



On November 12, ARS launched its newly redesigned agency Web site (www.ars.usda.gov). The agency Web site is one of the major communication tools for sharing and disseminating information to the public. Kudos to the ARS Web Project Team—**Daniel Lee (OCIO)**, **Jill Lake (OCIO)**, **Sandra Gutierrez (OCIO)**, and **Tara Weaver-Missick (Information Staff)**—for a successful launch! Also, special thanks to **Andrea Krieg (Information Staff)** for developing the graphic design elements on the site and to **Rhonda Sampson (OCIO)** for developing the Web style sheets and for helping to implement a new, much-needed search function. The ARS Web site boasts an average of more than 13,000 “visits” per day. The [ARS Web Team](#) is continuing to make minor fixes and improvements to the site—so please be patient!

The new ARS Web Sites Policy and Procedures (#030) is available at <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/ppweb/PDF/030.pdf>.

In This Issue:

- Your Two Cents**
- Around ARS**
- Notable Awards**
- Did You Know?**

[Click here for HTML version.](#)

Your Two Cents (Y2C)



www.ars.usda.gov/yourtwocents

As ARS employees continue to work hard to catch up after the Federal Government shutdown, [Your Two Cents](#) encourages you to submit questions, ideas, and any concerns. The leadership is committed to responding to your communications as a top priority and within a relatively short time. Let us know if we can help! The [Cultural Transformation](#) (CT) Team is busy working on the CT Action Plan for 2014, and it will be the Team's most aggressive effort yet. One priority will be to form new, strong lines of communication with the Human Resources Division and other offices to ensure the success of CT efforts in ARS in the coming year. As always, the Team wants to hear from you, so please continue to [email](#) us and let us know your plans and activities! The ARS Intranet launch has been pushed back by the shutdown, as well as by some other administrative and technical issues. Beta testing has resumed, and the issues are being addressed. Stay tuned for updates about the launch! ❀

Please submit story ideas and national award items to Mina Chung, mina.chung@ars.usda.gov, or call 301-504-1653.

Around ARS

On September 18, 2013, a group of high school students attended Scientist for a Day, a daylong hands-on program run by ARS's **U.S. Dairy Forage Research**



Research Agronomist Geoff Brink explains the importance of silage density to students hand-packing silage samples.

Center, Madison, WI. Of the 24 students attending the event, 19 said they were more likely to consider a career

in agricultural or scientific research as a result of their experience. ARS staff led the students in four activities related to sustainable agriculture: measuring the phosphorus runoff from various barnyard surfaces, hand-packing silage, learning about genetically modified plants, and studying the rumen contents of lactating cows.



Biological Science Lab Technician Jan Pitas prepares rumen microbes for viewing under a microscope.



Soil Scientist Peter Vadas and a curious heifer watch students collect barnyard runoff samples.



Participants and organizers at the Sustainable Management of Soil and Water Resources Workshop in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

At the invitation of [CRDF Global](#), the ARS Office of International Research Programs (OIRP), led by Director **Ibrahim Shaqir**, helped plan and organize the Sustainable Management of Soil and Water Resources Workshop on September 16-18, 2013, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Co-sponsored by the UAE National Research Foundation, the 3-day event included presentations and discussions by ARS scientists; scientists from the University of Maryland, North Carolina State University, and the University of Florida; and those from Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, and UAE. Organizing Committee Members: ARS; **Kristofer Dodge** (OIRP) and **Ali Sadeghi** (HRSL), Beltsville, MD. Outside ARS; **Siri Oswald** and **Tara Caton** (CRDF Global) and **Adel Shirmohammadi** (UMD). Also appreciate participation of Mary Leigh Wolfe (Virginia Tech), Richard Wayne Skaggs (NCSSU), Rafael Muñoz-Carpena (U. of Florida), and Jim Ayars (ARS). ❀

