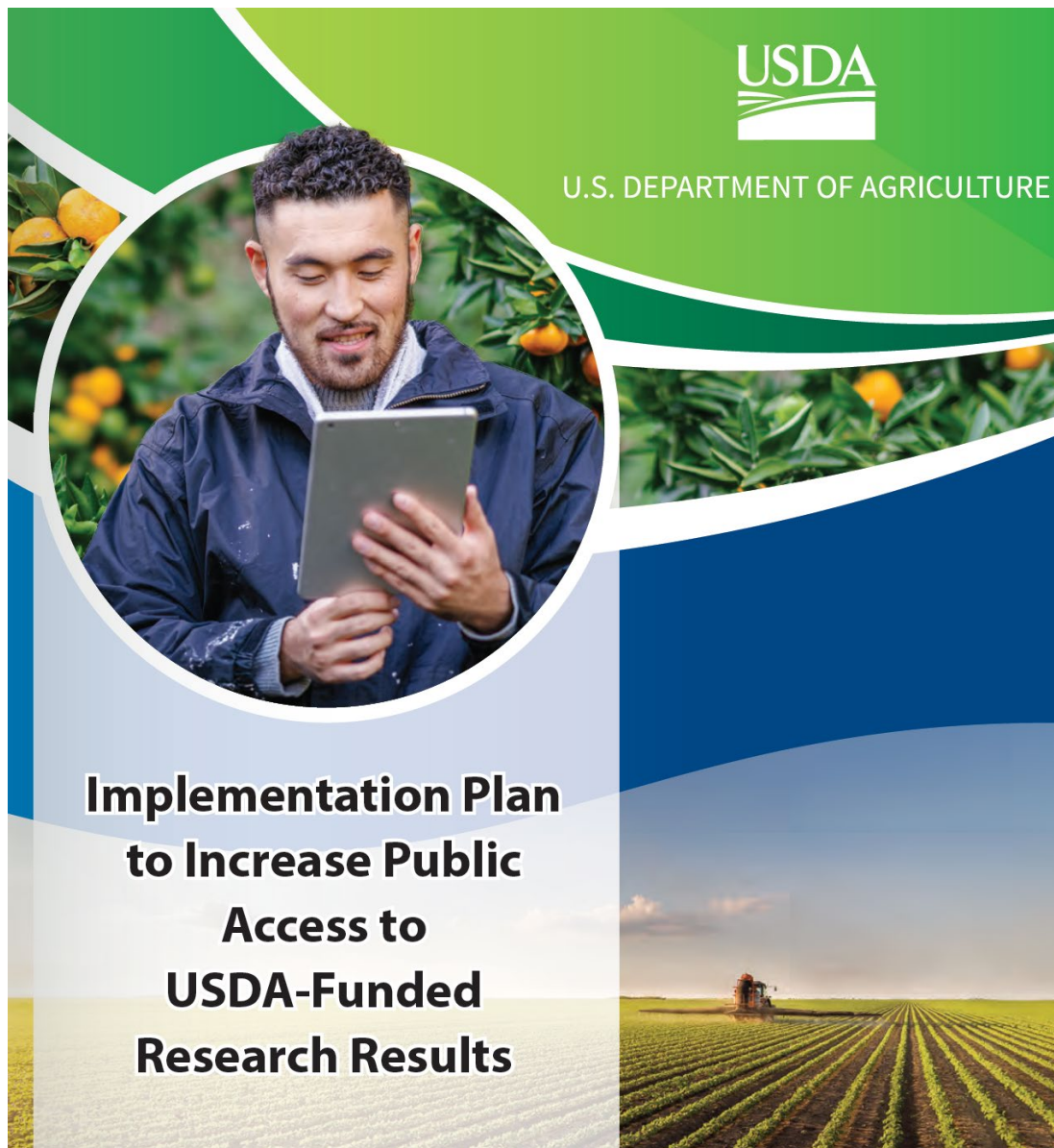
# Public Access Milestones at USDA





## **2022 OSTP Memorandum: Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research**

1. Update their public access policies as soon as possible, and no later than December 31st, 2025, to make publications and their supporting data resulting from federally funded research publicly accessible without an embargo on their free and public release
2. Establish transparent procedures that ensure scientific and research integrity is maintained in public access policies
3. Coordinate with OSTP to ensure equitable delivery of federally funded research results and data



