

The USDA-ARS Sugarcane Research Unit recently welcomed Dr. James Todd as our new Research Geneticist. Please read the following article from the September 2015, Volume 93, Sugar Bulletin.

The Louisiana sugarcane industry has another reason to count its blessings. Dr. James Todd has joined the variety development team at the USDA station in Houma. He has been hired as a commercial breeder and will manage that aspect of the program.

Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, Dr. Todd received his Bachelor of Science and Masters in Biology from Midwestern State University. He became interested in plant genetics during an employment at a local nursery and decided to go for a PhD in plant genetics and breeding. He enrolled at Oklahoma State University studying switchgrass breeding. In spring 2012, he was hired by the USDA to study the world collection of sugarcane and related grasses (WCSRG). He published a study looking at the use of commercial cultivars in crossing using past genealogy data in collaboration with the Houma and LSU breeding programs. James then finished his work at Canal Point and acquired another post doc position with a team planting, harvesting and collecting energy cane, then analyzing the data from the energy cane program.