Colin Wakefield and Sean McGranaghan—the two high school students mentored at the ARS **Animal Disease Research Unit**, Pullman, WA—were selected to present their research poster at the 2013 National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention, October 30-November 2, in Louisville, KY. While at ARS, Wakefield and McGranaghan worked on a project entitled “Leukocyte Sensitivity in Bighorn vs. Domestic Sheep.” The project was among the 15 state winners in Washington selected to compete in the National FFA competition. ❀

Thirteen graduate students and two professors from Drexel University’s Hospitality Management, Culinary Arts, and Food Science Department visited the ARS **Eastern Regional Research Center (ERRC)** in Wyndmoor, PA, on November 1. The students, who were enrolled in the Functional Food Science Seminar at Drexel, and their professors attended presentations by ERRC scientists and toured the Pilot Plant and Sustainable Biofuels and Co-Products Research Unit. Several students expressed interest in internship opportunities at ERRC. ❀

The first of a planned series of webinars offered by the ARS **Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center (BHNRC)**, Beltsville, MD, was held on September 24, 2013. Entitled “Balancing Sodium and Potassium Intake for Disease Prevention and Optimal Health,” this inaugural BHNRC webinar was attended by around 1,500 dietitians, physicians, nurses, educators, and other professionals from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, as well as those from 34 other countries. Continuing education credits were offered to eligible participants. ❀

Notable Awards



Kenneth Linthicum, top row, second from right, is among the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (Sammies) finalists and winners honored by President Barack Obama in the East Room of the White House on October 23, 2013. Official White House photo by Pete Souza.

Center Director **Kenneth J. Linthicum**, ARS Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology, Gainesville, FL, joined other 2013 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America (Sammies) Medalists and Finalists in a White House meeting with President Barack Obama on October 23, 2013, to formally honor their contributions. Linthicum’s work at ARS helps to make the world a safer place for humans and livestock by detecting debilitating and life-threatening diseases. In recognition of his contributions, the Partnership for Public Service named him one of the 2013 finalists for the National Security and International Affairs Medal. During the White House meeting, each honoree had an opportunity to shake the President’s hand and tell him a little about his or her work and impact. The Sammies pay tribute to America’s dedicated Federal workforce, recognizing those individuals who have made significant contributions to the Nation. Honorees are selected for their commitment and innovation, as well as for the impact of their work on addressing the needs of the Nation. ❀

The [American Society of Agronomy](#) (ASA), the [Crop Science Society of America](#) (CSSA), and the [Soil Science Society of America](#) (SSSA) held their joint 2013 International Annual Meetings in Tampa, FL, on November 3-6, during which the three societies honored their respective members for their contributions. Awards received by ARS scientists are listed by society.

American Society of Agronomy (ASA)

The following ARS scientists were named **2013 ASA Fellows**: Research Scientist **Scott Bradford**, ARS U.S. Salinity Laboratory, Riverside, CA; Research Plant Physiologist **H. Arnold Bruns**, ARS Crop Production Systems Research Unit, Stoneville, MS; Research Agricultural Engineer **Prasanna H. Gowda**, ARS Conservation and Production Research Laboratory, Bushland, TX; Research Soil Scientist **John L. Kovar**, ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames, IA; Research Agronomist **Robert B. Mitchell**, ARS Grain, Forage, and Bioenergy Research Unit, Lincoln, NE; and Supervisory Soil Scientist **Sharon Papiernik**, ARS North Central Agricultural Research Laboratory, Brookings, SD.



Scott Bradford.



Prasanna H. Gowda.



Arnold Bruns.



John L. Kovar.



Rob Mitchell.



Sharon Papiernik. ❀



David C. Nielsen.

Research Agronomist **David C. Nielsen**, ARS Central Great Plains Research Station, Akron, CO, received the Carl Sprengel Agronomic Research Award for career achievement in agronomic research. ❀

ARS Research Hydrologist **Casey Kennedy**, at the University of Massachusetts Cranberry Station work site in East Wareham, MA, received the 2013 Environmental Quality Section Inspiring Young Scientist Award. The award recognizes professionals who have made an outstanding contribution toward sustaining agriculture through environmental quality research, teaching, extension, or industry activity within 7 years of completing their highest degree. ❀



Casey Kennedy.

Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)



Guihua Bai.

The following ARS scientists were named **2013 CSSA Fellows**: Research Molecular Geneticist **Guihua Bai**, Center for Grain and Animal Health Research, Manhattan, KS; Research Agronomist **Barry Glaz**, ARS Sugarcane

Production Research Unit, Canal Point, FL; and Supervisory Research Geneticist **C. Corley Holbrook**, ARS Crop Genetics and Breeding Research Unit, Tifton, GA. ❀



C. Corley Holbrook.



Daryl Klindworth.

The paper “Resistance to Race TTKSK of *Puccinia graminis f. sp. tritici* in Emmer Wheat,” co-authored by three ARS scientists and two non-ARS scientists, received one of two 2013 Outstanding Papers in Plant Genetic Resources awards. The ARS authors were Research Geneticist **Steven S.**

Xu and Plant Geneticist **Daryl L. Klindworth**, ARS Cereal Crops Research Unit, Fargo, ND, and Research Plant Pathologist **Yue Jin**, ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory, St. Paul, MN. ❀



Steven S. Xu.

Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)



Kevin Bronson.

The following ARS scientists were named **2013 SSSA Fellows**: Research Scientist **Scott Bradford**, ARS U.S. Salinity Laboratory, Riverside, CA; Research Leader **Kevin Bronson**, ARS Water Management and Conservation Research Unit, Maricopa, AZ; Research Soil Scientist **Ray B. Bryant**, ARS Pasture System and Watershed Management Research Unit, University Park, PA; Research Agronomist **David C. Nielsen**, ARS Central Great Plains Research Station, Akron, CO; Supervisory Soil Scientist **Sharon Papiernik**, ARS North Central Agricultural Research Laboratory, Brookings, SD; Soil Scientist **Dennis J. Timlin**, ARS Crop Systems and Global Change Laboratory, Beltsville,

MD; Research Soil Scientist

Merle F. Vigil, ARS Central Plains Resources Management Research Unit, Akron, CO; and Research Soil Scientist **Ted M. Zobeck**, ARS Wind Erosion and Water Conservation Research Unit, Lubbock, TX.



Ted Zobeck.



Dennis Timlin.



Merle F. Vigil.



Research Leader **Lajpat R. Ahuja**, ARS Agricultural Systems Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO, received the 2013 International Soil Science Award for his achievements in international collaborations in soil science research. ❀

Research Soil Scientist **Steven R. Evett**, ARS Soil and Water Management Research Unit, Bushland, TX, received the Don and Betty Kirkham Soil Physics Award. ❀



Steven R. Evett.

Agricultural Engineer **Robert W. Malone**, ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames, IA, received the L.R. Ahuja Ag Systems Modeling Award. ❀



Robert Malone.

Research Soil Scientist **Mark D. Tomer**, ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames, IA, received the America/New Zealand Soil Science Professional Exchange Award. ❀



Mark Tomer.



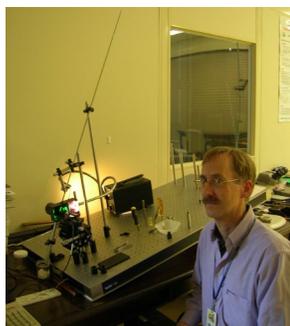
Mark Nearing.

On October 15, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD) presented the 2012 Bronze Medal Award to the Water Quality Climate Assessment Tools Team, whose members include Research Agricultural Engineer **Mark Nearing** and Research Hydraulic

Engineer **Dave Goodrich**, both with the ARS Southwest Watershed Research Center in Tucson, AZ. The 12-member team was recognized for developing tools, data products, reports, and methods geared toward helping water resource managers respond to a changing climate. The award was presented at the 32nd Annual ORD Honor Awards Ceremony. ❀



David Goodrich.



