



In This Issue:

Your Two Cents

Around ARS

Notable Awards

Photo Corner

Did You Know?



www.ars.usda.gov/yourtwocents

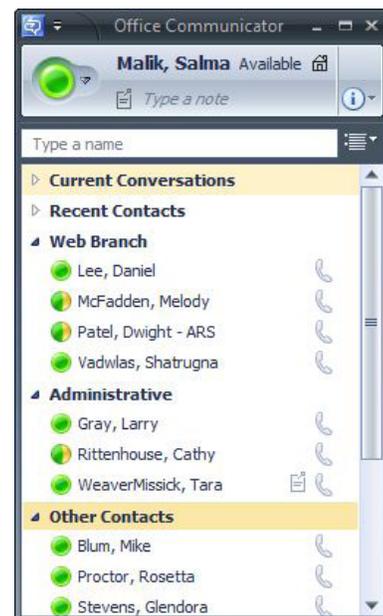
The [ARS Cultural Transformation](http://www.ars.usda.gov/culturaltransformation) site needs your videos! Our “[ARS Starring You](http://www.ars.usda.gov/starringyou)” feature has been woefully underutilized, and we need your help to change it! Visit us to find out more about what kind of videos we are looking for and submit yours today! You can take the videos on your video camera, smartphone, etc., and we will take care of the editing here. Thank you for your continued support of the [Your Two Cents \(Y2C\)](http://www.ars.usda.gov/yourtwocents) site, now into its third year! Stay tuned for news about an upcoming LIVE Y2C summit this fall—another opportunity for ARS voices to be heard.

Please submit story ideas and national award items to Sean Adams, sean.adams@ars.usda.gov, or call 301-504-1617.



Microsoft Office Communicator 2007 R2

With the launch of Microsoft Office Communicator, ARS employees are now able to work with one another more effectively. With features such as instant messaging and desktop sharing, Communicator enables you to collaborate with a single coworker or an entire team, whether you’re discussing projects or jointly editing a document. You can even “instant message” your colleagues at the Department level as well as at your sister agencies. With the current telework initiative, Communicator helps you stay in contact with one another regardless of location or time zone.



Just a quick glance at your contacts list will show you who’s available and who’s away. Communicator also offers a presence indicator, a feature that shows whether a contact is available, away, or offline. Presence status is set automatically based on your Outlook calendar and login status, and it also can be set manually from within the Communicator window. In addition to the client version, Communicator Web Access is available at <https://cwa.usda.gov>. For Communicator to work, you must be connected to USDA networks either directly or through VPN. For training resources, visit <https://arsnet.usda.gov/sites/ARS/OCS/default.aspx>. For help using this tool, contact helpdesk@ars.usda.gov. ❀

Around ARS

On June 9, 2012, the **ARS Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Research Laboratory (TCSHL)**, Poplarville, MS, hosted visitors and provided tours as part of the 29th Annual Blueberry Jubilee. Laboratory scientists and volunteers gave out information on blueberry research and led tours of the facility. Each year the Blueberry Jubilee attracts thousands of visitors, who enjoy arts, crafts, food and music that celebrate Poplarville as the “Blueberry Capital of Mississippi.” ❖

Staff from different ARS units, alongside coworkers from sister agencies in the Department, participated in the 2012 **Smithsonian Folklife Festival** on the National Mall, Washington, DC, held June 27-July 1 and July 4-8. Among them were team members from NAL’s **Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC)**, who educated families on building a healthy plate using **MyPlate** as a guide and gave cooking demonstrations, while teaching visitors about the role of USDA’s plant exploration program and nutritional values of the ingredients used. **ARS Information Staff** members also highlighted ARS research and provided hands-on, interactive activities at USDA’s **The People’s Garden**, held in conjunction with the Festival, as part of the celebrations for the 150th Anniversary. There were also other ARS exhibits at the Festival. ❖

