Profile of the Agricultural Research Service

- Agriculture in U.S. economy
- ARS Organization
- Mission of ARS
- The program planning cycle
- Information dissemination & technology transfer
Agriculture in U.S. Economy

- 16% of the $9 trillion U.S. gross domestic product
- 17% of employed
- 8% of U.S. exports in 1999
- 2% U.S. workforce on farms
Research, Education, and Economics

USDA
Secretary of Agriculture

Under Secretary
For
Research, Education,
and Economics

Agricultural
Research
Service

Economic Research
Service

National
Agricultural Statistics
Service

Cooperative State Research
Education &
Extension Service
ARS Organization

Central Planning, Coordination and Support

Decentralized Research & Information Delivery
Mission of ARS

“Our mission is to conduct research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to...”
Ensure high-quality, safe food and other products
Assess the nutritional needs of Americans
Sustain a competitive agricultural economy
Enhance the natural resource base and the environment.
Provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.
Overview of the Agricultural Research Service

- Intramural Research
- Farm to table research scope
- 22 National programs
- 1,100+ research projects
- 7,000 employees
- 2,000 scientists
- 100+ laboratory locations
- $900 million annual budget
- Partnerships with universities and industry
- 1,100+ research projects
ARS Laboratory Locations

- Area
- Research Centers
- Human Nutrition Centers
- Research Locations
- Research Worksites
ARS
International Locations

- Montpellier, France
- Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Panama City, Panama
- Brisbane, Australia
- Beijing, China
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<th>Animal Production</th>
<th>Natural Resources</th>
<th>Crop Production</th>
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<td>Plant, Microbial &amp; Insect</td>
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<td>Soil Resource Management</td>
<td>Germplasm Conservation &amp; Development</td>
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<td>Arthropod Pests of Animals and Humans</td>
<td>Air Quality</td>
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<td>Animal Well-Being and Stress Control Systems</td>
<td>Global Change</td>
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<td>Aquaculture</td>
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<td>Food Safety (animal &amp; plant products)</td>
<td>Integrated Agricultural Systems</td>
<td>New Uses, Quality &amp; Marketability of Plant &amp; Animal Products</td>
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<td>Bioenergy &amp; Energy Alternatives</td>
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<td>Methyl Bromide Alternatives</td>
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</table>
Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems

- Water Quality & Management
- Soil Resource Management
- Air Quality
- Global Change
- Rangeland, Pasture & Forages
- Manure & Byproduct Utilization
- Integrated Agricultural Systems
Crop Production, Product Value, and Safety

- Plant, Microbial & Insect Germplasm Conservation & Development
- Plant Biological & Molecular Processes
- Plant Diseases
- Crop Protection & Quarantine
- Crop Production
- New Uses, Quality & Marketability of Plant & Animal Products
- Bioenergy & Energy Alternatives
- Methyl Bromide Alternatives
Animal Production, Product Value, and Safety

- Food Animal Production
- Animal Health
- Arthropod Pests of Animals and Humans
- Animal Well-Being and Stress Control Systems
- Aquaculture
- Human Nutrition
- Food Safety (animal & plant products)
Role of National Program Staff

- Maintain relevance of research program through:
  - Priority setting
  - Budget development
  - Program analysis
  - Reporting to Congress and stakeholders
  - Program coordination
How ARS Plans and Sets Research Priorities

- Stakeholder input
- Program planning cycle
The National Program Cycle

- Relevance
- Input
- Assessment
- Planning
- Impact
- Implementation
- Quality
Benefits of National Programs

- Coordination
- Communication
- Empowerment
National Program Rationale

When *not* working together *nor* focused on common objectives, various efforts yield _small_ improvements, but _significant_ improvement is _not_ realized.
National Program Rationale

When people work together and pursue common objectives, small improvements yield significant improvement.

Combined effort yields significant improvement

Each effort yields a small improvement
ARS Scientific Peer Review Process

- Verify scientific merit and programmatic relevance.
- At least once every 5 years; majority of reviewers external scientists.
Office of Scientific Quality Review (OSQR) is Responsible For:

- Panel organization & composition
- Distribution of project plans
- Reviewer instruction and orientation
- The distribution of results in ARS
- Notifies panelists of the Agency response to recommendations
- Ad hoc or re-reviews of project plans
Information Dissemination and Technology Transfer

- Scientific Publications
- Office of Technology Transfer
- National Agricultural Library
- Information Staff

www.ars.usda.gov
Cooperative Research and Development Agreements

- 300 active agreements
- Additional operating funds for ARS
- Projects reviewed for benefits to pub
Leading America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.