



Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems (MIDAS)

OVERVIEW

The United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides approximately \$15-25 billion in farm program benefits to America's farmers and ranchers annually. These benefits sustain 2.2 million producers who provide food and fiber to feed more than 300 million Americans and millions around the world.

FSA has been reliant on aging technology and equipment that create inefficiencies and threaten the delivery of farm program benefits. MIDAS is FSA's initiative to **Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems**. MIDAS was chartered to provide a sustainable long-term solution that will result in increased efficiencies and reengineered business solutions.

Listening sessions conducted in 2010 with FSA County office staff, farmers and ranchers further validated the need for improved systems. They provided valuable input into the MIDAS project and established requirements for system improvements.

MIDAS *Farm Records* was released in April 2013 and includes the consolidation of both land and producer information, and enables producers to conduct business with any service center nationwide. Future releases include Business Partner, Acreage Reporting and Inventory Reporting; Historical Changes and Analytics; and Customer Self-Service Portal.

ABOUT MIDAS

When complete, MIDAS will provide comprehensive and robust processes and tools that will enable simplified and convenient methods for farmers, ranchers, and our employees to access farm programs. The four underlying strategic goals for MIDAS are: modernize and innovate the delivery of farm programs, improve customer service, achieve compliance and support USDA

and FSA strategic plans. Obtaining these goals will result in achieving benefits for our customers, farmers and ranchers, and USDA stakeholders.

The MIDAS program is part of FSA's larger modernization initiative. FSA's modernization program is built upon the premise of delivering a core set of integrated IT services to USDA staff and customers. These IT services are fundamental components of maintaining FSA's accuracy and accountability in administering farm bill legislation. When full IT modernization is achieved, FSA will have a streamlined IT architecture built on re-engineered and "mature" business processes that are supported by newer, faster, more secure and more reliable web-based technologies

BENEFITS

MIDAS provides benefits to stakeholders across the country. These benefits are:

Improved Customer Service: Increased on-line services to farmers and ranchers by providing 24/7 access to applications and the ability to view account and profile status online.

Less Redundancy of Data Submission: Fewer forms; information will be taken once, not multiple times for multiple programs.

Expedited Program Implementation: Reduced timeframes between legislation passage and program implementation, providing more timely aid to affected producers.

Integrated Compliance: Greater control through integrated computer software that can communicate with each other, resulting in improved performance and more accessible and reliable reporting capabilities.

PARTICIPATION

MIDAS impacts farmers and local and state employees in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. To facilitate the interaction with these stakeholders, MIDAS engaged field office employees at all levels.

State and County office employees were brought to Washington, D.C. to provide their valuable insights from the field and work as MIDAS Project team members.

In addition, MIDAS engaged the field by creating a Change Agent Network (CAN). The purpose of the CAN is to generate awareness and provide and champion communications about the MIDAS project throughout FSA by utilizing a group of Change Agents selected from the State and County Offices, as well as representatives from Divisions in Farm Programs and Kansas City ITSD. The Change Agents work directly with the project team to learn first-hand information on project activities and then share that information at the local level. The Change Agents also provide the MIDAS project team with valuable field office feedback.

MIDAS also engaged a community of Super Users, which consist of employees from various FSA regions that have been selected to support system testing, training development, training delivery, Go-Live, and post Go-Live activities to the more than 9,000 FSA employees identified to receive MIDAS training.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information on the MIDAS program can be found on the MIDAS website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/MIDAS>, or by visiting the USDA Connect MIDAS community at <https://connections.usda.gov/communities/service/html/communityview?communityUuid=62cc7838-ec2f-4fc3-b98c-8f0b81215e35>.

MIDAS has also released a series of FSA Notices which can be found here: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/notices>.

Follow FSA on Twitter (@usdafsa) to receive additional updates on MIDAS. To ask a MIDAS-related question or provide feedback, contact Ask MIDAS at askmidas@usda.gov

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