Stephen Delwiche.

Research Agricultural Engineer **Stephen Delwiche**, ARS Food Quality Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, received the Edith A. Christensen Award from the [American Association of Cereal Chemists International](#) (AACCI) for his contributions in near-infrared spectroscopy-based methods, statistical guidance on collaborative study trials,

and 20 years of leadership on AACCI's Approved Methods Committee. Delwiche also was selected for the 100th Anniversary Harald Perten Award for outstanding cereal crop science presented by the European International Association for Cereal Science and Technology. The awards were scheduled for presentation at AACCI's Annual Meeting on September 29-October 2, 2013, in Albuquerque, NM. ❀



E. John Pollak.

Center Director **E. John Pollak**, ARS's U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE, was recognized in the September 2013 issue of [Beef Magazine](#) as one of the Top 50 Industry Leaders over the past 50 years. While at Cornell University, Pollak was instrumental in developing and leading the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Carcass Merit Project and was instrumental in the establishment of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium. From 2003 to 2010, he served as the director of the Consortium. ❀

Center Director and Entomologist **Steven Naranjo**, ARS Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center, Maricopa, AZ, Research Entomologist **Richard Hellmich**, ARS Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research, Ames, IA, and Location Coordinator **Jian Duan**, Beneficial Insects Introduction Research, Newark, DE—along with seven other team members—received the 2013 IPM (Integrated Pest



Steven Naranjo.



Richard Hellmich.

Management) Team Award sponsored by the Entomological Foundation of the [Entomological Society of America](#) (ESA) and DOW AgroSciences. The team was honored for their contribution to significantly enhancing environmental risk assessment of beneficial non-target arthropods in genetically modified Bt crops through research, outreach, and implementation. The other organizations represented by the team members were Agroscope-Switzerland, Cornell University, the Center for Environmental Risk Assessment, Syngenta-UK, Innovative Environmental Services-Switzerland, Purdue University, and Pioneer Hi-Bred. The award was presented at ESA's annual meeting in Austin, TX, on November 10-13. ❀



Jian Duan.

Did You Know?



William Saunders.

On November 19, 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address, standing at his shoulder was William Saunders, First Superintendent of Experimental Gardens of the newly created U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Saunders was there because he was the designer, at Lincoln's request, of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at

Gettysburg being dedicated that day.

It was a first-of-its-kind battlefield memorial, with each grave equally marked only by flat, grey granite rectangles. Saunders also created extensive plantings to frame the site's vistas, specifying uncommon trees and shrubs, many of which he himself had recently introduced to this country.

The extensive landscaping, coupled with the absence of grand headstones or sculptures, was unique—never previously seen in the United States or Europe.

But Saunders' connections to ARS go far beyond that. His devotion to introducing thousands of new plants foreshadowed ARS's mission of germplasm collection and preservation. His introductions included the Japanese persimmon, the *Eucalyptus globulus* tree, the Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*), the camphor tree, one of the first magnolia trees in Washington, DC, and 300 varieties of winter-hardy apples from Russia—which had a profound effect on apple growing in the Northeast.

The most impactful may have been a remarkable seedless navel orange from Bahia, Brazil. Two of the seedlings went to Riverside, CA, as a potentially useful crop. The orange was eventually named the "Washington navel orange," and "This new, large, sweet and seedless fruit was ... largely responsible for the development of many new cities, fruit packing houses, inventions in boxing

machines, fruit wraps and the iced railroad car," as recounted in *A History of the Parent Washington Navel Orange Tree*.

Because the Washington navel orange is indeed seedless, every one of today's millions of trees is a graft from one of those original two, of which one is still alive and producing in Riverside.



Even more importantly, Saunders established the standard for systematic evaluation and reporting about the characteristics of the thousands of new plants being introduced into the United States. His codified guidelines set the standard to which ARS and other research organizations adhere today.

Saunders' manuscripts and journals are part of the Special Collections at the National Agricultural Library.

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