

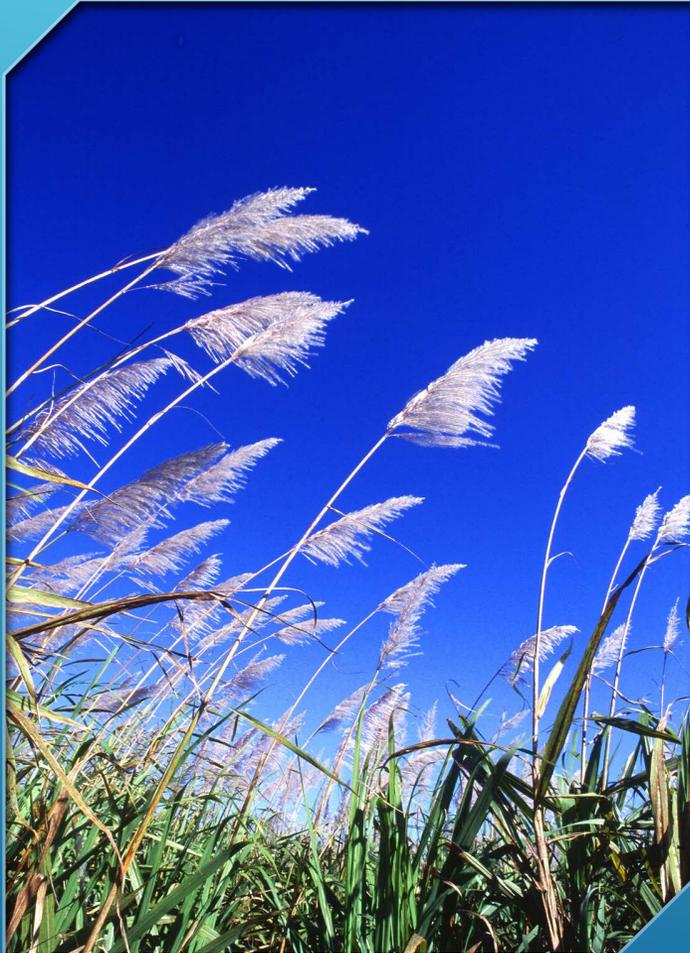
USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE UPDATE

Charles Walthall PhD

National Program Leader

Beltsville, MD

April 30, 2014



USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

- 800 research projects within 17 National Programs
- 2,100 scientists and post docs
- 6,000 other employees
- 90+ research locations, including overseas laboratories
- \$1.1 billion fiscal year budget
- 5 year research cycle
- Outside peer-review of projects
- “Mission-driven”

- ▶ **New Agency Administrator**
 - ▶ Chavonda Jacobs-Young PhD
- ▶ **Acting Associate Administrator for Programs**
 - ▶ Steve Shafer PhD
- ▶ **Associate Administrator for Operations**
 - ▶ Caird Rexroad PhD retiring May 3, 2014 - vacant
- ▶ **New Natural Resources & Sustainable Agriculture (NRSAS) Programs Deputy Administrator**
 - ▶ Sally Schneider PhD
- ▶ **NRSAS National Program Leaders**
 - ▶ Matt Smith PhD left ARS during 2013 - vacant
 - ▶ Jeff Steiner PhD left ARS during 2013 - vacant
 - ▶ Mark Boggess PhD moving to ARS Dairy Forage Research Center, Madison, WI - vacant

ARS LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Mid South Area Director
Ed King PhD Retired 2013

Senior Air Quality Scientists
Laura McConnell PhD left ARS 2013
Tim Gish PhD retired 2014
Pat Hunt PhD retired 2013

- ▶ All ARS Program Structure Review
 - ▶ Reorganization
- ▶ NRSAS Reorganization
 - ▶ Pending
- ▶ New cross-discipline program projects ?
 - ▶ ~GRACEnet
 - ▶ ~Livestock GRACEnet Emissions Group
 - ▶ ~REAP
 - ▶ **Climate Change?**
 - ▶ **Food Safety?**
- ▶ Discipline-focused working groups ?
 - ▶ ~Remote Sensing
 - ▶ **Soil Biology?**

PROGRAM STRUCTURES UNDERGOING REVIEW

**More effective organizational
structures sought**

Reduced budget

Reduced staff

Travel restrictions

Greater demands

Air Quality Projects

- ▶ Ames, IA
- ▶ Auburn, AL (GHG)
- ▶ Bowling Green, KY (GHG)
- ▶ Kimberly, ID
- ▶ Madison, WI
- ▶ University Park, PA

**HQ Discretionary Funds Increase

- Termination of SCA (mutual agreement)
- Using for instrumentation/infrastructure upgrades FY2014

