A Nationwide Network for Sustainable Working Lands

What Is LTAR
The Long-Term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR) Network is a partnership among 18 premier long-term research sites across the United States.

LTAR was established to build the knowledge required for sustainable intensification of agriculture, increasing yields from the current agricultural land base while minimizing or reversing agriculture’s adverse environmental impacts.

Network research is organized around topics of sustainability of regional or national consequence, relying upon long-term databases, cross-site experiments, and computational modeling to tie experimental and monitoring conclusions from diverse locations to a broader vision of agriculture for the United States.

Why It Is Important
Currently, most agricultural science in the United States focuses on improving productivity and efficiency. In contrast, the LTAR network has a multifaceted focus on satisfying increasing demand for agricultural commodities, protecting the quality of the environment, and enhancing the quality of life in rural areas and the Nation as a whole.

What Is Expected
The network is uniquely positioned to ensure sustained crop and livestock production and ecosystem services from the regional agroecosystems of the United States, and to leverage those local findings to support a national-scale transition to sustainable intensification.

Current Impacts
LTAR will provide information to producers, and policymakers at the local, State, and national levels regarding how innovation, incentives, and regulations may impact economic opportunity and the health of agricultural communities and landscapes.

https://ltar.nal.usda.gov/

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