



### In This Issue:

Around ARS

Your Two Cents

Notable Awards

Annual Recognition Program  
and Award Recipients

Did You Know?

## Around ARS



[www.ars.usda.gov/yourtwocents](http://www.ars.usda.gov/yourtwocents)

The time is almost here: *Your Two Cents* (Y2C) is getting ready to celebrate its 2nd birthday! How do you think we should celebrate? What would you like to see from us in the future? Give us **your input!** Have you visited the [ARS Cultural Transformation](#) site recently? This month's theme is "Managing, Working and Connecting in a Virtual Environment." Given the President's continued emphasis on the virtual workplace, now is a great time for you to check out the [resources](#) posted for your convenience on the site. ❀



On June 1, the **ARS Agricultural Research Station** in Salinas, CA, held an outreach event for 100 fifth-grade students, their parents and teachers from a neighborhood school, Los Padres Elementary. Research from aphids to weeds and everything in between was presented

by eight laboratories. Students and parents received seedlings and information about local ARS research and national youth programs. ARS scientists from the Station visited the classrooms 12 times during the school year, leading experiments and stimulating enthusiasm for agricultural sciences.



**Photos: Students from Los Padres Elementary, Salinas, CA, at an ARS outreach event.** ❀



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

USDA **National Agricultural Library** (NAL) joined other U.S. Government agencies in exhibiting at the Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security on May 18, 2012, in the Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, DC. NAL staff provided materials for distribution at the event. The Symposium, hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, took place in concurrence with the 2012 G8 Summit. **President Barack Obama** and **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton** were the keynote speakers. ❀



Harvesting the vegetables.

In support of the "Feds Feed Food Drive" Initiative and **USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's** "People's Garden Initiative," a group of generous employees at the **ARS U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory**, Fort Pierce, FL, started a garden to increase the availability of locally grown vegetables to the community served by the Treasure Coast Food Bank. Since the garden was established in July of last year, more than 6,000 pounds of fresh vegetables have been donated to the Food Bank. The garden is able to provide two seasons of vegetables because the growing season in the area is nearly 9 months long. This effort is a great benefit to the Food Bank, which can suffer fresh food shortages throughout the year. The feedback from the kitchens has been very supportive, and hundreds of Treasure Coast children are being provided healthy meals. The group plans to continue to adjust the garden system to increase the usable food harvested from the plots and use the green waste to feed livestock in the community, with the help of a local veterinarian who rescues farm animals. ❀



USDA employees and volunteers.

In support of the "Feds Feed Food Drive" Initiative and **USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's** "People's Garden Initiative," a group of generous employees at the **ARS U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory**, Fort Pierce, FL, started a garden to increase the availability of locally grown vegetables to the community served

## Rain Garden Sauk Prairie Community



Girl Scouts plant rain garden.

The **ARS U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center**, Madison, WI, established another **USDA People's Garden**, with the planting of the **Sauk Prairie Community Rain Garden** on June 9 at its research

farm near **Prairie du Sac**, WI. Local Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups participated in the planting. One of the Boy Scouts is making signs for the garden for his Eagle Scout project. Participating from the Center were Biological Science Technicians **Mary Becker**, **Kris Niemann** and **Diane Amundson**; Research Agronomist **Geoffrey Brink**; Management Agronomist **Rick Walgenbach**; Agricultural Information Specialist **Lori Bocher** and her husband, **Luke**; General Equipment Mechanic **Orie Eilertson** and his wife, **Kit**; Agricultural Supervisor **Brady Neuman**; and Agricultural Research Technician **Paul Sprosty**. ❀



ARS employees **Becker, Amundson, Neumann and Bocher**.

On April 26, 2012, Biological Science Laboratory Technician **Staci Ingram** represented the **ARS National Peanut Research Laboratory (NPRL)**, Dawson, GA, at the **Randolph County 4-H Ag Adventure Day**. Ingram presented a variety of NPRL research projects to students to increase their awareness of agriculture research in their community. ❀