Technical Information Specialists **D’Anna Jensen** and **Tim Allen**, NAL’s Animal Welfare Information Center, staffed an exhibit at JAM 2012, the Joint Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science and the American Dairy Science Association, July 15-18, in Phoenix, AZ. The meeting attracts thousands of scientists and researchers in the field of animal agriculture each year. ❖

SNAP-Ed Connection, part of NAL’s Food and Nutrition Information Center, recently launched an update of the Recipe Finder Database. The new “Build a Cookbook” feature allows users to create a personalized cookbook by selecting any of the nearly 600 low-cost, healthy recipes in the Recipe Finder. Pre-selected recipes, grouped by categories such as children’s favorites and fruits and veggies, are also available. Personalization options include cookbook title and choice of cover design. Completed cookbooks can be saved as a PDF file for viewing and printing. ❖

Notable Awards



Robert E. Davis.

Research Leader **Robert E. Davis**, ARS Molecular Plant Pathology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, was selected by the International Organization for Mycoplasma (IOM) as the 2012 recipient of the prestigious Emmy Klieneberger-Nobel Award for outstanding research in mycoplasma. Mycoplasma are unique microorganisms that cause a variety of plant and animal diseases. The award recognizes Davis’s distinguished career and contributions to fundamental science and practical solutions in agriculture and microbiology. The award was presented during the 19th Congress of the IOM, July 15-20, in Toulouse, France. Davis also is a member of the **ARS Science Hall of Fame**. ❖

Hydraulic Engineer **Ken Renard**, who retired from the ARS Southwest Watershed Research Center, Tucson, AZ, is being recognized by the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) with its highest honor, the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award. Renard is known for leading the development of the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), a computer implementation of the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE), for 10 years. The award will be presented during the 67th SWCS International Annual Conference, July 22-25, in Fort Worth, TX.



Ken Renard.

Other ARS scientists also will be honored during the same SWCS conference.

Microbiologist **Kristine A. Nichols**, ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND, will receive the 2012 Conservation Research Award from SWCS for her contributions to improvements in soil conservation, water conservation and related natural resources research.

Soil Scientist **Douglas R. Smith** and Research Hydraulic Engineer **Elizabeth Pappas**, ARS National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory, West Lafayette, IN, will receive the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation (JSWC) Best Research Paper Award for Impact and Quality for their 2007 paper, "Effect of Ditch Dredging on the Fate of Nutrients in Deep Drainage Ditches of the Midwestern United States." This award recognizes the impact and quality of a research paper published in JSWC in the previous 5 years.

Soil Scientist **Jorge A. Delgado**, ARS Soil-Plant-Nutrient Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO; Research Agricultural Engineer **Mark A. Nearing**, ARS Southwest Watershed Research Center, Tucson, AZ; and Soil Scientist **Newell R. Kitchen**, ARS Cropping Systems and Water Quality Research Unit, Columbia, MO, will receive the JSWC Editor's Choice Award for their article in the July 2011 issue. The award recognizes articles of excellence appearing in the A Section of the journal in the previous year. ❖

Research Agricultural Engineer **Mark Nearing**, ARS Southwest Watershed Research Center, Tucson, AZ, and the CEAP Grazing Land Team he led, are being honored with the 2012 American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Superior Paper Award for their paper on the new Rangeland Hydrology and Erosion Model developed by ARS and NRCS. The award presentation will take place during the ASABE Annual International Meeting on July 30 in Dallas, TX.

