

# CSREES

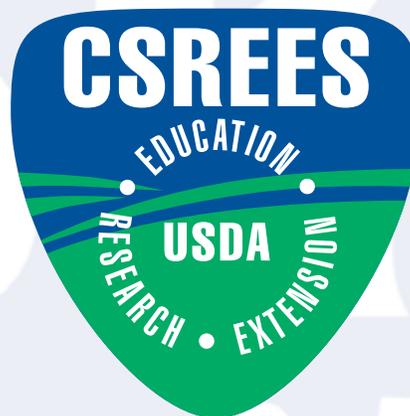
## Administrator's Report to the Partnership Summer 2003

*The mission of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities. In support of this mission, CSREES program areas have undertaken the following new initiatives and activities and/or addressed "hot" and emerging issues detailed in this report.*



United States Department of Agriculture  
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Advancing Knowledge for the  
Food and Agricultural System



### Message from the CSREES Administrator:

A few years ago the buzz word in management circles was "alignment," a concept simple in explanation but complex in execution. An aligned organization arrays its functions, people, and other resources toward activities that flow through systems as tributaries to a river, ultimately leading to the sea. The most difficult part is determining what sea to fill.

During the past several years, we have worked toward greater alignment in CSREES to contribute more effectively to the strategic plan of the USDA and the President's Management Agenda (described in a recent issue of CSREES Update). The Department's new strategic plan centers around 5 substantive elements including: 1) expanding agricultural markets and reducing trade barriers; 2) expanding economic opportunities in rural America; 3) reducing food-borne illness incidents, agricultural pests and disease; 4) improving food's nutritional value and promoting healthy choices; and 5) improving natural resource management. There is a substantial role for agricultural research, education, extension, and international programs in this strategic agenda. The challenge is finding and sustaining the financial and human resources needed to affect that role.

This Spring, in developing a preliminary FY 2005 budget proposal that integrated budget and performance goals, we aligned two major functions of our operation, the Budget Office and the Office of Planning and Accountability. As we move forward with our plan for consolidating data collection and database management, we will add another element to this alignment. Simultaneously, our national program leaders (NPLs) on the Competitive Programs staff and those working in our program units have completed a 5-year draft plan to link all of our competitive programs around strategic issues.

I'm confident that the successes we've recently experienced in aligning CSREES practices and procedures will be the foundation for future improvements in our operations.

— Colien Hefferan

# Reports from CSREES Program Areas

## BUDGET AND STATUS REPORTS

■ **Congressional Action on the FY 2004 President's Budget:** On June 25, 2003, the House Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2004 agriculture appropriations bill. The House Committee mark for CSREES is \$1,108,426,000. Included in the bill is a General Provision (Sec.710) which limits the indirect costs against competitively awarded research, education, and extension grants to 20 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award, except for grants available under the Small Business Innovation and Development Act. This is a change from the current cap of 19 percent on indirect costs. Another General Provision (Sec. 720) prohibits the use of funds to carry out the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems. However, funds are available for the purpose of administering and conducting oversight of grants awarded and obligations incurred prior to November 28, 2001. This general provision is a continuation of language contained in the FY 2003 agriculture appropriations bill. It is anticipated that House floor action on the FY 2004 agriculture appropriations bill may occur soon after the July 4 recess. No date has been announced for Senate Subcommittee mark-up, but it may also happen after the July 4 recess. Contact: Tina Buch, USDA/CSREES - [tbuch@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:tbuch@csrees.usda.gov).

## CSREES LONG-TERM PLANNING

■ **RREA Strategic Plan Taking Shape:** State and federal partners continue to work on the FY 05-09 Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) strategic plan. Since the system-wide conference in Denver during March 2003, ten writing teams have produced detailed descriptions and strategies around ten issues that the RREA Program needs to address. During a two-day work session in mid-May, four state partners joined CSREES NPLs in compiling the preliminary plan and conducting an RREA Strategic Plan briefing with CSREES Associate Administrator, Gary Cunningham. The draft plan describes eight natural resource and two organizational issues that must be addressed if RREA is to be relevant, responsive, and adequately resourced. Further work will be

completed over the next two months and then presented to the partnership and related land-grant university organizations for review and comment. Contact: Eric R. Norland, USDA/CSREES - [enorland@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:enorland@csrees.usda.gov).