The second edition of the *Manual of Techniques in Invertebrate Pathology* was recently published, with Entomologist **Lawrence Lacey**, who recently retired from the **ARS Yakima Agricultural Research Laboratory (YARL)**, Wapato, WA, as editor. A number of ARS scientists also contributed chapters based on their research expertise: Research Entomologist **James Becnel**, Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology, Gainesville, FL; Research Geneticist **S.F. Garczynski**, YARL, Wapato, WA; Microbiologist **Richard Humber**, ARS Biological Integrated Pest Management Research Unit, Ithaca, NY; Microbiolo-

gist **Mark A. Jackson**, ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria, IL; Research Entomologist **Stefan Jaronski**, Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory, Sidney, MT; and Research Entomologist **Joel Siegel**, San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, Parlier, CA. Since its initial publication, the *Manual* has become a fundamental tool in invertebrate pathology, and this second edition is a major update. ❀

## Notable Awards



From left: **Andy Newton** (Director, Science and Math Institute, Hartnell College), **Ana Ibarra**, **Isael Rubio**, **Carolee Bull** and **Phoebe Helm** (President, Hartnell College).

**Carolee Bull**, Research Plant Pathologist, ARS U.S. Agricultural Research Station, Salinas, CA, received the inaugural Mentor Award from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC) of California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB) for her achievements in mentoring students. Bull serves on UROC's Advisory Committee and is active in UROC's Mentor Training workshops. She helps place students with her fellow ARS researchers based on the students' knowledge and abilities. The students who intern at her laboratory not only acquire new research skills but also make actual contributions to ARS research priorities. Many of her mentees are now pursuing Ph.D. degrees, and some have even won prestigious awards. Two of Bull's interns, **Ana Ibarra** and **Isael Rubio**, recently received major honors.

**Ana Ibarra** won the 2012 Howard L. Frank Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the American Phytopathological Society (APS), the world's premier society studying plant diseases. The APS awards only one undergraduate fellowship (\$1,000) a year. Ibarra's honor is particularly

noteworthy because she is a student at Hartnell College, Salinas, CA, a largely Hispanic-serving community college, and she competed for the APS prize with students from major 4-year institutions. Read more about Ibarra in the [Monterey Herald](#).

CSUMB's own **Isael Rubio** was awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in March 2012, which will provide him with \$90,000 plus tuition and fees for 3 years of graduate education. Rubio said joining Bull's laboratory gave him his first exposure to plant pathology and attributes his NSF fellowship and his decision to pursue graduate studies largely to Bull's mentoring. ❀

Supervisory Microbiologist **Vijay K. Juneja**, ARS Residue Chemistry and Predictive Microbiology Research Unit, Wyndmoor, PA, received the 2012 Research and Development Award from the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT). Juneja was honored for his contributions to the understanding of food science. The award is one of IFT's top individual scientist awards and reflects the esteem with which the awardee's work is viewed by his or her peers. A leading authority on food safety research, Juneja has made significant contributions to multiple areas within the broad discipline of food safety microbiology, including a series of groundbreaking publications on microbiological safety of minimally processed foods and predictive microbiology. The award was presented during the 2012 IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo, June 25-28, in Las Vegas, NV. ❀

Research Entomologist **Franklin H. Arthur**, ARS Stored Product Insect Research Unit, Manhattan, KS, received the Recognition Award in Entomology from the Entomological Society of America's (ESA) North Central Branch for his significant contributions to agriculture through the field of entomology. Arthur was recognized during ESA's North Central Branch meeting, June 3-6, in Lincoln, NE. ❀



**Franklin H. Arthur.**

**Sandra Ball**, Information Technology Specialist, USDA National Agricultural Library's Animal Welfare Information Center, was named one of 11 Honorable Mentions in the 2012 OPEDA Unsung Heroes Award Program. OPEDA (Organization of Professional Employees, U.S. Department

of Agriculture) bestows the Unsung Hero Award to those USDA employees who have demonstrated extraordinary effort in performing tasks enthusiastically, who have unselfishly shared time and expertise, and who have consistently and willingly helped customers. Ball's name was announced during OPEDA's program on May 14, 2012, where awards were presented to the 11 finalists. Over 140 nominations were received this year. ❖

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cloud Services Innovation Platform (CSIP) project—a partnership project of NRCS, ARS, and Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO—has been named a 2012 Computerworld Honors Laureate. Using the Object Modeling System (OMS), developed by Research Leader **Laj Ahuja**, ARS Agricultural Systems Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO, and his ARS colleagues, CSIP makes possible remote application of models. The NRCS CSIP project was nominated for the award by Sheeran/Jager Communications for Eucalyptus Systems in the Economic Development category. The 2012 Computerworld Honors Laureates were honored at a ceremony and dinner on June 4 in the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. ❖

