



### “Your Two Cents” Generates Excitement

Since May 1, the “Your Two Cents” (Y2C) Response Team has received nearly 300 contributions through the Y2C program. Click here to view a [minute-long video](#) about the program.



The response to Y2C has been positive and the team is appreciative of the hard work of many people who have contributed so far. Many ideas and comments have already spurred people to action. You can track them on the [Y2C action list](#). You can also help with these actions by [sending in your best practices and sharing your good ideas](#). There is also a new feature that allows you to comment on topics and ideas already submitted and under discussion.

A few issues have overwhelmingly appeared since the program began on May 1 and will receive special notice and action over the next couple of months.

Many topics and ideas have been submitted since the program began on May 1. Most of these topics and ideas focus on the technician cadre in ARS, telework, and policy implementation across ARS locations. You can read more about them [here](#). The Y2C team will highlight the progress on these issues on September 17, which will mark the first 100 days of the Y2C program. There will also be an agencywide Web conference from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. (EST), so save the date!

### ARS Exhibits at USDA’s AgriCULTURAL Festival



Library Technician Ellen Mann helps a customer.

On June 25 at the People’s Garden in Washington, DC, two ARS exhibits helped highlight the influence of agriculture on American culture. ARS National Agricultural Library’s Special

Collections exhibit featured paintings of fruits and nuts native to the United States, as well as exotic fruits discovered by USDA plant explorers. It also included nursery and seed trade catalog cover designs showing the influence of different cultures on plants available to the American home gardener. ARS Information Staff’s (IS) exhibit addressed obesity as an important cross-cultural issue, sharing recent research on childhood obesity. IS staff also provided tips on how to access reliable nutrition information.



From left to right: Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-NY), Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Dr. Cary Fowler, Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ambassador Barry White, Rep. Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL), and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ).

A new collection of seeds from the USDA National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) in Fort Collins, CO, was delivered this month to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. The vault is on a remote Norwegian island near the North Pole and serves as a fail-safe backup to existing crop collections around the world. Samples include chili peppers, melons, peanuts,

beans, sesame, hibiscus, squash, gourd and 448 varieties of sorghum. The shipment was in conjunction with the visit of a seven-person bipartisan delegation from the U.S. Congress led by Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dick Durbin (D-IL). Other members of the bipartisan delegation were: Chris Smith (R-NJ), the Helsinki Commission's Ranking Republican; Senator Tom Udall (D-NM); Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-NY); Representative Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL); and Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX).



**ARS employees Renee Utt (left) and Tracy Havermann (right) accept a donation from ARS employee Suzanne Suchecki.**

July 22 was a hot, humid day in the heart of summer. It was also a great day for a Farmer's Market, and an excellent day for ARS headquarters staff to collect donations for the Capital Area Food Bank of Wash-

ington, DC. USDA's support of the "Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families" food drive inspired ARS employees to coordinate a fresh produce collection that coincided with the weekly Farmer's Market, which takes place every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, MD, from May through October. ARS employees, and even Farmer's Market vendors, donated armfuls of fresh produce to this worthy cause. All in all, more than 200 pounds of fresh produce were collected for hungry families in the Capital region—and in under 3 hours! The next produce collection will be at the Farmer's Market on August 26. Hope to see you there!

## ***Around ARS***

**Cyril Gay**, National Program Leader for Animal Health and Safety, will attend the American Veterinary Medical Association's 147th Annual Convention from July 31–August 1, 2010, in Atlanta, GA. He will present a talk entitled "Integrating our

National Foreign Animal Disease Research Program with the Needs of the Global Community." The convention covers a wide range of veterinary topics, including companion animal medicine, food animal medicine, veterinary technology, animal welfare and practice management.

On July 21, ARS and Forest Service scientists hosted a Webinar on emerald ash borer biological controls. The invasive emerald ash borer is now found in most Northeastern States, killing millions of ash trees throughout the region. Long-term strategies for managing the impact of this pest include developing biological control agents to control the pest. Research Entomologists **John Vandenberg**, ARS Biological Integrated Pest Management Research Unit in Ithaca, NY, and Leah Bauer with the USDA Forest Service in East Lansing, MI, presented their research results on microbial and arthropod biological control agents to woodlot owners and managers, extension and regulatory personnel, and the public via the Forest-Connect Webinar series hosted by Peter Smallidge, Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

**Joe Kozlovac**, ARS Biosafety Officer, gave a lecture at the Seventh Annual Biosafety and Biosecurity Training Course held July 10–12, in Fort Collins, CO. He was one of the presenters who discussed risk assessment, risk communication, risk management and case histories to improve biosafety management programs for research facilities.