Also to be honored at the ASABE Meeting is Supervisory Agricultural Engineer **David Bjorneberg**, ARS Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Laboratory, Kimberly, ID. Bjorneberg has been selected as Outstanding Reviewer, Soil and Water Division. ❖

Research Leader **Tommy L. Wheeler**, ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE, has received the 2012 Signal Service Award from the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) in recognition of his devoted service and lasting contributions to the meat industry and to AMSA. The award presentation took place on July 19, during the 65th AMSA Reciprocal Meat Conference in Fargo, ND. ❖



ARS and the Oregon State University PRISM Group have received a Special Achievement in Geographical Information Systems (SAG) Award from Esri, Inc., for the 2012 version of the **USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map** (PHZM), available at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>. Since its release in January 2012, the PHZM site has attracted nearly a million visitors, with an average of between about 8,000 and 15,000 visitors every day. The USDA PHZM was one of 150 Geographical Information System (GIS) applications chosen from more than 100,000 Esri clients worldwide to receive the award. The award will showcase to the global GIS community ARS' and Oregon State's important contributions in GIS. The award will be presented during Esri's International User Conference on July 25 in San Diego, CA. About 12,000 to 14,000 GIS professionals from around the world are expected at the conference. ❖

Research Animal Scientist **Theodore H. Elsasser**, ARS Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, received the 2012 American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Award in Animal Growth and Development for his work with growth and hormone regulation in cattle. The award was presented at the ASAS National Meeting on July 15-19 in Phoenix, AZ.

Also honored at the ASAS Meeting was Supervisory Research Animal Scientist **Andy Cole**, ARS Renewable Energy and Manure Management Research Unit, Bushland, TX, who received the 2012 ASAS American Feed Industry Association Award in Ruminant Nutrition Research for his continued contributions in cattle nutrition. ❖



Photo Corner



Above photos: ARS Beneficial Insect Introduction Research Unit, Newark, DE, exhibiting on Ag Day at the University of Delaware, Newark, April 28, 2012.

Did You Know?



Many sunscreens provide protection against only one type of ultraviolet radiation, ultraviolet-B (UVB). In fact, current sun-protection-factor (SPF) values listed on sunscreens are actually based just on UVB protection, though that may change in the future.

Most of us use sunscreens to prevent sunburn, which is primarily caused by UVB. But the more health-conscious among us know that the other type of ultraviolet radiation, ultraviolet-A (UVA), is also important to our health and well-being. Consumers should look for sunscreens with ingredients that protect from both UVB and UVA.

In 2000, scientists at the ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR), Peoria, IL, first reported on a natural, soy-based sunscreen that protects from both types of solar radiation. The product, called “SoyScreen” at the time, was made from a technology that combined soybean oil with a natural antioxidant found in rice and oat bran. The soybean oil gave the antioxidant water resistance—an important quality for swimmers and others who exercise or work outdoors and need a product that won’t be sweated or washed off easily.

The SoyScreen technology was patented in 2002, and the first SoyScreen-containing commercial product came out in 2007 under the trade name “Feruloyl Soy Glycerides”

(FSG33). Though FSG33 is not currently in SPF-rated products, it is and has been used in a number of high-end skin- and hair-care products over the years.

Marketed as a broad-spectrum UV absorber, FSG33 faces challenges in the retail industry because it is costly to produce, limiting its current use to high-end, salon-type formulas. Consumers willing to pay extra can take comfort that the all-natural, soy-based sunscreen scored high on UVA protection at wavelengths that cause long-term exposure problems such as wrinkling and skin cancer, compared with several ingredients in commercial products.

Did you know that...

- The FDA established regulations, effective June 18, 2012, for a standard test for over-the-counter sunscreen products to determine which can be labeled as providing broad-spectrum UV protection?
- Sunscreens should be applied every 2 hours even if you are not swimming or perspiring?
- Swimmers and exercisers should apply sunscreens even more frequently?
- Sunscreens lose their potency over time? Last year’s bottle is not as effective as this year’s.

Written by **Bob Sowers**, ARS Information Staff.

Executive Editor

Sandy Miller Hays

Managing Editors

Sean Adams

Tara Weaver-Missick

Writer-Editor

Mina Chung

Editor-Designer

Carol Nathan

Contributors

Lori Bocher

Carol Durflinger

Jennifer Gilbert

Tracy Havermann

Philip Heilman

Salma Malik

Linda Neuenhahn

Tim Rinehart

Jody Shuart

Robert Sowers