

ARS

NAREEE Board Update

Chavonda Jacobs-Young
Administrator



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE



Topics

- Leadership Changes
- FY 2016 Budget Status
- Animal Welfare
- Year of RL/Big Data
- ARS milestones
- Tech Transfer efforts



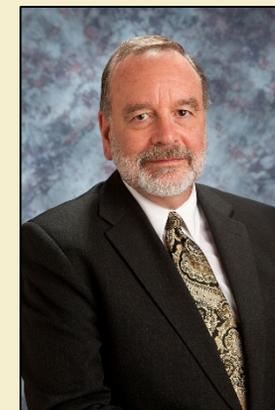
Injecting Salmonella into an egg to evaluate a technique for killing the pathogen without affecting egg quality in Pennsylvania.

ARS Leadership

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young
Administrator
Agricultural Research Service



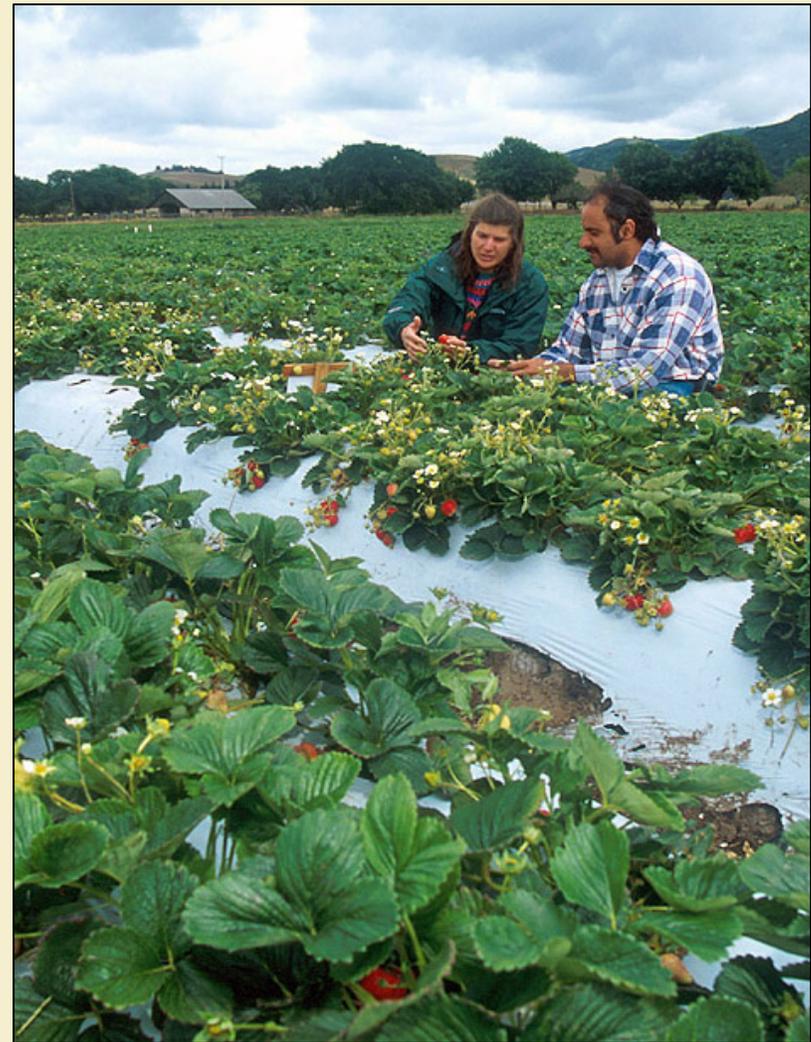
Dr. Simon Liu
Associate Administrator
Research Operations



Dr. Steven Shafer
Associate Administrator
National Programs

ARS' Budget in FY 2016

- Currently under Continuing Resolution; Budget set at FY 2015 level – \$1.13 billion
- Proposed FY 2016 budget – \$1.19 billion for research
 - \$20 million for repair and maintenance of existing facilities,
 - \$205.9 million for updates/new construction of 5 high-priority facilities, and
 - Proposed closure of one location (Dubois)



Evaluating commercial strawberry varieties in trials on a farm in San Juan Bautista, California.

FY 2015 Funding for ARS Buildings



Diseases of chickens and other poultry are the focus of the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory in Athens, Georgia

- \$45 million allocated to begin construction of new poultry facility in Athens, Georgia [*estimated cost – \$158.7 million*]
- Preparations are being made for construction contract bids on Phase 1A, which consists of: BSL-3 animal laboratory; incubation/growing building; breeding facility; and utility infrastructure.

Animal Welfare Actions



An ARS scientist moves cattle as part of studies to examine livestock grazing behaviors in desert landscapes.

- January 21 – Convened an Animal Handling and Welfare Review Panel (AHWRP)
- January 23 – Established first ARS Animal Welfare Ombudsman – Dr. Eileen Thacker
- February 23 – Established an Animal Welfare Leadership Committee and separate Task Force
- March 10 – OIG began a review of USMARC. OIG issued interim report on Oct. 2, 2015.
- March 24 – Established an APHIS/ARS collaboration project and began revision of ARS internal Policies & Procedures

Animal Welfare Actions [continued]

- March 30 – Received AHWRP's USMARC review report. Implemented all recommendations by May 15, 2015
- June 10 – Submitted ARS' Animal Welfare Action Plan to Congress
- June 28 – Hired an Animal Care and Use Officer – Dr. Susan Harper
- July 23 – Received AHWRP's ARS agency-wide review report. Began implementation of recommendations
- July 29 – Launched ARS agency-wide animal welfare training program. APHIS began ARS animal research site registrations, completing 24 as of November 30
- August 11 –APHIS began pre-compliance site visits, completing nine as of November 30
- November 13 – USMARC hosted three listening sessions to brief animal advocates, animal welfare experts, and stakeholders on the status of the Easy Care Sheep Project.



Year of the RL

- Purpose was to re-engage these critical leaders
- Ten interactive Webinars and smaller discussion groups in 2015; 1,700 in total attendance; reached nearly 70 percent of Research Leaders
- Scores of business processes and other challenges tackled
- Upcoming summits will engage RLs in shared, meaningful work on an Agency scale



Collecting samples of a fungal culture following pretreatment of wheat straw feedstock during a ethanol fermentation test.

Big Data

- \$5 million commitment in both FY 2015 and FY 2016
- The six SCINet locations are up and running
- In 2016, complete testing of the cloud computing and continue infrastructure upgrades
- Develop plan to increase Internet bandwidth at locations and provide new, more powerful desktop computers



An ARS scientist records plant height with a hand-held field computer.

ARS milestones in FY 2015

- OMB granted ARS a waiver to exclude base-funded travel for research purposes from travel caps.
- Launch of the online *Agricultural Research* magazine.
- NAL created ARS-LTAR Data Portal to link data across LTAR sites, making it accessible from a single location.
- Leadership of AgMIP team recognized with 2015 American Society of Agronomy Presidential award





Harvesting different types of microgreens for shelf-life studies and nutrient analyses in Maryland.

For 2016

- Evolved and Safe Workspaces
- Leadership Development
- Research Portfolio Management
- Facility Management
- Partnerships

2015 ARS Information and Technology Transfer

- Peer-reviewed articles submitted **4,781**
- New Patents Filed **110**
- New Germplasm Releases **70**
- Total Active CRADAs **211**
- Active CRADAs with small businesses **98**



Black Butte is a new blackberry release by ARS scientists in Corvallis, Oregon. Fruit averages 1 inch in diameter, and 2 inches long, and weighs twice as much as other blackberry varieties.

Leading America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.

