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### **The 2012 Combined Federal Campaign Needs Your Support!**

Cupcake sales, auctions, luncheons, and more—the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) fundraising season is in full swing. Our staff numbers are down due to buyouts, retirements, etc., but ARS employees will continue to give. In spite of the tough economy over the past few years, you have continued to be generous with cash donations, as well as food donations for lunch events and donations for book sales and auctions. We need you even more this year!

President Kennedy established CFC over 50 years ago as a national giving program for Federal employees. Now comprising over 200 local campaigns across the United States and abroad, CFC has become the largest and most successful workplace philanthropic fundraiser in the world! Since 1961, Federal employees have raised nearly \$7 billion for CFC charities of their choice.

You can choose from thousands of local, national, or international charities. Make a one-time gift using your credit card, debit card, or electronic check...or arrange for a monthly payroll deduction for as little as \$1 a pay period. Online giving is easy and saves administrative costs. Seventy percent of CFC's revenue comes from small donations, so every gift counts.

The CFC theme this year is "Choose Hope." I hope you *choose* to give *hope* to those in need. You can come to an event to donate.

What will motivate you to give this year? There are tens of thousands of people who will never know your name, but they will be forever grateful for the difference your generosity has made to their lives.

Give today! This year's campaign ends on December 15. Ask your CFC keyworker for more information. Thank you!

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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.

## Around ARS

### Your Two Cents (Y2C)



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

Hopefully by now you have had a chance to check out the [ARS Cultural Transformation](#) site on your mobile device. Remember, we are soliciting videos from you to share your own personal cultural transformation experience on “[ARS Starring You](#).” So far we have two up there... and we need more! The agency needs to hear from you... so get out your video camera, camera phone, etc.... and submit a video. You'll have to sign in with your ARS login information. We will take care of the editing. Click [here](#) to get started. [Your Two Cents \(Y2C\)](#) hosted a webcast on October 4 to share with ARS employees the progress we have made in 2-1/2 years, and how we are making plans for Y2C's future. Click [here](#) to watch an interview with ARS Associate Administrators Chavonda Jacobs-Young and Caird Rexroad, and see what the leadership said about Y2C. ❀

On September 14-15, 2012, the Web and Reference Team of the National Agricultural Library's **Food and Nutrition Information Center** (FNIC) exhibited at the pre-race Health Expo for the Philadelphia Marathon. An estimated 20,000 people attended the event, which was open to the public, at the Philadelphia Convention Center. Team members answered nutrition and diet questions, using resources from the Nutrition.gov and FNIC Web sites, and promoted the two recently released FNIC videos on farmers' markets and teaching kids how to prepare healthy meals. ❀

## Notable Awards

The 64th Annual USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony was held on September 12, 2012, in the Jefferson Auditorium of the USDA South Building, Washington, DC. The theme this year was “Celebrating 150 Years as ‘The People's Department.’” The most prestigious awards presented by USDA, the Secretary's Honor Awards Program recognizes outstanding contributions to agriculture, the environment, consumers, and rural America.

The **Your Two Cents Team**—led by Staff Officer **Sharon Drumm**, ARS Administrator's Immediate Office, and Area Director **Larry Chandler**, ARS Northern Plains Area—received an award for creating, establishing, maintaining, and continually upgrading the culture-changing employee feedback and communications forum in ARS' Your Two Cents, which facilitates inclusion for employees and continuous improvements for ARS.

The **Business Services Transformation Team**—led by ARS Associate Administrator **Caird Rexroad** and ARS Associate Deputy Administrator **Lisa Baldus**—was recognized for leading successful transformation of Research, Education, and Economics business services into virtual centers that effectively use limited staff, reduce costs, and capitalize on new technologies to enhance work performance.

Research Leader **Donald P. Knowles**, ARS Animal Disease Research Unit, Pullman, WA, was recognized for leading research on controlling re-emergent foreign animal diseases in the United States and in building a national and international research community that is training the next generation of agricultural scientists.