■ **e-Extension Business Plan.** Developing e-Extension, a Web-based information and education system, is found to be feasible and valuable to administrators, directors, and program leaders, and they are requesting that a detailed business case be presented before e-Extension is deployed in the agency. The e-Extension model has been refined in terms of features and technical structure, standards, and content development. The results are posted on the public project management Web-site (<http://asred.msstate.edu/national>). These model refinements serve as the basis for developing elements of the business plan. In June, CSREES procured the services of Accenture, a consulting firm and primary contractor to the USDA eGovernment Initiative, to develop a comprehensive business case for e-Extension. Completion is set for September 1, 2003. The business case working group represented program leaders, information technologists, instructional designers, communicators, and administrators. Draft results will be posted periodically on the e-Extension management site noted above. In addition, a new FY '03 cooperative agreement between Mississippi State University, Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP) in the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), and CSREES has provided funds for model refinement, business case development, Web-site upgrading, and e-Extension demonstration site construction for presentation to directors and administrators in Fall '03. Contact: Greg Crosby, USDA/CSREES - [gcrosby@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:gcrosby@csrees.usda.gov)

## COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

■ **Three Exhibits Represent CSREES at the Ministerial Conference and Expo on Science and Technology:** CSREES hosted 3 exhibits, showcasing CSREES-funded programs of interest to Ministers of Agriculture, who attended the Minis-

terial Conference and Expo on Science and Technology. The Conference and Expo was held during June 23-25, 2003, in Sacramento, CA. One exhibit, the Armenia Project, highlighted the crucial role of land-grant universities in providing the skills and training needed for an emerging agricultural economy. Another exhibit described CSREES-supported research at Oklahoma State University which resulted in the GreenSeeker tractor. This tractor innovation sprays the exact amount of fertilizer a crop needs at the right time. A third exhibit described new products and new uses, value-added processing of agricultural raw materials, environmentally friendly bio-based products, integrated pest management practices, and aquaculture. Contact: Marti Asner, USDA-CSREES, [masner@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:masner@csrees.usda.gov).

■ **Extensión en Español Launched in Spring 2003:** The Spanish-speaking audience in the United States is growing much more quickly than any state or Extension service's ability to keep up. The need for quality educational support and materials surpasses any state's available resources. Language and cultural expertise are also not abundant throughout Extension. Extensión en Español is a grassroots organization of Extension educators, with CSREES funding, which serves Spanish-speaking clients by sharing expertise and materials across the Cooperative Extension System. Extensión en Español will provide Extension educators high-quality materials and be a place to share expertise and experiences to improve the quality of Extension outreach to Spanish-speaking audiences across the Cooperative Extension System. This resource center will provide audio, video and print materials in Spanish and English; production assistance on materials in Spanish for regional or national audiences; resources for educating Extension faculty with Spanish-speaking clients; and a national forum for Extension educators who work with Spanish-speaking audiences. For more information contact:

Terry Meisenbach/USDA, CSREES-USDA, [tmeisenbach@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:tmeisenbach@csrees.usda.gov) or go to <http://extensionenespanol.net/index.cfm>

■ **Galaxy II Brings Extension Staffers to Salt Lake City in September:** Nearly 2,000 Extension professionals are expected in Salt Lake City for Galaxy II, September 21-25. This national conference for all Extension professionals is held every five years with opportunities for personal and professional development, scholarly presentations, and reports on research and accomplishments of Extension programs. There will be many seminars, as well as "Workshops on the Move," that will offer professional development for all Extension professionals. Keynote speakers include former basketball great Thurl Bailey, and USDA Deputy Under Secretary for REE Dr. Rodney Brown. Coupled with professional development opportunities, there will be visits to many historical sites in and around Salt Lake City and a special concert to be presented at the conference opening by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. For information on how to register as well as details on the programs that will be offered, go to [www.jcep.org](http://www.jcep.org) and click on the Galaxy II link. Contact: Jim Spurling, USDA/CSREES - [jspurling@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:jspurling@csrees.usda.gov).

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

■ **Raymond Knighton Appointed to USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force:** Ray Knighton, CSREES NPL for Air Quality, was recently appointed to the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force which advises the Secretary of Agriculture on air quality issues related to all aspects of production agriculture. University scientists, state and federal regulators, agricultural producers, and non-government organizations are also represented on the Task Force. See Web-site <http://fargo.nserl.purdue.edu/faca/>. Contact: Ray Knighton, USDA/CSREES - [rknighton@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:rknighton@csrees.usda.gov).

