



## About ARS

### About ARS

The **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)** is the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's](#) chief scientific research agency. Our job is finding solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day, from field to table. Here's a few rough numbers to illustrate the scope of our organization:

- 1,200 research projects within 22 National Programs
- 2,100 scientists
- 6,000 other employees
- 100 research locations including a few in other countries
- \$1.1 billion fiscal year 2007 budget

### Mission Statement

ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to:

- ensure high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products
- assess the nutritional needs of Americans
- sustain a competitive agricultural economy
- enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and
- provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

### Vision

The ARS vision is to lead America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.

### ARS & You

For a few examples of what we've done for you, see "[What Does the Agricultural Research Service Do for You?](#)"

### Administrators

The ARS Administrator is Dr. Edward B. Knipping. Dr. Caird E. Rexroad, Jr. is the Associate Administrator, Research Programs and Dr. Antoinette A. Betschart is the Associate Administrator, Research Operations. For more information see [Biographical Sketches of our Administrators](#).

### Research

We take great care in designing and organizing our research effort, and we listen—and respond—to those with a stake in the outcome. More information can be found in [The Research Enterprise](#) and [The Big Picture of ARS Research](#).

### Plans and Reports

We follow a strategic plan we develop to meet our stakeholders' needs and support USDA's mission. We check our progress in carrying out that plan, and we modify it as circumstances require. See all our [Plans and Reports](#).

### Research, Education and Economics

ARS is one of four agencies in USDA's [Research, Education and Economics \(REE\)](#) mission area. The others are [Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service \(CSREES\)](#), [Economic Research Service \(ERS\)](#), and [National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\)](#).

### Budget

Since we are an agency of the Research, Education and Economics mission area of USDA, Congress establishes our annual budget on the basis of the President's proposed budget and research priorities. Our budget for fiscal year 2005 is about \$1.1 billion. See the [USDA-REE budget details](#).

### Partnering

Our scientists frequently collaborate with research partners from universities, companies, other organizations and other countries. See more about [Partnering and Technology Transfer](#).

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## About ARS



*... 144 Years of Ag Research*

History of Research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Research Service

### Do You Know a A Soybean When You Eat It...Wear It...Read It?

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ARS agronomist Edgar E. Hartwig has devoted half a century to soybeans research.

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[Foaming Soy Adhesives Could Help Soybeans Bond With Lumber Industry](#)

Soybeans have found their way into an eye-opening array of foods. Starting with the basics, there's soy milk, used in infant formulas. And the familiar Oriental staple tofu, soybean curd, is made by coagulating soy milk. But also consider soy yogurt, soyburgers, soy loaf, and soy sausage. Soy oil is the most widely used edible oil in the United States; you'll find it in mayonnaise, salad dressing, process cheese products, dessert frostings, and much more.

Soy components such as protein and oil are ingredients in dozens of everyday foods—from the granola bar you eat for breakfast and the potato chips at lunch, to a late-night sandwich. And, attention chocoholics! You'll be hard put to find a chocolate treat that lacks soy lecithin.

Most soybean varieties have the Agricultural Research Service in their pedigree. Between 1980 and 1994 alone, agency scientists released 66 varieties and 280 breeding lines.

Thanks to ARS research, soybeans have been incorporated into a host of nonfood products. These range from your morning newspaper printed with soy oil-based ink to lipstick, plastics, flooring, paints, and stain-removing cleaners.

What more can we make of the soybeans? At one ARS lab, we're cloning soy's genes for proteins, with an eye to improving its nutritional quality. At another, we're trying to learn how stress factors such as drought and heat affect the plant's ability to flower. (Fewer flowers mean fewer beans, of course.) And we're breeding specialized soybeans galore to tailor soy-based products for every niche, from the supermarket to the export market!