

ANNUAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

January 22, 2004

2003 AWARDS



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Agricultural Research Service

The Future Grows Here

November 2, 2003, marked the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). In recognition of our history of public service and partnerships, our 50th year will be a year of outreach. All our employees and all Americans can be proud of the unique contributions ARS has made during the past 50 years and before. This year's ARS Annual Recognition Program award winners, like those before them, have made lasting contributions to our proud record of accomplishment.

United States Department of Agriculture

**ARS ANNUAL
RECOGNITION
PROGRAM**

January 22, 2004

Welcome and Introduction

Remarks

Presentation of Awards

Scientist of the Year Awards

Technology Transfer Awards

*Administrator's Equal Employment
Opportunity / Civil Rights Awards*

T.W. Edminster Research Associate Award

Excellence in Information Award

Secretary of the Year Award

*Administrative and Financial Management
Support Awards for Excellence*

Scientist of the Year Awards

The Scientist of the Year Awards commend the creative efforts, scientific leadership, and major research achievements of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. Their contributions help position ARS in the forefront of agricultural research.

Winners include one senior research scientist and one early career research scientist for each of the eight ARS areas.

Distinguished Senior Research Scientist of the Year

Nelson A. Cox
South Atlantic Area
Athens, Georgia

For a lifetime of distinctive research benefitting the poultry industry by developing and transferring technologies and information that reduced foodborne enteropathogens in broilers.

Outstanding Senior Research Scientists of the Year

George F. Fanta
Midwest Area
Peoria, Illinois

For preeminent chemical discoveries uniquely combined with the vision and innovation required to repeatedly and successfully transfer new technology to the marketplace.

Hyun S. Lillehoj
Beltsville Area
Beltsville, Maryland

For outstanding contributions to poultry science and biotechnology and their major impact on the poultry industry by controlling the coccidiosis disease and for internationally recognized leadership for young scientists.

Ross M. Welch
North Atlantic Area
Ithaca, New York

For pioneering research and global outreach programs aimed at developing sustainable agricultural systems that support adequate human nutrition, healthier foods, and better lives for all.

***Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding
Early Career Research Scientist***

This award winner automatically becomes the ARS nominee for the Office of Science and Technology Policy's Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers Program.

Curtis P. Van Tassell
Beltsville Area
Beltsville, Maryland

For conducting outstanding research to improve national genetic evaluation systems for dairy cattle and to identify genome regions affecting economically important health and productivity traits.

Area Senior Research Scientists

Lajpat (Laj) R. Ahuja

Northern Plains Area

Fort Collins, Colorado

For pioneering scientific research, visionary leadership, and dedication to simulating integrated agricultural systems, scaling soil properties and their spatial variability, and modeling agricultural management effects.

Kris M. Havstad

Southern Plains Area

Las Cruces, New Mexico

For conducting research and forging novel collaborations in rangeland science leading to a new understanding of rangeland sustainability, response to change, and assessment of condition.

David W. Ow

Pacific West Area

Albany, California

For the pioneering development of new methods for controlled DNA insertion and expression in plants.

James M. Spiers

Mid South Area

Poplarville, Mississippi

For research and transfer of technology in establishing a vibrant blueberry industry in the Southern United States, creating the opportunity for expanded research on other horticultural products.

Area Early Career Research Scientists

James Allen Byrd II
Southern Plains Area
College Station, Texas

For outstanding research leading to the development of a preharvest feed or water supplement that reduces Salmonella and Campylobacter in poultry.

Eduardo Casas
Northern Plains Area
Clay Center, Nebraska

For identifying genomic regions responsible for the expression of economically important traits in cattle, which had a high impact on the beef industry.

Donald C. Lay, Jr.
Midwest Area
West Lafayette, Indiana

For sustaining exemplary research productivity while building and developing a new research unit into a fully capable, multidisciplinary, and nationally recognized center for animal well-being research.

Soheila J. Maleki
Mid South Area
New Orleans, Louisiana

For producing recombinant allergens with reduced IgE-binding that provide an immunotherapeutic agent for peanut allergies, determining the effect of roasting on sensitization and reaction to peanuts, and describing the mechanisms involved.

Christopher H. Sommers
North Atlantic Area
Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania

For pioneering research in food irradiation that enhances food safety and helps industry and regulatory agencies meet ARS food safety goals.