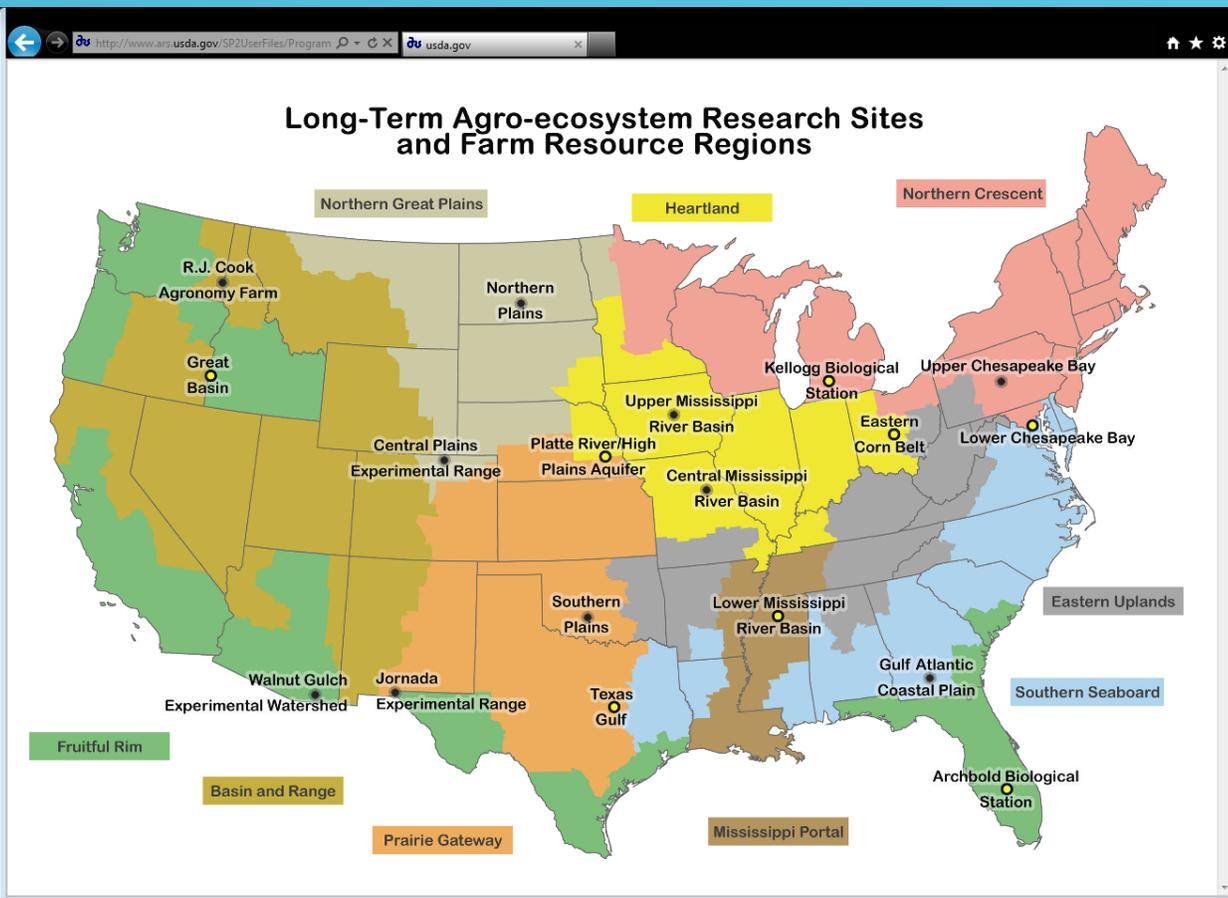
FY2014 BUDGET INCREASES

Program Focus for allocations

Natural Resources

Climate Change

Livestock & Forage



FY2014 BUDGET INCREASES

Long Term Agroecosystem Research Network (LTAR) – original 10 sites

Operating expenses *

Data management

*GRACEnet presence

- ▶ **Midwest**
 - ▶ Ames, IA
- ▶ **Northern Plains**
 - ▶ Ft. Collins, CO
- ▶ **Southern Plains**
 - ▶ El Reno, OK
 - ▶ **Sub Hub: Davis, CA**
- ▶ **Southwest**
 - ▶ Las Cruces, NM
- ▶ **Northeast Sub Hubs**
 - ▶ University Park, PA
 - ▶ Ithaca, NY

USDA CLIMATE CHANGE HUBS

ARS Hosting

4 as lead agency

3 as Sub-Hubs

ARS presence in all Hubs

Walthall on Executive Committee

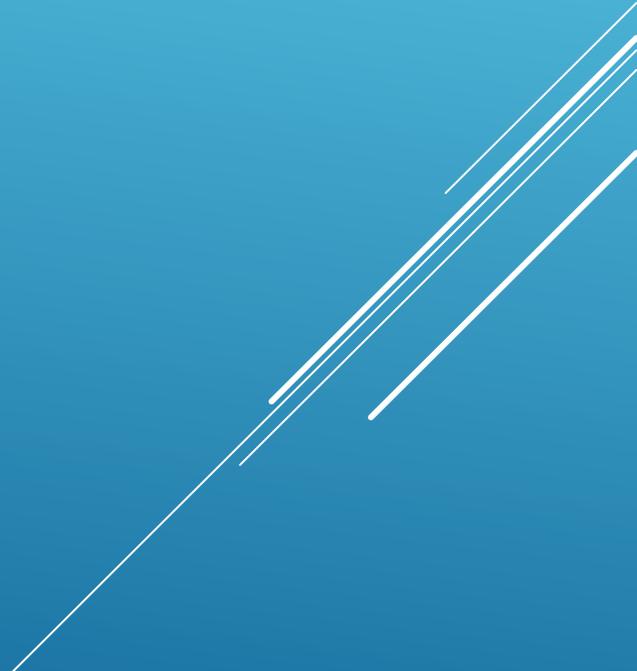
Randy Johnson USFS Executive Lead

- ▶ **ARS research data & Models**
 - ▶ Available
 - ▶ Accessible
- ▶ **ARS-wide systems “upgrade”**
 - ▶ Networks
 - ▶ Computing Capacity
- ▶ **National Agriculture Library leadership**
 - ▶ Simon Liu PhD
- ▶ **FY 2014 New Funding**
- ▶ **ARS Air Quality Researchers**
 - ▶ *“When can we get going??”*

OTHER ARS ACTIVITIES

Data Management Systems

“Big Data”





ARS AIR QUALITY RESEARCH FUTURE

New Program Structure FY2015

New Action Plan

New Projects

Field measurement campaigns

Wind Erosion: Rangeland working group

Data Management: "BAU"

Vacancies?

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