■ **CSREES and NASA Partner To Launch Remote Sensing Technologies:** Geospatial Extension Programs will be established for three years at land-grant universities in a unique partnership between CSREES, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the land-grant university system. The program advances remote sensing technologies and precision agricultural applications to protect the environment and enhance U.S. agricultural com-

petitiveness. Geospatial extension specialists will work closely with NASA and USDA to address the geographic information systems and remote sensing needs of agriculture. Contact: Ray Knighton, USDA/CSREES -

[rknighton@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:rknighton@csrees.usda.gov).

## GRANT POLICY AND GRANT AWARD UPDATES

■ **National Research Initiative (NRI) Bovine Genome Sequencing Program:** Applications are requested to support high-throughput sequencing of the bovine genome. The goal of this program is to contribute to a working draft sequence (approximately six-fold sequence coverage) of 90 percent of the bovine genome. Letters of intent are requested by July 23, 2003. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on August 20, 2003. Contact: Deb Hamernik, USDA-CSREES - [dhamernik@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:dhamernik@csrees.usda.gov) for additional information.

■ **NRI Integrated Program:** The purpose of the NRI Integrated Program is to support research, extension, and education grants that address critical emerging U.S. agricultural and rural issues. Priority program areas established to address these emerging issues are: 1) Functional Genomics of Agriculturally Important Organisms (animals, insects and mites, microbes, and plants); 2) Air Quality; 3) Human Nutrition and Obesity; 4) Animal and Plant Biosecurity; and 5) National Training Program for Agricultural Homeland Security.

The NRI Integrated Program is distinct from other NRI programs because of its emphasis on integration of research, education, and extension and its goal of supporting relatively large

projects that provide more intensive support. Priority will be given to projects that are: 1) multi-state, multi-institutional; or multi-disciplinary; or 2) projects that integrate agricultural research, extension, and education. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on July 30, 2003.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

■ **Agricultural Systems Quality Improvement Project Launched in Republic of Georgia:** The CSREES International Programs staff is launching a \$2 million Agricultural Systems Quality Improvement Project in the Republic of Georgia. Bill Miller (University of Georgia) and Jim Richardson (Alabama A&M University) accompanied Tim Grosser, CSREES, in June to plan and initiate project activities. Contact: Tim Grosser, USDA/CSREES - [tgrosser@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:tgrosser@csrees.usda.gov).

## PEOPLE AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES

■ **Agriculture in the Classroom Program's Literacy Efforts Validated:** Irma Lawrence, NPL for Hispanic-Serving Institutions, served as Project Director for a study of USDA's Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program. CSREES, in partnership with Oregon State University's Survey Research Center and the AITC Consortium, showed that nearly 100,000 students and 2,000 teachers per state are reached annually by AITC. A second study, directed by James Leising of Oklahoma State University, assessed agricultural knowledge gained by K-6 grade students whose teachers attended AITC workshops. Test results of students in Arizona, Montana, Oklahoma, and Utah showed a positive impact in agricultural knowledge among students taught by teachers with AITC training versus no AITC training. The study found that the greatest knowledge gains were in understanding food and fiber systems, history, geography, and culture. Contact: Kathleen Cullinan, USDA/CSREES - [kcullinan@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:kcullinan@csrees.usda.gov).

# Reports from CSREES Program Areas (cont.)

■ **Families, 4-H and Nutrition Unit Launches Three New Initiatives:** Interagency partnerships are a top priority in government. CSREES' Families, 4-H, and Nutrition Unit is launching three initiatives this summer with agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and CSREES will kick off a pilot project on July 29, 2003, in partnership with the Extension Services in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The initiative targets women never screened for breast and cervical cancer. The American Cancer Society will participate and CSREES, NCI, and CDC are providing funding. A second interagency collaboration with the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) of HHS will fund a multi-state team of land-grant faculty in developing a national marriage education curriculum as part of the Administration's Healthy Marriage Initiative. The project was officially launched on July 8-11, 2003. In a third project, Chris Gerstein, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of ACF at HHS, Anna Mae Kobbe at CSREES, and a multi-state team of land-grant faculty from more than 20 states are exploring ways through federal programs to expand the dissemination of parenting newsletters to greater numbers of limited-resource families. Contact: Anna Mae Kobbe, USDA/CSREES - [akobbe@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:akobbe@csrees.usda.gov).