**Mark Boggess**, National Program Leader for Animal Production and Protection, attended the Joint Annual Meeting for the American Society of Animal Science, American Dairy Science Association, Poultry Science Association, Asociación Mexicana de Producción Animal, and the Canadian Society of Animal Science held July 11–15, in Denver, CO. This meeting served as an international forum to discuss the future of animal agriculture.

Embrapa, the Brazilian Federal agricultural research agency, has a new initiative in aquaculture, which will include the establishment of the "Center for Aquaculture Research in Mato Grosso do Sul" in Brazil. **Jeff Silverstein**, National Program Leader for Aquaculture, International Affairs Specialist **Ryan**

**Moore** and Cooperator **Ladislau Martin**, ARS Office of International Research Programs in Beltsville, MD, toured aquaculture venues throughout Brazil this month. They discussed opportunities for collaborative research focused on alternative feed development and aquatic animal health.



**Cattle.**

**Steven Kappes**, ARS Deputy Administrator for Animal Production and Protection, attended the Beef Improvement Federation Research Symposium and Annual Meeting held June 28–30, 2010, in Columbia, MO, to discuss genetic advancements in beef production. Research Geneticist **Curt Van Tassell**, ARS Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory in Beltsville, MD, presented “Genomic Tools in Beef Cattle Selection,” and Research Geneticist **Mark Thallman**, ARS Genetics and Breeding Research Unit in Clay Center, NE, chaired the technical keynote session, “Advancements in Genetic Prediction.”

On June 29–30, 2010, **Joe Kozlovac**, ARS Biosafety Officer, chaired the Steering Committee that is planning the USDA-ARS First International Biosafety and Biocontainment Symposium, which will be held February 6–9, 2011, in Baltimore, MD. The symposium will include 2-1/2 days of presentations, roundtables, and keynotes. There will also be pre-symposium courses and exhibits of industry products and services.



**Stink bugs.**

On June 15–16, 2010, Research Entomologist **Tracy Leskey**, ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station (AFRS), in Kearneysville, WV, and Dr. George Hamilton, Professor of Entomology at Rutgers University in New Jersey, hosted a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Working Group Meeting at AFRS. The meeting was

attended by a team of researchers from the USDA-ARS Invasive Insect and Biocontrol Laboratory in Beltsville, MD, and the Beneficial Insects Introduction Unit in Newark, DE, as well as researchers and extension personnel from Rutgers University, the University of Delaware, the University of Maryland, Penn State University, the University of New Hampshire, and Virginia Tech. In addition, stakeholder representatives including regional tree fruit growers, an organic vegetable grower, a private pest control operator, and representatives from the hospitality industry attended the meeting. The meeting was designed to establish the threat posed by the invasive brown marmorated stink bug in high-value crops (such as tree fruit), in commodity crops and in the urban environment, and to establish priorities for further research and education efforts.



**Mrs. Vilsack (center) learns about NAL's collections. She is pictured with Susan Fugate (left) and Sara Lee (right) of the library's Special Collections.**

On June 16, 2010, **Christie Vilsack**, wife of **USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack**, toured the ARS National Agricultural Library (NAL) and met with NAL staff. Mrs. Vilsack learned about library acquisitions processes, browsed through nutrition resources, got a sneak

peek at some new offerings for beginning farmers, and took the reins to search DigiTop's NewsBank. She also chatted with reference staff and shared stories that touched upon her love of libraries and her Iowa roots. She was most enamored with the treasures from NAL's Special Collections, including its oldest book on plants, its most recent exhibit on war-era food posters, personal connections made through the Schimmelpfennig Family Mill Collection, and historical photos of Iowa farms.

