

Long-Term Agro-Ecosystem Research (LTAR) Network

The USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is coordinating 10 of its well-established research watersheds and rangelands as a Long-Term Agro-ecosystem Research Network. These locations will engage in synergistic, network-wide research to address questions related to the condition, trends, and sustainability of agricultural systems and resources on large scales of space and time. Sustainable agricultural systems that provide a safe, nutritious, ample, and reliable food supply; produce bio-energy; provide essential ecosystem services; and mitigate climate change are needed for the well-being and welfare of future generations.

One of the sites in the Long-Term Agro-ecosystem Research Network is coordinated by the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory at Mandan, ND. Strategically located in the center of the northern Great Plains, the NGPRL has a 100-year legacy of research for the unique environment of the cold, semiarid northern Great Plains. NGPRL is one of the few ARS laboratories with crop, soils, rangeland, and livestock research capacity at the field and herd scale which is complemented by agricultural economics research expertise.

Enhanced resources in the ARS program initiative on Environmental Stewardship in the FY 2013 President's Budget will strengthen ARS' capacity to conduct network-wide research in diverse agricultural production systems and large drainage basins across the country, and to collect environmental data enabling integration and synthesis of findings with the Long Term Ecosystems Research (LTER) network and the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

The other nine sites of this LTAR network as currently formed are:

- 1) Ames, IA - The Upper Mississippi River Basin Experimental Watersheds
- 2) Cheyenne, WY - The Central Plains Experimental Range
- 3) Columbia, MO - The Goodwater Creek Experimental Watershed
- 4) El Reno, OK - The Little Washita River/Fort Cobb Reservoir Experimental Watersheds
- 5) Las Cruces, NM - The Jornada Experimental Range
- 6) Pullman, WA - The R.J. Cook Agronomy Farm
- 7) Tifton, GA - The Little River Experimental Watershed
- 8) Tucson, AZ - The Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed
- 9) University Park, PA - The Upper Chesapeake Bay Experimental Watersheds

Research activities for this LTAR network will be developed later in 2012.

[Long-Term Agroecosystem Research \(LTAR\) Network – more information](#)