The **Maize Genetic Diversity Research Group**—led by Research Plant Geneticist **Edward Buckler**, ARS Plant, Soil and Nutrition Research Unit (PSNRU), Ithaca, NY—was recognized for pioneering research on development and application of innovative genetic and genomics-based tools to exploit genetic diversity in corn to improve corn yield potential in the United States and developing countries. Other members of the group are Computational Biologists **Peter Bradbury** and **Doreen Ware**, PSNRU, Research Plant Geneticists **Sherry Flint-Garcia** and **Michael McMullen**, ARS Plant Genetics Research Unit, Columbia, MO, and Research Plant Geneticist **Jim Holland**, ARS Plant Science Research Unit, Raleigh, NC.

**Richard Brenner**, ARS Assistant Administrator for Technology Transfer (retired), and **Robert Griesbach**, ARS Deputy Assistant Administrator for Technology Transfer, were recognized for creating the Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnership (ATIP) program and using the ATIP network to provide rural farmers and businesses with USDA technology-based solutions to their regional agricultural problems.

The **STEC Team** was recognized for excellence in leadership to protect the U.S. food supply through timely development and implementation of a robust science-based program for controlling non-O157:H7 Shiga toxin-producing pathogenic *E. coli* in beef. Led by two FSIS

scientists, the STEC Team included four researchers at the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, PA— Research Leader **Pina Fratamico**, Research Chemist **Marjorie Medina**, Microbiologist **Anna Porto-Fett**, and Research Microbiologist **Jamie Wasilenko**.

The **Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2) Task Force** was recognized for its work in delivering on several key goals outlined by President Obama and highlighted in Secretary Vilsack’s strategic plan for USDA.

Also, a team co-led by Research Microbiologist **John B. Luchansky**, ARS Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, PA, won a Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Honor Award for exceptional collaboration in the development and implementation of research to characterize *Listeria monocytogenes* prevalence and levels in ready-to-eat foods.

See **Photo Corner** for photos of Secretary's Honor Award winners. ❀

Several ARS scientists were honored during the joint annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America on October 21-24 in Cincinnati, OH.

Botanist **David Spooner**, ARS Vegetable Crops Research Unit, Madison, WI, received the 2012 Frank N. Meyer Medal for Plant Genetic Resources Award from the Crop Science Society of America.



**Martin Shipitalo.**

Research Agricultural Engineer **Timothy R. Green**, ARS Agricultural Systems Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO; Research Soil Scientist **Martin Shipitalo**, ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames, IA; and Research Leader **Merle F. Vigil**, ARS Central Great Plains Research Station, Akron, CO, were inducted as Fellows of the American Society of Agronomy.

**Shipitalo** and Research Soil Scientist **Mark A. Liebig**, ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND, were inducted as Fellows of the Soil Science Society of America.



**Mark A. Liebig.**

Research Soil Scientist **Liwang Ma**, ARS Agricultural Systems Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO, received the American Society of Agronomy’s Environmental Quality Research Award.

Research Molecular Geneticist **Guihua Bai**, ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research, Manhattan, KS, was presented the Tengtou Agricultural Science Award by the American Society of Agronomy for contributions to Chinese agriculture with an emphasis on plants.



**Anthony R. Buda.**

Research Hydrologist **Anthony R. Buda**, ARS Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit, University Park, PA, received the 2012 Soil Science Society of America’s Division S-06 Young Scholar Award. ❀

On October 3, the ARS **Environmental Management System (EMS) Team** in Fort Collins, CO, received a Gold Leader Award from the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) for superior environmental performance that went beyond the requirements of environmental regulations and moved toward the goal of sustainability. The program is open to all Colorado businesses, industries, schools, government agencies, and other organizations. ❀



From left: Fort Collins EMS Team member Heather Gossel, Colorado Environmental Leadership Program Head Lynnette Myers, and Fort Collins EMS Team coordinator Shanna Henk.

Research Leader **Laj Ahuja**, ARS Agricultural Systems Research, Fort Collins, CO, and his team received the 2012 CO-LABS Governor's Award for High-Impact Research in the area of sustainability for their project "A Cropping System Model to Manage Limited Water and Climate Change for Food Production in Colorado." Formal award presentation took place on October 25. CO-LABS is a consortium of federally funded scientific laboratories, universities, businesses, local governments, and community leaders working together to establish Colorado as a global leader in research. ❀



Badal Saha.

