Topics of the day

• ARS – Who we are
• What we do
• With whom we work
• How does America benefit?
USDA’s principal intramural scientific research agency

ARS in 2016:

- 1,800 Ph.D. scientists
- 8,000 employees
- 700+ research projects
- 90 research locations
ARS Labs

ARS research facilities are in about 90 U.S. locations and in Argentina, Australia, China, and France.
ARS Research Priorities

- Food Security and Hunger
- Sustainable Energy and Bioproducts
- Food Safety
- Climate Change/Sustainability
- Human Nutrition and Obesity
What has ARS done?

www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/shopcart/shopcartintro.html
What has ARS done?

- 621 new variety and germplasm releases
- Cucumbers and watermelons
- Apples and pears
- Hibiscus and crapemyrtle
- Barley, corn, wheat and rice
- Beans, peas, and lentils
- Peanut and soybean
- Sugar cane and sugar beet
- Lettuce, peppers, and potatoes

potatoes
Why does ARS matter?

In addition to providing innovative research solutions to agricultural problems:

• Rapid response to emerging national crises;
• Ability to coordinate research activities across government, university, and private sector; and a
• Long-term research focus.
Rapid response to emerging crises

H5 avian influenza outbreak 2014-2015
National research coordination

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

Ug99 wheat stem rust

Soybean rust

Pierce's disease of grape

Citrus canker
Citrus greening

An Asian citrus psyllid, the vector of citrus greening

Orange tree leaves with symptoms of citrus greening
Pollinator health

- Honey bees resistant to mites
- New long-term study of bee forage needs
- Established a National Bee Gene Bank
- Started a large-scale, area-wide project to minimize exposure of bees to pesticides

It takes nearly half of all U.S. commercial bee hives to pollinate California’s almond trees each year.
Long-term research focus

Display of seeds from the 1890s at the ARS Fort Collins genebank.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway.

Labeling samples in an ARS insect collection.
Long-term research focus

Volunteers eat a meal as part of a nutrition study in Beltsville.

ARS researchers round up cattle at the Jornada Experimental Range near Las Cruces, New Mexico.
ARS Partners and Stakeholders

- USDA and other Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- Universities
- Producers (farmers, growers, and ranchers)

- Commodity and Trade Organizations
- International Organizations
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private Corporate and Entrepreneurial Sectors
- Consumers
Leading America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.