Camille M. Steber
Pacific West Area
Pullman, Washington

For exceptional research on the genes controlling the growth and development of plants.

Matias B. Vanotti
South Atlantic Area
Florence, South Carolina

For innovative and effective research on water quality and animal waste treatment.

Technology Transfer Awards

The Technology Transfer Awards Program recognizes individuals or groups who have done outstanding work in transferring technology to users outside ARS.

Outstanding Efforts

Avian Influenza Rapid Diagnostic Test Team

David L. Suarez

Erica Spackman

Suzanne M. DeBlois

South Atlantic Area

Athens, Georgia

Dennis A. Senne

Midwest Area

Ames, Iowa

For the development and implementation of a rapid diagnostic test for avian influenza that contributed to the control of a major outbreak in the United States.

Catfish Genetics Research Team

William R. Wolters
Geoffrey C. Waldbieser
Brian G. Bosworth
Jeffrey T. Silverstein
Mid South Area
Stoneville, Mississippi

For sustained, creative, and effective research leading to the development, evaluation, and transfer of NWAC103 catfish line to the commercial catfish industry.

Superior Efforts

Jerry F. Miller
Northern Plains Area
Fargo, North Dakota

For the development of the NuSun sunflower germplasm, which led to profound economic benefits for the U.S. sunflower industry.

Healthy Foods Research Team

Tara McHugh
Pacific West Area
Albany, California
Charles Huxsoll (retired)
Pacific West Area
Moraga, California

For exceptional diligence in transferring restructured fruit and vegetable processing technologies that benefit consumers, producers, and the rural economy.

VerifEYE Development Team

Thomas A. Casey
Mark A. Rasmussen
Jacob W. Petrich
Midwest Area
Ames, Iowa

For development of a method and system for detecting fecal contamination on the carcasses of food animals.

Phosphorus Indexing Program Group

Douglas B. Beegle, University Park, PA
Frank J. Coale, College Park, MD
Thomas C. Daniel, Fayetteville, AR
Paul B. DeLaune, Fayetteville, AR
William J. Gburek, University Park, PA
Brad C. Joern, West Lafayette, IN
William E. Jokela, Burlington, VT
Peter J.A. Kleinman, University Park, PA
Charles A. Lander, Washington, DC
Jerry Lemunyon, Fort Worth, TX
April B. Leytem, Kimberly, ID
Antonio P. Mallarino, Ames, IA
Philip A. Moore, Jr., Fayetteville, AR
Gregory L. Mullins, Blacksburg, VA
Roberta Parry, Washington, DC
Andrew N. Sharpley, University Park, PA
Thomas J. Sims, Newark, DE
Jennifer L. Weld, University Park, PA
Mary L. Wolfe, Blacksburg, VA

For the development and implementation of a Phosphorus Indexing procedure to target remedial measures for nutrient management strategies that maintain productivity and protect water quality.

Russian Honey Bee Research Team

Mid South Area
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Lorraine Beaman
Robin Cargel
Robert Danka
Gary Delatte
Lilia deGuzman
Joshua Grimmett
David Dodge
Barbera Gradnigo

Jeffrey Harris
Victor Ranney
Thomas Rinderer
Allen Sylvester
Tony Stelzer
Jose Villa
Rachel Watts

For providing American beekeepers and agriculture with honey bees that are resistant to parasitic mites.

Methyl Bromide Alternatives Implementation Team

Thomas J. Trout
Sally M. Schneider
Pacific West Area
Parlier, California

Husein Ajwa
Pacific West Area
Salinas, California

Christopher Winterbottom
Pacific West Area
Watsonville, California

For outstanding effort in creating and transferring alternative pest control technology for strawberries and other high-value crops with significant environmental and employee safety benefits.

***Administrator's Equal Employment
Opportunity (EEO) / Civil Rights (CR)
Awards***

These awards identify and recognize ARS employees for exemplary achievements in promoting equal employment opportunity / civil rights and in fostering an awareness of and commitment to workforce diversity through actions that clearly exceed responsibilities of their positions or assignments in ARS.

Supervisory/Managerial Category

Shu-I Tu
North Atlantic Area
Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania

For outstanding leadership in and contribution to ARS's Equal Employment Opportunity / Civil Rights programs.

