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There are only a few weeks left in the [Feds Feed Families](#) (FFF) campaign, and ARS has already made an impressive showing. We are on track to beat last year's total of 67,105 lbs. of food, but we need everyone to pitch in to get us across the finish line. Please bring in nonperishable food, participate in a gleaning event, or donate produce from your garden to a local food bank. Why not put that extra food to good use?

If you would like to set up a gleaning effort in your community, here are some organizations that can help connect you with a producer with crops to glean:

- [Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network](#)
- [Society of St. Andrew](#)
- [Village Harvest](#)
- [Gleaning Network of Texas](#)
- [Gleaning Network of Southern Oregon](#)
- [Vermont FoodBank](#)

These organizations are all over the country. Try an Internet search for "gleaning program" and you're sure to find one near you. If you get a group together for a gleaning effort, be sure to have the donations weighed—most food banks are happy to do this for you—so that you can have that amount counted towards ARS's FFF donations. Email [Ellen Buckley](#) with your donation amounts or if you have any questions. ❀



www.ars.usda.gov/yourtwocents

Your Two Cents (Y2C)

Greetings from [Y2C](#)! Since the launch of the Concur travel system last month, we've been getting a lot of Y2C comments. We're looking for best practices from those who have used the system. Please go to our "[Spotlight Idea](#)" section and weigh in on Concur.

Please submit story ideas and national award items to Sue Kendall, sue.kendall@ars.usda.gov, or call 301-504-1623.

Please submit photos for Photo Corner to Carol Nathan, carol.nathan@ars.usda.gov, or call 301-504-1649.

Ethics Training on the Web

If you've always wanted to take some ethics training but haven't been able to attend a session in person due to scheduling conflict or other reasons, you'll be pleased to know that you now have the opportunity to do so. Available for viewing as webcasts are several pre-recorded ethics training sessions presented by Stuart Bender, Director of the USDA Office of Ethics. To receive credit in [AgLearn](#) for viewing these webcasts, please send an email to Science-Ethics@oe.usda.gov with your full name, the name of the webcast, and the date viewed.

Please click on the webcast you'd like to view in the following menu:

[Ethics and Leadership Training](#)

[Hatch Act and Political Activity Training](#)

[Job Seeking and Post-Government Employment Training](#)

[New Ethics Rules for Serving on Non-profit Scientific Societies and Non-profit Professional Associations](#)

[Training for Procurement Officials – Acquisition & Ethics Training](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the USDA Office of Ethics–Science Ethics Branch at Science-Ethics@oe.usda.gov or 301-504-4414. The Science Ethics Branch has a new [URL: http://ethics.usda.gov/science/](http://ethics.usda.gov/science/). Please bookmark it for future reference. ❀

Around ARS



Mangos on display at the 22nd Annual International Mango Festival. See [Photo Corner](#) for more.

Each year, the ARS Subtropical Horticulture Research Station (SHRS) in Miami, FL, partners with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in several outreach events, including the Chocolate Festival in January and the Mango Festival in July. The 22nd Annual International Mango Festival was held in Coral Gables, FL, on July 12-13, 2014. The theme this year was “Mangos of Colombia.” The 2-day program included a mango brunch, a series of lectures and workshops, culinary demonstrations, exhibits, auctions, and special activities for kids. SHRS Horticulturist **Tomas Ayala-Silva** presented a talk on “Pest and Disease Management in Mango.” See [Photo Corner](#). ❀

A group of 6th- and 7th-graders from the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery summer camp learned about sugarcane from scientists at the ARS **Sugarcane Research Unit** in Houma, LA, on June 6, 2014. Some 30 students were given a tour of the unit's Ardoyne farm and attended presentations and demonstrations on a variety of topics, including ARS's sugarcane breeding efforts. The young visitors toured the juice lab, where they were given cut sugarcane stalks to run through the roller mill, saw a juice collection demonstration, and learned how juice samples are analyzed. Throughout the day, the students asked probing questions and gave intelligent responses when asked questions about what they had learned. ❀