## PLANT, ANIMAL, SMALL FARM, AND BIO-BASED PRODUCT UPDATES

■ **CSREES Funding Yields Two New Bio-Based Products:** Two projects funded through the Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems (IFAFS) Program Area 13.0, New Uses, have been successfully completed. An IFAFS award was made to the University of Northern Iowa's Ag-Based Industrial Lubricants Program to demonstrate on-farm conversion of soybeans into industrial greases. Pilot operations were successful and are moving into commercial production of SoyTrak (tm), a rail curve grease being used by the Norfolk Southern Railway. The grease is environmentally preferable because it is biodegradable and more efficient than petroleum grease in reducing wear. Norfolk Southern Railway represents a good market for the new soy-based product because it operates 21,500 miles in 22 states and is the nation's largest rail carrier of automotive parts and finished vehicles. On-farm production of industrial greases offers a new value-added opportunity for the soybean farmer.

The United Soybean Board also received an IFAFS award for market development of bio-based solvents formulated to specific customer requirements. De-inking printing presses and architectural paint stripping operations demonstrated the environmental benefits of using blends of methyl soyate and ethyl lactate from corn. Bio-based solvents are biodegradable, not considered hazardous, but require proper management to ensure that they do not contaminate the environment or pose a human health problem. The paint stripper, used during the renovation of the U.S. Army Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC, allowed greater flexibility in paint removal times when compared with industrial hydrocarbon solvents. The disposal cost of waste material was also greatly reduced. Contact: Carmela Bailey, USDA/CSREES - [cbailey@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:cbailey@csrees.usda.gov).

### ■ **EPA Concentrated Animal Feeding**

**Operations Regulations Now In Effect:** States will have up to two years to adapt the federal regulations to their state laws. All operations must have nutrient management plans by 2006. EPA is already enforcing operations under the old 1975 law on operations larger than 1,000 animal units that should have been permitted under the Clean Water Act. Negotiations are underway for Clean Air Act violations on livestock and poultry facilities to wait until further data on emissions becomes available. A new report on Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations is available in book form from the National Research Council through National Academies Press at [www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu), or see the National Academies Web-site at [www.national-academies.org](http://www.national-academies.org) for more information. EPA continues to update their Web-site with fact sheets in English and Spanish at [www.epa.gov/agriculture/anafobrochure.html](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/anafobrochure.html) and is adding online color photos of good and bad management practices by species. The university Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship curriculum is developing additional fact sheets soon to be posted at [www.lpes.org](http://www.lpes.org). Contact: Mary Ann Rozum, USDA/CSREES - [mrozum@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:mrozum@csrees.usda.gov) or Richard Hegg, USDA/CSREES - [rhegg@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:rhegg@csrees.usda.gov).

### ■ **CSREES-Funded Project Isolates Gene Triggering Flowering in Wheat Plants:**

Findings from a team of scientists, led by Jorge Dubcovsky at the University of California - Davis, under a NRI Plant Genome Program grant, may make it possible one day for scientists to develop more productive crops. This would happen by allowing the wheat plant gene to be manipulated so farmers can grow wheat varieties that flower at a particular time, more in tune with the climate in which the wheat is planted. Contact: Ed Kaleikau, USDA/CSREES - [ekaleikau@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:ekaleikau@csrees.usda.gov).

### ■ **CSREES-Funded Project Decodes**

**Chromosome 10 of Rice:** Researchers, funded under the USDA NRI Plant Genome Program, are part of a 10-nation consortium decoding the entire rice genome. Their research results relating to chromosome 10 of rice have been published in *Science*. Rice has 12 chromosomes and is considered a model plant for research in cereals. Other teams are working on decoding other rice chromosomes and hopefully all decoding will be completed by December 2004. Decoding the genome will assist in improving a crop that has been cultivated for more than 9,000 years and consumed by more than half the world's population. Because rice is genetically related to other cereals like corn, wheat, barley and sorghum, the information from the rice sequence has application to those crops as well. Contact: Ed Kaleikau, USDA/CSREES - [ekaleikau@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:ekaleikau@csrees.usda.gov).

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