The Federal Women's Program at the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center (ERRC) in Wyndmoor, PA, together with the Women in Natural Sciences Program at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, PA, initiated a summer outreach program for minority Philadelphia public school girls

who are interested in careers in science. The program, which was begun in 2008 by ERRC Property Management Technician **Bernadette DiAndrea** and Research Chemist **Moushumi Paul**, Dairy and Functional Foods Research Unit (DFFRU), Wyndmoor, PA, is helping young women choose careers in science and engineering. In a recent interview in the WINS newsletter, Demetra Davis, a first-year Chemical Engineering major at Penn State University, specifically credited this program with playing a role in her decision to study science and engineering. She chose Chemical Engineering after a discussion with Chemist **Audrey Thomas**, DFFRU, who highlighted different types of engineering and the many career paths available for engineers.

On July 12, **Daniel Strickman**, Acting Director, ARS European Biological Control Laboratory (EBCL), Montpellier, France, and EBCL Administrative Officer **Xavier Leprieur**, visited U.S. Consul General Kathleen Riley in Marseille. They discussed the functions, advantages, and challenges of EBCL, which generated many questions. Consul Riley was interested and impressed with the potential for interactions with French institutions and American visitors. She had already heard about USDA's "Feed the Future" Initiative because of the emphasis on international cooperation.

Agricultural Engineer **Tim Green**, ARS Agricultural Systems Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO, was selected to serve as 2011 Chair-Elect and 2012 Chair for the Soil Science Society of America's (SSSA) Soil Physics Division (S-1). S-1 is one of 11 SSSA scientific divisions.

Research Hydrologic Engineer **Jim Ascough**, ARS Agricultural Systems Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO, was elected Vice President of the International Environmental Modeling and Software Society at the general meeting of the society's 2010 conference in Ottawa, Ontario, held July 5–8.

## Notable Awards



**Samuels collects samples near the Marañon River of Peru.**

Botanist **Gary Samuels**, ARS Systematic Mycology and Microbiology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, was recently recognized by the Mycological Society of America as a "Distinguished

Mycologist," the highest honor awarded by that group. Samuels is being honored for 35 years of outstanding research on fungi. He developed one of the first online systems for identifying fungi; it provides descriptions and illustrations of *Trichoderma* species, many of which are commonly used as a biological fungicide. He has published approximately 215 peer-reviewed articles and is now working on an identification manual for the 100 most common species of *Trichoderma*, which combines morphological characteristics with DNA barcodes.

Research Physiologist **Sherrill E. Echternkamp** at the ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center's Reproduction Research Unit in Clay Center, NE, received the Fellow Award in Research from the American Society of Animal Science for distinguished service to animal science and the livestock industry. Echternkamp received the award at the society's joint annual meeting held July 11–15, in Denver, CO.



**Pictured from left to right: Uli Bernier, Morteza Zaim (WHO), Ken Linthicum, Hiroki Nakatani (WHO) and Gary Clark.**

The ARS Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology (CMAVE) has received a commemorative plaque from

the World Health Organization (WHO) for its significant contributions to insect vector control. A team of ARS scientists, including CMAVE Center Director **Ken Linthicum**, Research Leader **Gary Clark**, and Research Chemist **Uli Bernier**, with the ARS Mosquito and Fly Research Unit in Gainesville, FL, received the plaque on June 24, 2010, during the 50th anniversary celebration of the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Research Physiologist **Murray R. Bakst**, ARS Animal Biosciences and Biotechnology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, is being named a Fellow of the Poultry Science Association (PSA), the highest honor PSA bestows. He was honored for his distinguished contributions to the poultry science field at the society's joint annual meeting held July 11–15, in Denver, CO.



**Geraldine (Gerry) Huff.**

Microbiologist **Geraldine (Gerry) Huff**, ARS Poultry Production and Product Safety Research Unit, Fayetteville, AR, received the National Turkey Federation's 2010 Research Award for her dedication and excellence in providing the turkey industry with

empirical research on bacterial infections in turkeys. Huff was honored at the Poultry Science Association's Annual Meeting held July 11–15, in Denver, CO.

Co-authors Pinghai Ding and Les Fuchigami, Oregon State University and Plant Physiologist **Carolyn Scagel**, ARS Horticultural Crops Research Unit, Corvallis, OR, were awarded the American Society of Horticultural Sciences' (ASHS) Outstanding Cross-Commodity Publication Award for their research paper on "Simple Linear Regression and Reflectance Sensitivity Analysis Used to Determine the Optimum Wavelengths for the Nondestructive Assessment of Chlorophyll in Fresh Leaves Using Spectral Reflectance." They will be recognized at ASHS' annual conference to be held August 2–5, 2010 in Palm Desert, CA.