Non-Supervisory/Non-Managerial Category

Mid South Area Workforce Diversity Committee

Edgar King, Jr., Stoneville, MS
Archie Tucker, Stoneville, MS
John Patrick Jordan, New Orleans, LA
Deepak Bhatnagar, New Orleans, LA
Betty Shepherd, Auburn, AL
Georgina O. Acosta, New Orleans, LA
Carlos V. Alonso, Oxford, MS
David C. Ambrogio, New Orleans, LA
Patricia A. Brown, Stoneville, MS
Thomas E. Cleveland, New Orleans, LA
Stephen O. Duke, Oxford, MS
Anthony Edmund, Athens, GA
Rita Keeling, Stoneville, MS
Jimmy R. McAlpine, Stoneville, MS
Gay G. McCain, Mississippi State, MS
Barbara J. Smith, Poplarville, MS
Joseph D. Villa, Baton Rouge, LA
Patricia J. Winston, New Orleans, LA
Maureen Wright, New Orleans, LA

For promoting workforce diversity in ARS and for fostering an environment where all employees may contribute creative ideas, seek challenges, assume a leadership role, and exceed in professional and personal objectives.

T.W. Edminster Research Associate Award

This award provides scientists and engineers the opportunity to develop proposals for priority research and recruit scientists and engineers of exceptional ability to conduct research. Each year, the scientist with the most outstanding proposal receives this award.

Michael D. McMullen

*Midwest Area
Columbia, Missouri*

*For the outstanding proposal
“Do ‘Signatures of Selection’ Systematically Identify
Key Genes Controlling Agronomic Traits?”*

Excellence in Information Award

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the creation and distribution of information products and technologies that support agricultural research and education.

Electron Microscopy Technology Group

Eric F. Erbe

Ethan C. Kane

Charles Murphy

Ronald Ochoa

Christopher Pooley

William P. Wergin (retired)

*Beltsville Area
Beltsville, Maryland*

*For outstanding contributions in the support and promotion of
ARS research using electron microscopy technology and
techniques.*

Secretary of the Year

*This award recognizes the outstanding achievements
and creative efforts of ARS secretaries.*

Diane K. Koch
North Atlantic Area
Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania

*For her exceptionally competent, creative, and innovative
performance in the Office of the Area Director,
North Atlantic Area.*

AFM Support Awards for Excellence

*These awards recognize the outstanding achievements of
employees who have increased efficiency in the Administrative
and Financial Management support activities of the Research,
Education, and Economics agencies.*

Gold Award for Excellence

Bonnie M. Beavers
Administrative and Financial Management
Washington, DC

*For outstanding service to customer agencies and for sustained
leadership in the implementation of legislation affecting more than
5,000 Cooperative Extension Service Federal Schedule A
appointees.*

Silver Award for Excellence

Donald B. Jones

*Administrative and Financial Management
Beltsville, Maryland*

For extraordinary leadership in managing various staff and program contacts and the flow of communication and information necessary to resolve technical, budgetary, and program issues related to the Ames Modernization Project.

Bronze Award for Excellence

SAA Module I RL Training Group

Mary LaRue, Athens, GA

Earl Griffin, Athens, GA

Karen M. Brownell, Beltsville, MD

Marianne Plumb, Beltsville, MD

Denise V. Corbitt, Beltsville, MD

Vicki D. Hanbury, Beltsville, MD

Joseph E. Hairston, Washington, DC

Pat McGarvey, Beltsville, MD

Sue Mutchler, Beltsville, MD

Korona Ingram Prince, Washington, DC

Suzanne M. Rable, Beltsville, MD

Helene Saylor, Beltsville, MD

Jeffrey J. Schmitt, Beltsville, MD

Robin M. Ward, Beltsville, MD

Donna A. Williams, Beltsville, MD

Karen M. Yezek, Beltsville, MD

For development, design, and presentation of a comprehensive human resources training program for all research leaders and management in the South Atlantic Area.

Bronze Award for Excellence

Pay and Leave Team

Denise V. Corbitt

Ted A. Nykiel

Judith A. Capozzi

Winston E. Farmer

Alice M. Richmond

Karin M. Ring

Administrative and Financial Management

Beltsville, Maryland

For successfully implementing the Systems for Time and Attendance Reporting (STAR) program and for extensive agency-wide training for users of the system.