- Published June 2023
- Updated implementation plan to carry out White House OSTP memorandum: [Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research](#) (Aug 2022)
- Includes a three-year roadmap for implementation activities and milestones



## Implementation Plan Roadmap: FY 2024

- Continue customer and stakeholder engagement to validate information and requirements for making USDA-funded research freely, immediately, and equitably accessible by December 31, 2025.
- Make changes to existing USDA public access policy, following statutory and regulatory requirements and processes, so that USDA can implement new policies by December 31, 2025.
- Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance, and enhancements to PubAg, Ag Data Commons, and research management systems to ensure public access to USDA-funded research outputs, with an emphasis on digital persistent identifier issues to integrate research outputs consistently and at scale.
- Prototype automated reporting frameworks and processes needed to analyze policy effectiveness.
- Develop plans to carry out likely development needs as well as needs revealed during the policy development and implementation process.
- Develop new outreach and training materials and validate them with customers and community stakeholders.



# Scope of DR 1020-006

## People



- All USDA mission areas, agencies, and staff offices
- All USDA employees who engage in scientific research during official duties
- Awardees and contractors from non-USDA organizations who are engaged in USDA-supported scientific research

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## Research



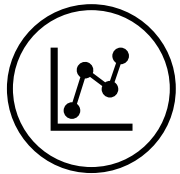
All unclassified scientific research (intramural and extramural) supported wholly or in part by the USDA, regardless of the USDA funding level or funding mechanism. This includes scientific research supported by:

- Any direct funding from a USDA grant or cooperative agreement active in Fiscal Year 2023 or beyond
- Any direct funding from a USDA contract signed on or after October 1, 2022
- Any direct funding or arrangement, including in-kind support, from any USDA Intramural Research

# Outline of Policy Requirements



1. Scholarly Publications



2. Digital Scientific Research Data

a. Public Access

b. Data Management Plans



3. Persistent Identifiers



# 1. Requirements for Scholarly Publications

## **Scope:**

Peer-reviewed journal articles published by nongovernmental organizations

Accepted manuscripts must be made **freely available to the public through PubAg within 12 months of upon publication.**

In most cases these should be submitted to [submit.nal.usda.gov](https://submit.nal.usda.gov).

Final published articles may be submitted to PubAg to satisfy this requirement, if the author has the right to share the published version (i.e., open access articles)



## 2. Requirements for Digital Scientific Research Data

### **Scope:**

Digital scientific research data that are appropriate for public access

**Published in a machine-readable format in recognized repository** that provides public access, persistent identifier, and preservation

**Public access** ~~within 12 months of~~ on publishing date of associated scholarly publication, or end of performance period, whichever comes first

Standardized **metadata catalog entry in the Ag Data Commons**

## 2. a. Requirements for Digital Scientific Research Data

**Digital scientific research data assets should be made publicly accessible to fullest extent practicable.**

**However, nine categories of digital scientific research data assets should not be made publicly accessible, including:**

- Data that would not be necessary for validation of scientific research findings (i.e., trivial data)
- Data assets that include personally identifiable information (PII) or other information that could enable re-identification of individuals or businesses
- Proprietary data assets
- Data assets related to protecting critical infrastructure
- Data assets related to the physical location of threatened or endangered species or sensitive archaeological sites
- Data assets for which release would be inconsistent with U.S. national, homeland, or economic security or would have significant negative impact on intellectual property rights, innovation, and U.S. competitiveness
- Data assets for which public access is inconsistent with agency mission (e.g., documents designated CUI)
- Other data assets whose release is limited by law, regulation, contract, agreement, national security requirements, or policy (e.g., classified data or dual-use research data)
- Data covered by a FOIA exemption