**Allison Yates**, Director of the ARS Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, Beltsville, MD, was named the Institute of Food Technologists' (IFT) Member of the Year for the Nutrition Division. The award was presented at IFT's annual meeting on July 19 in Chicago, IL.

The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) has named 12 individuals as 2010 ASABE Fellows. They were inducted at a ceremony on June 22, 2010, during ASABE's annual meeting, held in Pittsburgh, PA. To be considered, the individual must demonstrate unusual professional distinction, have outstanding qualifications and experience in the field of agricultural engineering, and have been an ASABE member for at least 20 years. Only about 2 percent of ASABE active members have achieved this honor. Research Leader **Robert G. Evans**, ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory, in Sidney, MT, and ARS Collaborator **John A. Reppogle**, ARS Arid Land Agricultural Research Center, in Maricopa, AZ, were awarded this honor.

In addition, Research Leader **Jeffrey G. Arnold**, ARS Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory, in Temple, TX, won ASABE's Hancor Soil and Water Engineering Award, and **Dennis C. Kincaid**, retired ARS Agricultural Engineer won the Heermann Sprinkler Irrigation Award.



**Harvested peanuts.**

Agricultural Engineer **Christopher L. Butts**, ARS National Peanut Research Laboratory, Dawson, GA, was named a Fellow of the American Peanut Research and Education Society (APRES) at its

2010 annual meeting in Clearwater Beach, FL, held July 13–15. Fellows are active members of the society who have made outstanding contributions in research, extension, or administration. Butts was recognized for his research to reduce operating costs and losses during peanut harvesting, handling and storage, and for his leadership in converting the

society's scientific journal, *Peanut Science*, from a print to electronic journal. He currently serves as Editor of *Peanut Science*.

Research Leader and Research Hydraulic Engineer, **Jim Bonta**, ARS North Appalachian Experimental Watershed, Coshocton, OH, was selected to receive the 2010 Outstanding Civil Engineering Alumni Award from The Ohio State University Civil Engineering Alumni Association. This award recognizes his achievements and service to the civil engineering profession as a graduate of Ohio State, and his contributions and accomplishments during his career with ARS. He will be honored on September 11, 2010, at Hitchcock Hall on the Ohio State campus.

## Did You Know?

Summer sports are underway—soccer, baseball, football, and golf—and sports fans are probably having discussions about their team’s chances of winning. One point of contention may be the impact field condition has on a team’s chances. Well, ARS scientists are just as interested in field conditions, but even more interested in which bugs are eating the field!

Mole crickets—tunneling pests that damage golf courses, recreational fields and lawns—are a top insect pest of lawns and turfs, and cost millions of dollars annually in damage and control. Scientists at the ARS Crop Genetics and Breeding Research Unit in Tifton, GA, in collaboration with their colleagues at the University of Georgia, developed and released TifEagle, a bermudagrass that resists these hungry pests.

This high-quality grass has short, narrow leaves, and a dense, fast-spreading root system, making it ideal for putting greens. The ideal putting green must be able to withstand the daily stress of close mowing, which gives the North’s cool-season bentgrass varieties their prized putting speed.

TifEagle’s lush, carpet-like canopy not only helps the ball roll faster and more smoothly, but it also “outhustles” algae and weeds—making it environmentally friendly, since less chemicals are needed to control them.

ARS scientists also developed and released TifSport, another bermudagrass that is cold-tolerant, has increased pest tolerance, turns green earlier in the spring and withstands frequent mowing. TifSport can also “take a pounding,” standing up to the stress and demands of major league sports—football, soccer, and baseball. Universities, high schools, local recreation departments and others across the South have installed TifSport on their athletic fields.

Game on!

Written by **Tara T. Weaver-Missick**, ARS Information Staff.



**Kenan Stadium’s Football Field at the University of North Carolina.**



**Sea Island Golf Club in St. Simons Island, GA.**



**Fairway at Eagle Point Golf Club, Wilmington, NC.**



**Georgia Tech’s Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, GA.**

Photos courtesy of Sam Williams, Georgia Seed Development Commission.

Please submit story ideas and national award items to Tara T. Weaver-Missick, [tara.weavermissick@ars.usda.gov](mailto:tara.weavermissick@ars.usda.gov) or call 301-504-1663.