Linda Gunnell, a teacher with 32 years experience in the DeWitt School District near Stuttgart, AR, has been spending this summer at ARS's **Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center** (DBNRR), gaining real-world research experience that she can use in her classes. As a participant of the Arkansas STRIVE Program, Ms. Gunnell will be at the Center for 7-1/2 weeks, followed by 4 days at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The STRIVE Program places high-school science, math, and computer teachers in summer research positions with industries, government agencies, universities, and research facilities to provide them with hands-on experience to use in the classroom. Last year, Ms. Gunnell participated in the USDA Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program Future Scientists Program that helps teachers develop skills in teaching agriculture-based science. While at DBNRR, she provided ARS scientists valuable feedback on how to better communicate their science to the general public. As a result, two lab techniques were fine-tuned to better communicate that information to K-12 students and for use in future outreach events. Read more at the [Stuttgart Daily Leader](#). ❀



From left: Research Chemist Michael Tunick, part of the Sterling B. Hendricks Memorial Lecture Committee; 2014 Lecturer Robert T. Fraley, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Monsanto; and Acting Assistant Director Phil Heilman, Pacific West Area, who introduced the Lecturer.

The 2014 Sterling B. Hendricks Memorial Lecture, through which ARS honors researchers who have made significant contributions to the chemical science of agriculture, was held on August 12 during the [American](#)

[Chemical Society](#) (ACS) Fall National Meeting in San Francisco, CA. This year's lecture, "The Role of Innovation in Addressing the Challenges Facing Global Agriculture," was presented by Robert T. Fraley, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Monsanto. The Hendricks Lecture is co-sponsored by ACS's Agrochemical Division and Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division. For more information on how to nominate a candidate, visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/lectures/hendricks.htm>. ARS employees are not eligible. ❀

Botanist **Karen Williams**, with the ARS National Germplasm Resources Laboratory in Beltsville, MD, served as an instructor at the Crop Wild Relatives Workshop, part of the 2014 Zaagkii Wings and Seeds Project, sponsored by the Cedar Tree Institute in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Eastern Region, ARS, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Instructors from the Chicago Botanic Garden and Ferris State University also participated. Hosted by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Baraga, MI, on August 5-6, the workshop focused on the conservation of crop wild relatives—native plants that are closely related to food crops. Workshop attendees included representatives of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and USFS botanists. In addition to classroom presentations on crop wild relatives, hands-on field training was provided on the ARS-USFS protocols to study and collect samples of the two native species of cranberry that are of particular cultural, nutritional, and economic importance to Native American communities of the Upper Midwest. ❀

Research Molecular Biologist **Christian Klatt**, ARS Plant Science Research Unit, St. Paul, MN, participated in the Festival of Farms "Picnic Scientifique" Soil Field Day in Ramsey, MN, on July 12, 2014. About 50 people attended the event, which was sponsored by the [Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota](#). Klatt gave a presentation on current applications of genomic sequencing to understand soil microbial ecology. The Festival of Farms provided a forum for researchers, producers, and other interested citizens to get together and learn about sustainable agriculture, network within the community, and visit various farms across the state. ❀

On July 16 and August 13, the ARS Subtropical Horticulture Research Station (SHRS) in Miami, FL, held two mango harvests. In support of the [Feds Feed Families](#) (FFF) campaign, SHRS employees and volunteers collected and



ARS Subtropical Horticulture Research Station employees and volunteers harvest mangos to donate to a homeless shelter. See [Photo Corner](#) for more.

packaged 4,439 pounds of fresh mangos for donation—along with 540 pounds of canned and boxed food—to the Chapman Partnership in Homestead, FL, which operates a homeless shelter. SHRS staff also collected 30 lbs of pet food for the FFF pet drive. See [Photo Corner](#). ❀



Over 1,000 visitors were welcomed in Mandan, ND, on Friends and Neighbors Day. See [Photo Corner](#) for more.

Every July, the ARS **Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory** in Mandan, ND, opens its doors to the customers it serves on Friends and Neighbors Day. One of several outreach activities of the lab, this effort involves the entire staff and has grown into a major regional event. On July 17, 2014, nearly 1,000 people visited the century-old research campus. Visitors watched presentations including those given by scientists from ARS, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and North Dakota State University. Over 140 people spent the afternoon on tours of the ARS range, livestock, and cropping systems research. There were also special activities and crafts designed just for kids—our future scientists. The day was capped off with a public barbecue and live entertainment. The event was sponsored by the [North Dakota Area 4 Soil Conservation District's Cooperative Research Farm](#)—which celebrated its 30th year at the event—and was supported by over 80 organizations and agribusinesses. See [Photo Corner](#). ❀



Mary Beth Hall.