A review article on the use of repellents to control insect-borne diseases co-authored by **Dan Strickman**, ARS National Program Leader for Veterinary, Medical and Urban Entomology, Beltsville, MD, received "Editor's Choice" honors for June from the journal *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*. The monthly selection is based on particular noteworthiness and/or likeliness to appeal to a broad readership. Strickman's article is being featured on the journal's homepage. Co-authored by Mustapha Debboun, Department of Preventive Health Services, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, TX, the review article is entitled "Insect Repellents and Associated Personal Protection for a Reduction in Human Disease." ❖

## Annual Recognition Program and Award Recipients

*The 2011 awards were presented in a ceremony on June 12 in the Building 003 Auditorium, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD.*

### *Distinguished Senior Research Scientist*

**Edward S. Buckler**, North Atlantic Area, Ithaca, NY, for pioneering novel genetic approaches allowing identification of individual genes that control complex agronomic traits for revolutionizing crop improvement and design.

### *Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Research Scientist*

**Christina L. Swaggerty**, Southern Plains Area, College Station, TX, for innovative, application-driven research to enhance the safety, security, and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply.

### *T.W. Edminster Research Associate Award*

**Leah Whigham**, Northern Plains Area, Grand Forks, ND, for the outstanding proposal "Breath Biomarkers for Assessment of Energy Balance and Substrate Utilization."

### *Area Senior Research Scientists*

**Marcus E. Kehrli, Jr.**, Midwest Area, Ames, IA, for sustained excellence in animal health research contributions and leadership.

**David C. Goodrich**, Pacific West Area, Tucson, AZ, for innovative scientific advances in eco-hydrology, leadership in interdisciplinary research, and integration of science into decisionmaking and policy for science-based watershed management.

**Kevin B. Jensen**, Northern Plains Area, Logan, UT, for sustained productivity in the development and release of forage cultivars and germplasms that are having a major impact on the western United States.

**Gillian Eggleston**, Mid South Area, New Orleans, LA, for the development and transfer of technologies preventing postharvest bacterial deterioration of sugarcane and sugar beet, and substantially increasing the efficiency of sucrose processing.

**Bosoon Park**, South Atlantic Area, Athens, GA, for pioneering research in hyperspectral and real-time multi-spectral imaging, and nanotechnology for food safety.

**Jeffrey G. Arnold**, Southern Plains Area, Temple, TX, for development of the SWAT model and other hydrologic and water-quality support tools to solve major water resource conservation and management problems worldwide.

**Craig S.T. Daughtry**, Beltsville Area, Beltsville, MD, for pioneering research in theory and applications of remote sensing for assessing crops and soils.

### Area Early Career Research Scientists

**Adam S. Davis**, Midwest Area, Urbana, IL, in recognition of far-reaching contributions in the development of economically and environmentally sustainable management of weeds in field crops and managed natural areas.

**Daniel Cook**, Northern Plains Area, Logan, UT, for novel and rigorous scientific investigations of physiology and chemotaxonomy of toxic plants, and teamwork with other members of the research unit and collaborators.

**Lance Cadle-Davidson**, North Atlantic Area, Geneva, NY, for partnering with the grape industry to identify genetic solutions to powdery mildew and forming research collaborations to advance grape pathology, genetics, and genomics.

**Julia Wei Pridgeon**, Mid South Area, Auburn, AL, for inventing efficacious vaccines to protect fish against major bacterial diseases and for inventing molecular pesticides to protect people from vector-borne diseases.

**B. Todd Campbell**, South Atlantic Area, Florence, SC, for innovative crop science research advances combining genomics and plant breeding.

**Monica Santin-Duran**, Beltsville Area, Beltsville, MD, for conducting outstanding research to discover pathogens of public health concern in food animals.

**Eric W. Jackson**, Pacific West Area, Aberdeen, ID, for revitalizing oat genomics research in North America through exceptional scientific creativity and partnerships. (Eric W. Jackson is no longer with ARS.)

### Technology Transfer Awards

In **Outstanding Efforts Award** was presented to the **Rice-Based Frying Batters in Commerce Team** for the enhanced utilization of rice-based frying batters in commerce. The team includes **Fred Shih** and **Kim Daigle**, Mid South Area, New Orleans, LA; and Wayne E. Swann, Ron Friedman, Roch Kallmyer, John Howell, and Ray Jones, CrispTek, Columbia, MD.

