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

New ARS Web Site Scheduled To Be Unveiled In the New Fiscal Year

After overcoming many technical challenges that delayed our planned launch of the new ARS Web site in early spring, the site is scheduled to go live at the beginning of the new fiscal year! ARS's new site conforms to USDA's Web Standards and Style Guide (2.0), which was updated August 2013 to address new regulations on using logos/marks/identifiers in agency products. An agency-wide announcement is coming in October. ❀



www.ars.usda.gov/yourtwocents

Your Two Cents (Y2C)

[Your Two Cents \(Y2C\)](#) continues to be a conduit of information for ARS employees, not only as a direct line of communication to ARS leadership, but also as a way to share important information about the budget and agency happenings—like the retirement of Administrator Dr. Edward B. Knipling, a 46-year veteran of ARS! Keep those ideas and best practices coming! The [Cultural Transformation \(CT\)](#) Team is busy working on the CT Action Plan for 2014, and this will be their 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 ARS Cultural Transformation efforts 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 Team is happy to announce the beginning of beta testing—bringing us that much closer to our launch at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Stay tuned! ❀

Around ARS



Tiny tots proudly showing the kale they grew.

The ARS Plant Genetics Research Unit in Columbia, MO, has supported the [People's Garden](#) initiative since the program was initiated 5 years ago. And since 2012, the unit has been collaborating with the University of Missouri's Science Education Center, Human Development and Family Studies Department, and its Child Development Lab to teach children where their food comes from and how plants can be grown to produce food for families

in need. Children from the Child Development Lab, all between 1 and 5 years old, have been very involved with all aspects of the garden including planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. The children visit the garden once a week to work in the garden and experience its seasonal changes. They take a sample of the harvest back to the classroom to study, explore, and taste, while the majority is donated to the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. Together, ARS staff and the children grow a wide variety of herbs, vegetables, and flowers, and over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce was donated to the food bank. ❀

On August 3, 2013, ARS's National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR) in Peoria, IL, participated in a special community day called "Science Rocks! Celebrating



Children learning cool stuff from NCAUR employees at the Science Rocks! event.

Peoria as a Place of Invention" in the new Peoria Riverfront Museum. Forty-five NCAUR research staff representing each of the Center's seven management units gave ten interactive demonstrations of research

projects and the basic science behind them, as well as a presentation highlighting the role the lab played in the mass production of penicillin during World War II. The



NCAUR employees teaching children fun stuff at the Science Rocks! event.

event was an opportunity for the nearly 75-year-old lab to educate the public on the types of research it conducts. Drawing over 2,000 attendees, the event was part of a partnership between the two organizations to contribute to an upcoming exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. ❀



Research Dairy Scientist Wayne Coblenz giving a talk to visitors at Agronomy Field Day in Marshfield, WI.

On August 14, 2013, the ARS Environmentally Integrated Dairy Management Research Unit in Madison, WI, participated in the Agronomy Field Day at Marshfield, WI, along with collaborators at the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Research Station. About 70 farmers attended the event. Research Microbiologist **Mark Borchardt** offered free well water nitrate testing at the event. Research Dairy Scientist **Wayne Coblenz** gave a talk on management of fall-grown oat for forage. Research Soil Scientist **Bill Jokela** gave a presentation on the effects of different nutrient management and cropping systems on the loss of nutrients in surface runoff. ❀



Visitors viewing a display at the ARS U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center's drive-through tour in Madison, WI.

On August 24, 2013, ARS's U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center (USDFRC) in Madison, WI, set up a display for a drive-through

tour of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, which included the USDFRC farm (2,006 acres). Viewed by more than 200 visitors, the display described how the USDFRC has been improving the land and conducting relevant research at the site since 1980. The tour was organized by the USDFRC farm's new neighbor, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, as part of the Department's master planning process for the future Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. ❀

On July 31, 2013, ARS received 130 acres of irrigated crop land in Kimberly, ID, from the Beet Sugar Development Foundation (BSDF). Following an ARS sugarbeet research field day, a proclamation from BSDF was read at a ceremony conveying the land transfer. Representing BSDF were John Schorr, its president, and Tom Schwartz, its executive vice president. ARS Area Director **Andrew Hammond**, Pacific West Area, and Research Leader **Dave Bjorneberg**, ARS Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Laboratory, Kimberly, ID, accepted the land on behalf of ARS and thanked BSDF for the gift, as well as for their long-time support of ARS research. ❀



BSDF President John Schorr, left, and Area Director Andrew Hammond.

For 5 weeks this summer, Research Chemist **Wayne Zeller**, Research Plant Geneticist **Heathcliffe Riday**, and Biological Science Lab Technician **John Raasch**—all at ARS's U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, WI—mentored two high school students participating in the University of Wisconsin's [PEOPLE](#) (Pre-College Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence) program. [PEOPLE](#) is a pipeline for low-income and minority students. ❀

The **SNAP-Ed Connection** team, part of the National Agricultural Library's Food and Nutrition Information Center, exhibited at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals' Galaxy IV Conference September 17-19 in Pittsburgh, PA. Held every 5 years, the conference brings together the entire Extension system. Most of the approximately 2,500 conference attendees work within the Extension system, and many are Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) educators. ❀

Notable Awards

On September 11, ARS honored **Rufus L. Chaney**, **Sarah Hake**, and **David W. Ramming**—the 2013 ARS Science Hall of Fame inductees—in a ceremony at the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC. **Chaney**, Senior Research Agronomist, ARS Environmental Management and Byproduct Utilization Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, was honored for internationally recognized research and science applications relating to reducing risks to human health and environmental quality. **Hake**,



Rufus L. Chaney.