Research Dairy Scientist **Mary Beth Hall**, at ARS's U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, WI, has been selected to serve on a National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council committee that will be updating *Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle*, a widely used reference in the field of dairy cattle nutrition. The reference volume includes information on nutrient analysis of feed ingredients,

nutrient use by the animal, and formulation of diets. It also contains many useful tables on the nutrient composition for commonly used feedstuffs. Hall is the only ARS member on this committee. ❀

About 60 people attended the field day at the ARS Paterson Research Farm in Paterson, WA, on July 9, 2014. Devoted to the study of sustainable irrigated specialty crops and biofuel feedstocks, this annual event is jointly sponsored by ARS, Washington State University-Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (WSU-IAREC), and AgriNorthwest. Scientists and other staff members from the ARS Vegetable and Forage Crops Research Unit in Prosser, WA, gave presentations, including Research Leader **Ashok Alva**, who provided an update of the research conducted at Prosser, and Agronomist **Rick Boydston**, who was the ARS liaison for the event. Other presenters included faculty members and students from WSU and researchers from private industry. Attendees could earn two Washington State pesticide recertification credits. ❀

Research Entomologist **Ellen Lake** and Research Ecologist **Melissa Smith**, at the ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale, FL, conducted a program on biological control for 30 high school students in collaboration with the South



Students release biological control agents to combat Old World climbing fern. See [Photo Corner](#) for more.

Florida Water Management District on July 31, 2014. The students were enrolled in the Pine Jog Fellowship, a three-semester program of Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center that aims to develop young leaders who are knowledgeable about various environmental issues impacting South Florida. Under the guidance of Lake and Smith, the students released 14,400 Neo moths and 42,100 *Floracarus perrepae* mites on Old World climbing fern—the kudzu of the Everglades—to act as biological control agents. The mass rearing and release of biological control agents for Old World climbing fern is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The students were eligible to earn college credits for participating. See [Photo Corner](#). ❀

Notable Awards



Agnes Rimando.

Research Chemist **Agnes Rimando**, ARS Natural Products Utilization Research Unit, Oxford, MS, received two awards from the [American Chemistry Society \(ACS\)](#) during the society's Fall National Meeting on August 10-14 in San Francisco, CA. She was inducted as an ACS Fellow and also as a Fellow of ACS's [Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division](#). Rimando was recognized for discovering pterostilbene

in blueberries and new activities that help alleviate cardiovascular disorders and promote mental health. She was also recognized for her contribution to the ACS community, most notably for having served as chair and for currently serving as a councilor of the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, and as a member of the Committee on International Activities and chair of its Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific Basin. ❀

Marcus Kehrli, Director of the ARS National Animal Disease Center in Ames, IA, recently was selected to receive the Stange Award, the premier recognition given to Iowa State University veterinary medical alumni by the university's College for Veterinary Science. The award recognizes alumni who have made outstanding achievements in the areas of education, government, industry, practice, and other veterinary endeavors. ❀

Supervisory Research Plant Geneticist **Johnie N. Jenkins**, at the ARS Genetics and Precision Agriculture Research Unit in Mississippi State, MS, gave an invited presentation at the [National Association of Plant Breeders \(NAPB\)](#) Conference in Minneapolis, MN, on August 5-7. As the 2013 recipient of NAPB's Lifetime Achievement Award, Jenkins gave a talk entitled "From Depression Era Mules to the Moon and Back." ❀

Research Entomologist **Robert Danka**, ARS Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research, Baton Rouge, LA, received the James Hambleton Memorial Award for Research from the [Eastern Apicultural Society \(EAS\)](#) during the society's annual conference on July 28-August 1 in Richmond, KY. He also presented a talk on his unit's research. ❀

Research Plant Geneticist **JoAnn Lamb**, at the ARS Plant Science Research Unit in St. Paul, MN, was awarded an Honorary Membership in the [North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference \(NAAIC\)](#) during the joint NAAIC and Trifolium Conference on July 8-10, 2014, in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. The highest honor bestowed by NAAIC, the award recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to alfalfa improvement. ❀



JoAnn Lamb.