Research Chemist **Badal Saha**, ARS Bioenergy Research Unit, Peoria, IL, was inducted as Fellow of the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology during its annual meeting in Washington, DC,

August 12-16, 2012. A past president of the Society, Saha was honored for distinguished career accomplishments and dedication to the advancement of the applied microbiological sciences. ❀

Research Leader **Stephen O. Duke**, ARS Natural Products Utilization Research Unit, Oxford, MS, received an award from the Brazilian Weed Science Society for outstanding contributions to Brazilian weed science, and for helping to train—and for collaborating with—Brazilian weed scientists. Duke was formally honored at the 28th Congress of the Brazilian Weed Science Society, September 3-6, 2012, in Campo Grande, Brazil. ❀

Technology Transfer Coordinator **Thomas Valco**, ARS Jamie Whitten Delta States Research Center, Stoneville, MS, recently received the 2012 Mayfield Cotton Engineering Award from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers for his outstanding contributions and leadership to the cotton industry through research, education, extension and technology transfer. ❀



Thomas Valco.

On September 27, 2012, Librarian **Melanie Gardner**, National Agricultural Library's Agricultural Network Information Center (AgNIC)—along with representatives of the Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences and the Penn State University Library—received the First Place National Internet Education Award from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The award recognizes the team's achievement in discovering 4-H and Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) research studies, analyzing the studies, publishing the results, and making the data available on two Web sites. ❀



# Photo Corner

See related announcements in [Notable Awards](#).



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (left) and Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (right) with Richard Brenner (center), Mrs. Brenner, and Robert Griesbach at the USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony September 12, 2012.



Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (left) and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (right) with Donald P. Knowles at the USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony September 12, 2012.



Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (first row, left) and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (first row, right) with the STEC Team at the USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony September 12, 2012.



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (first row, left) and Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (first row, center) with the Your Two Cents Team at the USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony September 12, 2012.



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (first row, left) and Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (first row, center) with the Business Services Transformation Team at the USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony September 12, 2012.



Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (left) and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (right) with three of the six members of the Maize Genetic Diversity Research Group—Michael McMullen, Edward Buckler, and Sherry Flint-Garcia—at the USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony September 12, 2012.



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (first row, center) and Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (first row, center) with the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Task Force at the USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony September 12, 2012.

## Did You Know?



We all know salads are good for us, even if we don't always eat enough vegetables. But did you know that ARS has played a leading role in making sure that there are plenty of high-quality lettuces of different colors and types available for your favorite salad?

As part of its extensive lettuce breeding program,

ARS scientists have developed many disease-resistant lettuce varieties. Lettuce is susceptible to many viruses and other pathogens that cause wilts, dieback, and other diseases. Helping U.S. farmers fight back against these diseases is even more crucial when you consider that nearly all the lettuce consumed in the United States is produced domestically. In fact, two states—California and Arizona—produce more than 90 percent of the country's commercial lettuce.

ARS researchers at Salinas, CA, have led the way in making sure your favorite lettuce makes it to the salad spinner. For example, they've developed iceberg lettuce breeding lines that are resistant to the viruses that cause "lettuce big vein" and lettuce mosaic. These viruses can cause major losses in fields with susceptible varieties.

ARS researchers in Salinas have released three new leafy lettuce breeding lines with resistance to corky root, a serious bacterial disease of lettuce. And they've developed seven new iceberg lettuce breeding lines with resistance to bacterial leaf spot, which causes major problems in California. In spite of all the interesting, colorful, and diverse lettuce types we see in the stores, iceberg lettuce is still the most popular lettuce eaten in America.

ARS researchers in Salinas have also come up with the world's first leafminer-resistant green leaf lettuce. Leafminers are flies that lay eggs on lettuce leaves. The larvae that hatch from the eggs then bore into the lettuce, causing extensive leaf damage if left unchecked.

So the next time you bite into a crunchy lettuce salad, you'll know that ARS researchers played a role in making it happen.

### Did you know that...

- U.S. production of fresh head lettuce in 2010 was 5.4 million pounds?
- U.S. per capita consumption of lettuce in 2010 was 17 pounds?

Source: [USDA Economic Research Service](#)

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