Sarah Hake.

Center Director, ARS Plant Gene Expression Center, Albany, CA, was recognized for pioneering research and leadership leading to the discovery of genes that regulate plants and improve agricultural productivity. **Ramming**, Research Horticulturist (retired), ARS San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, Parlier, CA, was recognized for pioneering research and leadership in developing

superior table grape, raisin, and stone fruit cultivars responsible for U.S. industry growth and consumer satisfaction. ARS established its Science Hall of Fame program in 1986 to recognize agency researchers for their outstanding lifelong achievements in agricultural sciences and technology. Visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov/careers/hof/> to learn about past inductees and view interviews with some of the honorees. ❀



David W. Ramming.



Renfu Lu.

Supervisory Agricultural Engineer and Research Leader **Renfu Lu**, ARS Sugarbeet and Bean Research Unit, East Lansing, MI, was inducted as a Fellow of the [American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers](#) at its Annual International Meeting in Kansas City, MO, July 21-24, 2013. ❀

Research Plant Pathologist **Mark Mazzola**, ARS Tree Fruit Research Laboratory, was inducted as a Fellow of the [American Phytopathological Society](#) (APS) in recognition of his distinguished contributions to plant pathology and to APS. Research



Mark Mazzola.



Mark Berhow.

Research Chemist **Mark Berhow**, ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria, IL, and Research Chemist **Gillian Eggleston**, ARS Southern Regional Research Center, New Orleans, LA, were inducted as Fellows

of the [American Chemical Society](#) (ACS) during the Fall ACS National Meeting, September 8-12, in Indianapolis, IN. At the same meeting, Research Agronomist **John H. Grabber**, ARS Dairy Forage and Aquaculture Research



Gillian Eggleston.

Unit, Madison, WI, received the 2013 ACS *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* Research Article of the Year Award Lectureship in the area of agrochemistry. The other two coauthors of the [article](#) are Dino Ress and John Ralph, both with the University of Wisconsin at Madison. ❀



John Grabber.



APS President Mike Boehm, left, and Jack Comstock.

Plant Pathologist **Jack C. Comstock**, ARS Sugarcane Field Station, Canal Point, FL, received APS's International Service Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to plant pathology by APS members for countries other than their own. The two

awards were presented during APS's annual meeting on August 10-14, 2013, in Austin, TX. ❀

Mandy Kendrick, a former postdoc in ARS's Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit in Fort Detrick, MD, won best speaker in the postdoctoral category in this year's National Interagency Confederation for Biological Research Spring Research Festival. Kendrick's initial postdoc position was from the 2008 T.W. Edminster Award presented to Research Molecular Biologist **Kerry Pedley** at Fort Detrick. Kendrick also has been working as an Iowa State University postdoctoral fellow in Pedley's lab the past two years. The annual Spring Research Festival is sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Frederick and Fort Detrick to acquaint fellow researchers, students, and the community at large with the important discoveries being made at the facility to fight cancer, AIDS, and other infectious diseases. ❀



Photo Corner



Agricultural Science Research Technician Jeff Breeding plants beets on a rainy day in Kimberly, ID.



Research Geneticist Nagaraj Chatakondi shows a fully mature channel catfish to hatchery employees at a commercial catfish breeding facility in Mississippi.



Research Geneticist Nagaraj Chatakondi, in foreground holding fish, provides hands-on training to employees at a commercial hybrid catfish hatchery in Arkansas.



Chemical Engineer Akwasi Boateng, center, gives a talk to visiting foreign researchers about his biofuels research at the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center in Wyndmoor, PA.



Agronomist Melanie Harrison-Dunn, left, gives visiting foreign researchers a tour of the cold storage room in the ARS Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit in Griffin, GA.



Research Leader Kevin Hicks, center, shows visiting foreign researchers the pilot scale fermentation equipment at the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center in Wyndmoor, PA.



Research Leader Tim Strickland, left, and Research Plant Geneticist Bill Anderson, right, talk to visiting foreign researchers about cotton, sweet sorghum, and winter crop rotations in Tifton, GA.

Did You Know?



Sometimes called “nature’s most nearly perfect food,” milk is a mainstay on the grocery list of millions of consumers, who’ll be happy to hear the upbeat forecast for milk production.

The USDA expects record-high levels of U.S. milk production this year—202.1 billion pounds. That’s up from 200.3 billion pounds in

2012 and 196.2 in 2011. The good news continues for 2014 with estimates at 204.5 billion pounds. Now that’s a lot of milk!

According to data from ARS’s Nutrient Data Laboratory in Beltsville, MD, milk provides protein, vitamins, and a host of other essential nutrients. Milk and other dairy foods like yogurt and cheese are considered the best sources of calcium. In fact, about 72 percent of the calcium in the U.S. food supply comes from dairy foods.

Did you know that the average American drinks almost 25 gallons—or 400 glasses—of milk a year, and that 25 gallons of milk can make 9 gallons of ice cream, 25 pounds of cheese, or 11 pounds of butter?



The USDA has been collecting milk production records since 1895. This database is maintained and used by scientists at the ARS Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory in Beltsville, MD, to learn ways to produce milk more efficiently. For example, researchers study the genetics of dairy animals to help determine such traits as the amount of milk each cow produces and the amount of fat and protein in milk.

Did you know that U.S. cows give an average of 6.5 gallons of milk per day per cow? That’s more than 100 glasses of milk—enough for 33 children to have 3 glasses each day.

So drink up! Milk is loaded with important vitamins and nutrients that our bodies need.

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