

ARS Major Award Programs

<i>Name of Program</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Send Call for Nominations</i>	<i>Announce to:</i>	<i>Send Reminder</i>	<i>Nominations Due in HRD</i>	<i>Date of Ceremony</i>
ARS Administrator's Equal Employment Opportunity /Civil Rights	To annually recognize individuals/groups for exemplary achievements in promoting EEO/CR and promoting an awareness and commitment to workforce diversity.	Mid March	ARS-All	Mid April	May	* February
ARS Excellence in Information	To recognize outstanding contributions to the creation and/or distribution of information products and technologies that support agricultural research and education.	Early June	ARS-All	Mid July	Early August	* February
ARS Science Hall of Fame	To annually recognize one or more outstanding ARS scientists who have made a major impact on agricultural research.	Mid January	ARS-All	Early March	Early May	September United States National Arboretum, Washington, DC (In conjunction with AC meeting)
ARS Scientist of the Year	To annually recognize the creative efforts of ARS research scientists. Note: The individual selected as the ARS Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Scientist will be eligible for a Presidential award. Historically, the nomination is due to the White House Point-of-Contact by August 1.	Early February	ARS-All	Early April	Early June (Due to the Area Director May 1)	* February
ARS Secretary of the Year	To annually recognize the outstanding achievements and creative efforts of ARS secretaries.	Early June	ARS-All	Mid July	Early August	* February
ARS Technology Transfer	To annually recognize individuals/teams who have done outstanding work in transferring technology to outside users. Note: The nominations of the Outstanding Effort winners from this program are forwarded to the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) for consideration in their annual awards program. Nominations are due to the FLC by September. (OTT submits these nominations.)	Early February	ARS-All	Early April	Early June (Due to the Area Director May 1)	* February
ARS T. W. Edminster Research Associate	The top rated Research Associate proposal is approved for the T. W. Edminster Award.	Early to mid September, the Administrator's office will notify the Awards Staff of the winner.				* February
AFM Award for Diversity	This program recognizes AFM employees for special achievements in promoting EEO and workforce diversity	Mid December	REE	Mid Jan	Early Feb	Mid March (In conjunction with AFM All Hands)

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	through actions that clearly exceed the responsibilities of their position.					
AFM Support Awards for Excellence	To annually recognize outstanding achievements which have increased efficiency in the administrative support activities of ARS.	Early June	REE	Mid July	Early August	* February
ARS Annual Recognition Program	To recognize the winners of the Scientist of the Year, the Administrator's EEO/CR Awards, the Technology Transfer Awards, the T. W. Edminster Awards, the Excellence in Information Awards, the ARS Secretary of the Year, and the AFM Support Awards for Excellence.	* The Ceremony is held in conjunction with the February AC Meeting. Awards presentation held in BARC Auditorium, Beltsville, MD				
USDA Secretary's Honor Awards	To annually recognize outstanding contributions to agriculture; to the consumers of agricultural products; and to the ability of the Department to serve rural America. The Honor Awards are the most prestigious awards that the Department can give. Employees at all grade levels and private citizens are eligible to receive these awards.	September	REE	October	November December (To OHRM)	June/July Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Washington, DC