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”
ARS LEADERSHIP CHANGES

- 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

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

FY2014 BUDGET INCREASES

Program Focus for allocations
- Natural Resources
- Climate Change
- Livestock & Forage

**HQ Discretionary Funds Increase**
- Termination of SCA (mutual agreement)
- Using for instrumentation/infrastructure upgrades FY2014
FY2014 BUDGET INCREASES

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

Operating expenses*
Data management

*GRACEnet presence
**USDA Climate Change Hubs**

**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

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?
Charles L. Walthall PhD
National Program Leader
Natural Resources & Sustainable Agriculture Systems
Research
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