

**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
SHUTDOWN IN THE ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATION**

This document describes the plan for shutdown of agency activities in the event of late appropriations or other similar situations requiring the discharge of all employees except those conducting essential activities.

Actions

The Office of Communications (OC) has two Category III excepted employees who will be funded when appropriations are made available, the Director of the Office of Communications and the Deputy Director. In the event of a shutdown, the Director or the Deputy Director will be available to provide communications assistance to the Secretary.

All employees – OC has 71 total employees, 46 funded by appropriations and 25 funded through the Working Capital Fund. 69 employees are not excepted and will be asked to come to work for at least the first half day. After this only the excepted employees will report.

On the first day all employees will be directed to report to their supervisors to receive assignments of duties or other pertinent information for an orderly closedown. For those teleworking, "reporting" maybe be done by telephone.

The voice mail message on the OC main contact number for reporters will be changed to reflect the close down.

Employee auto reply email will be updated and employees will also change their voice mail messages to reflect the close down.

Unless otherwise directed by OMB, the USDA.gov website will remain live with supporting resources or in a secure cached state on Akamai NetStorage. This means the site will not be updated during the shutdown, but will allow for full access to USDA.gov pages and resources in a frozen state of the last operational day before the shutdown. USDA websites granted as 'excepted' will continue normal operations. Not all USDA websites have agreements with Akamai and can leverage NetStorage. USDA Agency websites that do not have the supporting resources should 'go dark' and redirect to a designated splash page. This disposition will be communicated to all agency heads, web masters, and public affairs directors.

Any OC staff on travel will be notified to return prior to the lapse in appropriations.

All records, personal property, real property, and facilities will be maintained and protected by those entities charged with security for the Jamie L. Whitten and South buildings until such time as funds are appropriated.

When it is determined that an employee is no longer needed to perform activities to accomplish the orderly close down, the employee(s) will be notified and placed on furlough or other personnel action as appropriate.

As employees are about to be released, the employee should enter their time for the pay period up to the time of their release in the WebTA system.

Other instructions and specific guidance will be issued as circumstances require at each occurrence of a potential closedown situation.

Throughout this period, the Director will evaluate the need for continued attendance by these two employees. All other employees will continue on furlough, except as provided below:

- The Director will continually evaluate the need to bring staff out of furloughed status based on the needs of the office to conduct excepted activities. Employees brought out of furloughed status for excepted activities will be returned to furlough status when the need for the excepted activity ceases.

Program Impact

Press releases will not be generated nor will there be USDA contact with the media. Therefore, the media will not have access to USDA data, information, and/or personnel. Information on USDA policies and programs will not be available to the public.

Timely updates to the website will stop, thus valuable agricultural reports and materials will not be available to agricultural economic community and the agriculture and consumer publics.

Visual production, printing and editing of USDA documents will stop. Television and radio transmission will also be stopped.

Requests for information and publications that provide advice and assistance to the public will not be processed.

Direct and sustained public and media contact with organizations, groups and individuals will cease. This will prevent this office from providing responses to requests for clarification and information on national agricultural policies and programs that ultimately impact on the agricultural economy and general well-being of the nation.

The following is a partial list of services that will not be provided in the event of a shutdown:

- a) USDA press releases and reports
- b) Policy guidance and direction on public affairs issues and programs
- c) Teleconferencing and video production
- d) Design services
- e) Photographic Services
- f) Radio and television transmissions
- g) Printing Services
- h) Publications and information distribution

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FY 2014
SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT TO BE CONTINUED IN THE EVENT OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

	<u>Agency</u>	Current On-Board Staff	Estimated Employment for Category Two					Total After Day 20	Total as % of Staff
			2nd Half Day One	Day 2	Day 5	Day 10	Day 15		
Agency Name:									
Description of activities to be continued								0	

KEY:

Category II: Financed from Available Funds

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FY 2015
SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT TO BE CONTINUED IN THE EVENT OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

<u>Agency</u>	Current On-Board Staff	Estimated Employment for Category Three							Total After Day 20	Total as % of Staff
		2nd Half Day One	Day 2	Day 5	Day 10	Day 15	Day 20			
Agency Name: Office of Communications Manage and continue orderly shutdown and residual continuing operations	71	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	<u>17%</u>

KEY:

Category III: Protect Life and Property; Authorized by Law; Implied by Law; or Constitutional Duties and Powers

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FY 2015
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITIES TO BE CONTINUED IN THE EVENT OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
(Dollars in Thousands)

<u>Program/Activity</u>	<u>Continuing (Y or N)</u>	<u>Exempt (Y or N)</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount Available</u>	<u>Days Operating</u>	<u>Employees Supported</u>	<u>Excepted (Y or N)</u>	<u>Employees Supported</u>	<u>Program Impacts</u>			
									<u>One</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Week Three</u>	<u>Four</u>
OC Support for exempt/excepted activities	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	2				