# NAL Resources for Data Sharing and Cataloging

The screenshot shows the National Agricultural Library website. The header includes the USDA logo and the text 'National Agricultural Library U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'. Navigation links include 'Home', 'Topics', 'Publications', 'Collections', 'Data', 'Services', and 'About Us'. A search bar is present with the text 'What would you like to find?'. The main content area is titled 'Find a Data Repository' and includes a sub-header 'Finding an appropriate long-term data repository'. The text below explains that researchers should determine if an appropriate domain repository exists for their data and lists tools like FAIRsharing.org and re3data.org. It also mentions 'Ag Data Commons' as the preferred repository for USDA-supported data that does not fit into an existing subject-specific repository.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/data/find-data-repository>

The screenshot shows the Ag Data Commons website. The header includes the USDA logo and the text 'Ag Data Commons U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'. A tagline reads 'Providing Central Access to USDA's Open Research Data'. Navigation links include 'Datasets', 'Software & Tools', 'About Us', 'News', and 'Contact Us'. A search bar is present with the text 'search'. The main content area is titled 'Ag Data Commons Data Submission Manual'. The text below explains that this submission manual provides practical information for contributors to the Ag Data Commons data repository and catalog. It also mentions that users can watch the 'Ag Data Commons User Instruction Series' on the National Agricultural Library's YouTube channel.

<https://agdatacommons.nal.usda.gov/>



## 2. b. Requirements for Digital Scientific Research Data

### Scope:

All scientific research covered by this DR

All scientific research must be accompanied by a **reviewed and agency- or office-approved data management plan (DMP)**

DMP must describe how digital scientific research data assets will be made **publicly accessible** and indicate any categories of digital scientific research data assets that are **exempt from public access requirements**



# NAL Resources for Data Management Planning

## Suggested DMP Components

1. Expected data types
2. Data formats and standards
3. Data storage and preservation of access
4. **Data sharing and public access**
5. Roles and responsibilities
6. Monitoring and reporting

The screenshot shows the National Agricultural Library website. The header includes the USDA logo, the text 'National Agricultural Library U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE', and navigation links for 'Ask A Question', 'Contact Us', and 'DigiTop'. A search bar contains the text 'What would you like to find?'. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Topics', 'Publications', 'Collections', 'Data', 'Services', and 'About Us'. The page title is 'Data Management Planning Services'. The content area includes a breadcrumb trail 'Home / Scientific Data Services / Data Management Planning Services', a sidebar with 'Data Management Planning Services' and links for 'Create a DMP', 'DMP Feedback and Review', 'Find a Data Repository', 'Data Management Glossary', and 'Data Management Videos'. The main text explains that data are valuable assets and should be managed to be FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and re-usable). It references 'P&P 630: Data Management & Public Access Requirements for ARS' and 'US Federal public access and open data directives'. A list of links provides information for researchers: 'Create a DMP', 'DMP feedback and review', 'Find a data repository', 'Data management glossary', and 'Data management videos'. The footer mentions the 2014 'Implementation Plan to Increase Public Access to Results of USDA-funded Scientific Research' and the 'Data Management Plan for NIFA-Funded Research, Education, and Extension Projects'.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/data/data-management-planning>



## 3. Requirements for Digital Persistent Identifiers

### Scope:

All authors of research products covered by the DR, research products

Authors of scholarly publications and digital scientific research data assets should use **individual persistent identifiers** (e.g., ORCID iD)

