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Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Research Analysis for Agricultural Strategic Planning
Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-HQ-2026-0432

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-HQ-2026-0432

How to Apply ***To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click APPLY.***

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click here for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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Application Deadline 1/15/2027 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description ***Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.**

ARS Office/Lab and Location: A fellowship opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS). This opportunity is remote.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

Research Project: You will learn about ARS's updated strategic planning processes for managing its agricultural research portfolio, including how National Program Leaders collaborate with the Office of Scientific Quality and Review to implement the Agile National Program Cycle (ANPC) and Agricultural Innovation Platform Team processes. You will gain an understanding of how these processes are designed to streamline peer review, increase research agility, innovation, and relevance, and strengthen the agency's ability to respond to rapidly emerging challenges.

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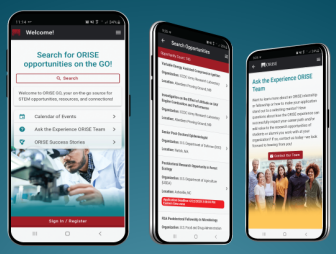
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You will also learn how National Programs and their projects transition into the ANPC following their Retrospective Review, and how progress is analyzed through collecting, organizing, and maintaining program data using internal ARS systems. This includes learning how data summaries, dashboards, and reports are prepared, and how data quality assurance and documentation are supported throughout the process. Additionally, you will learn how internal and external communications are developed and continually updated to keep stakeholders informed of changing priorities and progress toward research goals.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, you will:

- Gain experience learning about USDA-ARS strategic planning and agricultural research portfolio management.
- Learn how the Agile National Program Cycle and Agricultural Innovation Platform Team processes streamline peer review, improve research agility, and address emerging agricultural challenges.
- Learn to collect, organize, maintain, and analyze program data from internal ARS information systems across the Research Offices' four divisions.
- Develop skills in data quality assurance, documentation, and standardized management of research-program information.
- Collaborate with the mentor to help prepare data summaries, dashboards, and reports to monitor implementation progress.
- Develop and update platforms to effectively communicate research priorities and progress with internal and external stakeholders.
- Build an understanding of how research priorities, peer review, innovation, and portfolio management are integrated within a federal agricultural research agency.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Caird Rexroad (caird.rexroadiii@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: January 2027. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for 11-12 months.

Level of Participation: The appointment can be full- or part time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend range is up to $14,166.67 monthly with a $4,000 travel allowance.**

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established

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through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: Please visit our Program Website. After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.ARS.HQPostdoc@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications

The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields.

Preferred skills:

- Familiarity with USDA ARS and accompanying data management programs, processes, and community of support for sourcing data to be used in the fellowship.
- Proficient with Microsoft Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Adobe.

Stipend

$0.00 – $14,166.67 Monthly

Point of Contact

Janeen

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Communications and Graphics Design** (1 👁)
  - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** (2 👁)
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (1 👁)
  - **Mathematics and Statistics** (1 👁)