**Superior Efforts Awards** were presented to the following individuals and teams:

**Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman**, Pacific West Area, Tucson, AZ, for developing a new product to safely and effectively control Varroa mites in honey bee colonies.

**Gregory Holt**, Southern Plains Area, Lubbock, TX, for the development and transfer of technology to utilize cotton gin byproducts for biodegradable packaging and insulation board.

**Wheat Improvement Team**, for the development, release, and adoption of specialty wheat varieties for farmers, millers, and bakers, and for organic local foods in North Carolina. The team includes **David Marshall**, **Myron Fountain**, **Lynda Whitcher**, and **Charlie Glover**, South Atlantic Area, Raleigh, NC; and Bill Brown, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

**Trout Grains Project**, for development of improved rainbow trout and plant-based trout feed for U.S. aquaculture. The team includes **Ken Overturf** and **Rick Barrows**, Pacific West Area, Hagerman, ID.

A **Sustained Effort Technology Transfer Award**, **Outstanding Efforts Award** was presented to the **Canal Point Sugarcane Variety Selection Team**, for the sustained transfer of high-yielding CP sugarcane varieties to Florida, and internationally, and the transfer of variety selection procedures to Central America. The team includes **Jack Comstock**, **Serge Edmé**, **Barry Glaz**, **Neil C. Glynn**, **Duli Zhao**, **Jimmy D. Miller** (retired), and **Peter Y.P. Tai** (deceased), South Atlantic Area, Canal Point, FL; R. Wayne Davidson, Florida Sugar Cane League, Clewiston, FL; Robert Gilbert and Ronald Rice, University of Florida, Belle Glade, FL; Leslie Baucum, University of Florida, LaBelle, FL; James M. Shine, Jr., Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative, Belle Glade, FL; Raul Perdomo, Gerald Powell, Barney Eiland, and Modesto Ulloa, Florida Crystals Corporation, West Palm Beach, FL; and Michael S. Irey and Chen-Jian Hu, United States Sugar Corporation, Clewiston, FL.

**Sustained Effort Technology Transfer Awards, Superior Efforts Awards** were presented to the following individuals and teams:

**Benjamin F. Matthews**, Beltsville Area, Beltsville, MD, for the development of “MiniMax” and associated growing and transformation procedures. “MiniMax” is a soybean cultivar developed specifically for research and education to universities and research laboratories.

**Larry Stanker**, Pacific West Area, Albany, CA, for the development of monoclonal antibody technology to detect the antibiotic ceftiofur and its metabolites in milk.

The **Forage and Range Research Laboratory Team**, for development and transfer of improved plant materials for increased productivity, conservation, reclamation, renovation, and restoration of western U.S. semiarid rangelands and pastures. The team includes **Jack E. Staub, Thomas Jones, Kevin Jensen, Kay Asay** (retired), and **Douglas Dewey** (deceased), Northern Plains Area, Logan, UT.

### *Administrator’s Outreach, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity Awards*

The **Supervisory/Managerial Category** award was presented to the **Bacterial Epidemiology and Antimicrobial Resistance Research Team** in recognition of excellence in promoting diversity in ARS, mentoring students, and participating in student career and temporary employee programs. The team includes **Mark Berrang, Paula Fedorka-Cray, Charlene Jackson, Jonathan Frye, Richard Meinersmann, and Mark Englen**, South Atlantic Area, Athens, GA.

The **Non-Supervisory/Non-Managerial Category** award was presented to the **Beltsville Area Diversity Taskforce** for successfully organizing an 1890 Symposium and Student Discovery Garden that will promote the vision of a diverse workforce, and unleashing the power of diversity to higher levels. The team includes **Edith Blackwell, Eton Codling, Verneta Gaskins, Martha Tomecek, and Lewis Ziska**, Beltsville Area, Beltsville, MD.

### *Excellence in Information Award*

**Stanislaw Kosecki**, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD, for sustained excellence in developing and delivering critical information services: DigiTop, DigiCALS, DigiTopDB, and bibliometric research results.

### *Office Professional of the Year*

**Lynne Pearson**, Pacific West Area, Davis, CA, for continuous outstanding administrative support to the Crops Pathology and Genetic Research Unit, Davis, CA.