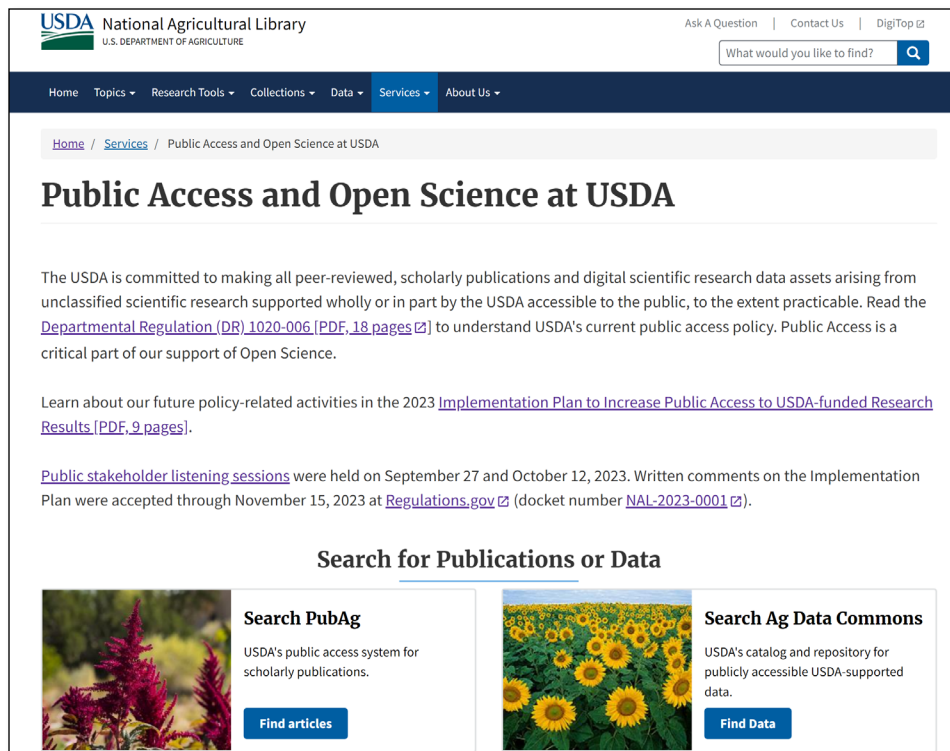
USDA-funded authors who are not USDA staff can go to <http://orcid.org> or use their institution's links.

**Research products** should receive persistent identifiers

# USDA Public Access Landing Page

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/services/public-access>

- Implementation Support
  - [DR 1020-006](#)
  - Implementation Guide
  - FAQs
- Resources & Services
  - PubAg
  - Ag Data Commons
  - Trainings, templates, compliance checklists, etc.
  - Agency & Office Public Access Points of Contact (TBA)
- Federal register notices and public comment links



The screenshot shows the USDA National Agricultural Library website. The header includes the USDA logo, the text "National Agricultural Library U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE", and navigation links for "Ask A Question", "Contact Us", and "DigiTop". A search bar is present with the placeholder text "What would you like to find?". The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Topics", "Research Tools", "Collections", "Data", "Services", and "About Us". The breadcrumb trail reads "Home / Services / Public Access and Open Science at USDA". The main heading is "Public Access and Open Science at USDA". The content area contains several paragraphs of text, including a commitment statement, a link to a Departmental Regulation (DR) 1020-006, and information about future policy-related activities and stakeholder listening sessions. At the bottom, there are two search boxes: "Search PubAg" and "Search Ag Data Commons", each with a "Find" button and a descriptive text.



We invite you to provide written comments through February 28, 2024

Federal Register notice posted 1/29/2024

Go to **Regulations.gov**, search for “2024-01673” or go directly to:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/NAL-2024-0001-0001>

Download the document (same as the FR notice) and use comment button to leave your comment.



# Thank You!

- Office of the Chief Scientist is policy owner
  - Rich Derksen, [Rich.Derksen@usda.gov](mailto:Rich.Derksen@usda.gov)
- The National Agricultural Library provides implementation support
  - Cynthia Sims Parr, [Cynthia.Parr@usda.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Parr@usda.gov)