

FARM SERVICE AGENCY 2007 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR!

NetBase Corporation has been selected as the USDA Farm Service Agency Small Business of the Year for successful development of the next generation Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Budget System. This initiative was accomplished through successful completion of various tasks beginning with the analysis of the previous spreadsheet (700+) paradigm pervasive throughout the Budget Division, establishing data normalization and standardization between budget personnel, economists, program managers, and executive management. The objective was to significantly reduce the labor intensive process which consumed on average, more than 50% of each analyst's time. The development of a web database architecture enabled the Budget Division to migrate from the "at-risk" production system to the newest generation web-based platform.

The previous CCC Budget System was an Excel-based spreadsheet system used for processing the "Actuals" data from the Financial Management Division data warehouse along with 15 years of estimates from multiple sources which include 34 commodities, 19 Processed Commodities, 5 Total Commodities, 69 Financial, Administrative and Program accounts, 26 S&U Files, 24 Direct Payment Worksheets, 31 Loan Worksheets, and 17 Certificate Worksheets. The information was incorporated into the Excel CCC Budget System manually by budget analysts assigned to the Domestic and Conservation Section of the Programs Branch in the Budget Division. The system was maintained and managed by the lone author of the system. The Budget Division was dependent on this system to manage and report on the status of approximately 45 billion dollars. The Excel Budget System operated in a single point-of-failure mode.

The multi-year effort that began with a Business Process Re-Engineering initiative culminated in a highly successful web-based system release into production for Presidents Budget 2007 and the subsequent use for the Mid-Session Review budget formulation. In addition, the system enables budget modeling and analysis capabilities that were previously unachievable. The success also marks completion of the first phase of the Department-wide Budget Performance Measurement System initiative. NetBase contributed significantly to the successful culture change that is required in moving to a new process and system.

NetBase has played a vital part in transitioning the Commodity Credit Corporation budgeting process from a manually-intensive data logistics operational challenge to a web-centric analytical and auditable data management system that is accessible by 35+ stakeholders across USDA along with many legislative stakeholders. NetBase committed to delivering a successful system in order to significantly streamline an arduous process. NetBase has provided unparalleled support and guidance to the Government in successfully leading the Budget Division through this change process.

NetBase exceeded the Farm Service Agency expectations which will enable the Government to increase the accuracy and performance measurement of its estimates along with cost reductions related to increased efficiencies.