### *Administrative and Financial Management (AFM) Support Awards for Excellence*

The **AFM Gold Award for Excellence** was presented to the **Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Unit (ABADRU) Team** for enhancing animal disease research effort by ensuring availability of outstanding facilities for high-containment research. The team includes **James Adrianos, JoAnne Gresens, and Kimberly Plummer**, Northern Plains Area, Manhattan, KS; **Lisa Baete, Marcie Currie-Gross, Elisa Dawdy, Bonnie King, Jim Quaratino** (retired), **Kathi White, Mike Wiggett, and Jim Wiltse**, Northern Plains Area, Fort Collins, CO; and **Marilyn Stetka and Keli Martin**, Human Resources Division, AFM, Beltsville, MD.

The **AFM Silver Award for Excellence** was presented to **Veronica Laird**, Pacific West Area, Albany, CA, for leadership as Area Director Secretary that enhanced the effectiveness of office professionals and customer service in the Pacific West Area.

One of two **AFM Bronze Awards for Excellence** was presented to **Nancy L. Sparks**, South Atlantic Area, Raleigh, NC, for leading users of the new financial system (FMMI) through the various processes, resulting in a better understanding of the system.

The other **AFM Bronze Award for Excellence** was presented to **Chevon Gibson**, Administrative and Financial Management, Beltsville, MD, for developing and implementing various tools to improve business processes and delivery of Human Resources services. ❀

## Did You Know?



Nothing says summer like juicy, ripe peaches! And ARS scientists work really hard to provide new and improved peach varieties to those who love this wonderful stonefruit.

ARS scientists have released several new peach varieties in the past few years, among them Summerfest, FlavrBurst, and Gulfcrimson. Summerfest and FlavrBurst were created by

Horticulturist **Ralph Scorza** at the ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville, WV, and were released through cooperative research with Adams County Nursery, Inc. in Aspers, PA. Gulfcrimson was developed by Horticulturist **Thomas Beckman** at the ARS Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory in Byron, GA, in cooperation with the University of Georgia and the University of Florida.

Summerfest is a high-quality, freestone peach with an excellent balance of sweetness and acidity. Harvested in the middle of peach season (mid-August in the Mid-Atlantic States), Summerfest has good firmness, which is important for shipping.

FlavrBurst is also a high-quality, freestone peach that has a good amount of sweetness, but it is lower in acidity than typical peach varieties. FlavrBurst thus may be more suitable for those who cannot tolerate acidic fruits but still enjoy a “peachy” flavor. Classified as dessert peaches, Summerfest and FlavrBurst are best eaten fresh, but they can also be used for baking pies.

A peach suitable for the fresh market, Gulfcrimson ripens from mid to late May. It was developed to help growers in the southeastern portion of the country to reliably provide peaches without the usual amount of winter chilling other peach varieties require. Without a certain number of hours winter chilling, peach trees can’t produce fruit. Gulfcrimson requires just 400 hours of chilling, compared with the 650 hours needed for another popular peach, June Gold.

---

### Peach Salsa (Makes two cups.)

#### Ingredients:

2 cups peach, pit removed and diced  
 1 cup tomatoes, diced  
 1 small shallot  
 1 teaspoon jalapeño, to taste  
 1 tablespoon fresh cilantro  
 1 tablespoon juice from fresh lime  
 1 teaspoon lime zest  
 Dash of freshly ground pepper  
 Pinch of nutmeg  
 Honey, to taste

#### Directions:

Dice peaches; remove skin if it is too tough or fuzzy. Dice tomatoes, shallots and jalapeño. Chop cilantro. Place first 5 ingredients in a non-reactive bowl. Add lime juice, lime zest, pepper, nutmeg and honey. Stir and refrigerate for 1 hour before serving. Use on poultry, fish or as dip.

*Recipe and story by Sharon Durham, ARS Information Staff.*

---

### Contributors to this issue:

We thank the following individuals for contributing stories, ideas, photographs and their time to this issue:

Sean Adams	Tracy Havermann
Lori Bocher	Sandy Miller Hays
Carolee Bull	Vijay Juneja
Mina Chung	James McCreight
Carol Durlinger	Carol Nathan
Sharon Durham	Dan Strickman
Jennifer Gilbert	Tara T. Weaver-Missick