



### “Bed Bugs...Chocolate...and Beyond” was the Focus of USDA’s Science Week

By **Dianne Odland**, Public Affairs Specialist, ARS Information Staff



Secretary Vilsack talks with ARS Research Leader Lyndel Meinhardt about their work on cacao.

“Bed Bugs...Chocolate...and Beyond” was the theme of the “Celebrating Science” event on the Whitten Patio in Washington, DC, kicking off USDA’s Science Week on October 4. The ARS science showcase featured several exhibits and 10-minute talks throughout the day. Hands-on activities included a rainforest experience showing how ARS research is helping the chocolate industry, a hands-on activity using DNA forensics to identify insect pests, a biofuels matching game, a mini-shopping cart featuring products from ARS-developed technologies, and the game “Spin the Wheel for Good Nutrition.”

The highlight of the event was a surprise visit by **USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack**, who thanked ARS for its important research and spent nearly half an hour visiting the exhibits and interacting with ARS



ARS Research Entomologist Mark Feldlaufer teaches the audience about bedbugs.

staff. **Secretary Vilsack**, **REE Under Secretary Catherine Woteki**, and ARS Administrator **Ed Knipling** were each presented with a cacao tree by **Lyndel Meinhardt**, Research Leader, ARS Sustainable Perennial Crops Laboratory, Beltsville, MD.

This event was supported by the ARS Beltsville

Agricultural Research Center’s Sustainable Perennial Crops Laboratory, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, and Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center; the U.S. National Arboretum; the National Agricultural Library; the ARS Office of Technology Transfer; and the ARS Information Staff.

### Employees Continue to Give Their Two Cents



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Thanks for your continued use of the “Your Two Cents” Website. More and more ARS employees are using the

“Comments” function, a communication tool designed to allow readers to comment on ideas and/or responses that have already been submitted. To date, we have received 172 comments on 90 different ideas. These comments vary from requests for clarification on specific ideas or responses to best practices and helpful solutions. We have continued to incorporate new functionalities to the site...so stay tuned for additional improvements!