Retired ARS Hydraulic Engineer **Darrel M. Temple**, currently a collaborator at the ARS Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit in Stillwater, OK, was inducted as a Fellow of the [American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers \(ASABE\)](#) during the society's international meeting on July 13-16, 2014, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Temple was recognized for the advancements he made to the application of effective stress principles and erosion processes for the design and rehabilitation of vegetated channels, earthen spillways, and embankments. ❀

Retired ARS Research Geneticist **Sandy Reed** won the 2014 Porter Henegar Award at the [Southern Nursery Association \(SNA\)](#) Research Conference on July 22-24, 2014, in Atlanta, GA. Recently retired from ARS's Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit—part of the U.S. National Arboretum—in McMinnville, TN, Reed was recognized for her research, development, and introduction of improved cultivars through the Arboretum's breeding program. ❀

Thomson Reuters confers "Highly Cited Researcher" status on authors whose papers have been cited at least 1,000 times based on statistics compiled by that company. The following ARS scientists (present or past) are on the 2014 list in alphabetical order: **Gary R. Beecher, Mendel Friedman, Susan E. Gebhardt, James J. Giovannoni, David B. Haytowitz, Joanne M. Holden, Steven J. Lehotay, Kerry O'Donnell, Ronald L. Prior, and Paul M. Vanraden.** ❀



Photo Corner



Mango sampling at the 22nd Annual International Mango Festival in Coral Gables, FL. (See story in [Around ARS.](#))



ARS Subtropical Horticulture Research Station employees and volunteers harvest mangos to donate to a homeless shelter in support of the Feds Feed Families campaign. (See story in [Around ARS.](#))



Friends and Neighbors Day at the ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in Mandan, ND. (See story in [Around ARS.](#))



Research Leader Peter Teal gives Realty Specialist Lisa Baete a tour of the ARS Subtropical Horticulture Research Station in Miami, FL, on July 10, 2014.



Area Director Deborah Brennan, South Atlantic Area, tours the ARS Subtropical Horticulture Research Station in Miami, FL, with Research Leader Peter Teal on July 10, 2014.



A student releases biological control agents to combat Old World climbing fern. (See story in [Around ARS.](#))



From left: Research Leader Deepak Bhatnagar, Edward Avalos, USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Program Analyst Georgina Acosta during Avalos' visit to New Orleans, LA, to provide closing remarks at the Farm to Table International Symposium on August 2-4.

Did You Know?



First-graders study how different food choices and chemical scents affect insect behavior.

2014 marks the eighth year of “Pumping Up the Math and Science Pipeline: Grade School to College”—an innovative science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) educational outreach program developed and administered by Research Leader **David Weller** and Program Assistant **Kathleen Parker** at the ARS Root Diseases and Biological Control Research Unit in Pullman, WA, in cooperation with Washington State University-Pullman (WSU) and other partners.

“The goal of the program is enhance the flow of students from underserved and rural communities into STEM professions. We do this by engaging students of all ages in one-on-one and hands-on STEM education and other activities,” explains Weller.

One day each month, Pipeline participants from ARS, WSU, or other partner organizations teach STEM-related topics to fifth- through eighth-grade students at Nespelem School or Paschal Sherman Indian School on the Reservation of the Colville Confederated Tribes, about 150 miles northwest of Pullman.

Parker, who orchestrates the trips, says the visits include hands-on experiments related to soil erosion, chemistry, microbiology, plant science, and many other topics.

Personnel from other ARS labs in Pullman and WSU also participate. For example, Plant Geneticist **Ted Kisha**, with the ARS Western Regional Plant Introduction Station, teaches students how to extract DNA from banana cells using household items.

Other Pipeline program activities include a summer science camp, a high school research internship, mentoring, and career counseling for undergraduate students. Community outreach is another facet.

Fostering greater student interest in STEM professions among Native Americans and other underrepresented groups isn’t the only Pipeline goal, says Parker. Another is instilling a sense of confidence, pride, and teamwork in the students.

Weller and Parker are pleased to report that the program’s first “crop” of research interns from the class of 2007 have gone on to earn college degrees and then enrolled in graduate programs. Other interns are continuing their work in ARS Pullman labs.

“Our emphasis is on empowering the students to say, ‘Hey, I can do this,’” says Weller. But Pipeline participants also benefit. As a scientist, he adds, “It really enhances your research and improves your ability to communicate the importance of your work.”

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