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Sonja Sandberg* (ssandbe@frc.mass.edu), Department of Mathematics, 100 State Street, Framingham, MA 01701. *Outside Academia : A Sabbatical in Government.*

Sabbaticals are often used as a time to develop new curricular materials, or to write a book, or to do research. It could, however, be used as an opportunity to work in a very different environment, and to see how mathematics is used in the workplace. This experience can then be shared with students to emphasize the importance and applicability of mathematical skills in the work place. This past year, I had an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellowship that allowed me to work with the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. For the first six months of the fellowship, I worked on a risk assessment project for the Food Safety Inspection Services. The second six months, I spent at the Risk Management Agency developing a pilot insurance policy for farmers that protects against crop loss due to drought. In both cases, my mathematical skills were well utilized and provided me with the necessary tools to work on interesting and important problems. In this presentation, I will describe the specific mathematical problems that I worked on. I will also provide information about the fellowship and how to apply for one. (Received July 24, 2000)