

**Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville, Inc.  
PO Box 1061, Beltsville, MD 20704-1061**

**Dedicated to promoting the research and education programs of the  
Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD**

# **THE FAR-B NEWS**

*January 2007*

*Editor: Hank Becker*

## **AREA DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

In the last Director's message back in June, it was noted that the three most important issues at BARC are funding-funding-funding! At that time a number of budgetary decisions were still winding there way through the halls of Congress.

As we all are aware, a lot of changes have transpired since then! The House did 'mark-up' the 2007 budget but the Senate never acted on the USDA 2007 appropriations. As it turns out, Congress told agencies to use the 'mark-up' from the House or the fiscal year 2006 appropriation level, which even was lower. Since there was no Senate mark-up, the 2007 projection was 6 percent lower than the 2006 appropriations.

Bottom line: ARS has been under this six percent reduction since October 1, 2006. What the final decision of the fiscal year 2007 appropriation will be is still unclear but hopefully the situation will be clarified by the middle of February, if not sooner!

Budgetary issues also led to a request for Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment (buyout) authority for the Beltsville Area. We received approval for up to 160 slots for these actions. The window for employees to sign-up just closed on January 16. A total of 63 employees have accepted early retirement.

On a brighter note, as of late November, Mrs. Tracey Wilson came on board as our

new Facilities Director. Mrs. Wilson has been a planning/design professional for more than 18 years. She is a native of Washington, D.C., and has a Bachelor of Architecture with as secondary concentration in urban planning. Her most recent federal employment was with the Department of State's Overseas Building Operations Bureau as a Design Manager and Planning Integration Manager.

In December 2006, we signed a non-funded Cooperative Agreement with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). The purpose of the agreement is to strengthen cooperation in a collaborative effort to fulfill the applicable commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Program as well as the general goals of the 2001 Anacostia Watershed Restoration Agreement. We have been working with COG towards a range of restoration goals since 1988. Approximately 98 percent of the BARC landmass as well as the US National Arboretum lie within the Anacostia Watershed.

Three BARC scientists have been noted for their research accomplishments. Dr. Vern Pursel (retired) was one of the 2006 inductees into the ARS Hall of Fame. (See article page 3). Dr. Doug Bannerman of our Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory was named the 2006 Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Research Scientist. And Dr. Max J. Paape, also of the Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, received the 2006 Distinguished Senior Professional Rank Award for his work on cells in milk and the

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role that they play in defense of the mammary gland against bacteria that cause mastitis.

Finally, many of you may have seen our new *Current Research Impacts* booklet. It is a compendium of current impacts on private companies, agricultural commodities, and much more. The booklet is available at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/ba/currentimpacts>.

**Phyllis Johnson**, Area Director

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### **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE FORMED TO SUPPORT BARC**

The dream of a National Agricultural Research Alliance-Beltsville (NARA-B) to support the short and long-term interests of BARC is no longer a dream. Except for the legal formality of handing the Alliance over to its official board and officers, it is a reality. The organization may frequently be called the Beltsville Alliance. But to most organizers the words "Beltsville" and "National" are virtually interchangeable. Many organizers see Beltsville as a "national", "flagship" agricultural research center. They see BARC for now and the future as an indispensable source of national research outcomes and impacts.

Many people contributed to creating the Alliance. None have been more steadfast or influential than John Peter Thompson, Chairman, Behnkes Nurseries, also Chair-elect, Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce. His tireless, creative leadership provided the spark to move the organization forward. Fortunately, his drive and perseverance will be available to the Alliance as it moves from basic organizational modalities to programmatic action.

Others--too many to name here--made vital contributions. Markian Melnyk, a College Park attorney, drafted the organization's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and then successfully

shepherded them through the Maryland state authorization process. Another vital contributor is Wanda Plumer of the Prince Georges' County Economic Development Corporation. A former president of the Goddard Alliance, Wanda brings extraordinary expertise to NARA-B. Fortunately, Wanda, Markian, and John Peter appear to be in for the long haul.

FAR-B too has made its contributions. It sponsored and financed the first public organizational meeting last November 17. Several board directors--notably Darwin Murrell, Essex Finney, Vernon Pursel, and Jim Anderson--provided initial advice and counsel. Jim Butcher has served as FAR-B liaison from the beginning.

So, where does the Alliance go from here? Thompson has met with ARS Admin. Edward B. Knipling to discuss Alliance purposes and goals. According to all reports, that meeting went extraordinarily well. Plans are well along to invite a delegation of Congressional staffers to BARC in the coming weeks. Hopefully, that meeting will help lay firm groundwork for orderly communications with key Congressional offices. Also, in coming weeks, the NARA-B will put together a mission statement and identify special projects of emphasis.

**Jim Butcher**, Legislative Liaison and Community Outreach Chair

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### **UPDATE ON 2007 CFC CAMPAIGN**

The kickoff for the BARC Combined Federal Campaign began on November 15. Our committee tried a new approach to campaigning for CFC funds. This year, we used a direct approach by contacting all of the scientists at BARC in various laboratories.

There are 33 labs in three institutes, employing 285 scientists in these labs. Our objective was to supply each scientist with a brochure explaining the benefits of

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supporting CFC. All toll we sent out 414 brochures. We hope this new approach will increase our FAR-B income through these CFC contributions.

One of our goals for 2007 is to honor Dr. John Moseman. Mrs. Moseman contributed \$2,000 to FAR-B to establish a fellowship program commemorating his contributions to BARC's research program. In addition, we received a contribution of \$1,100 recognizing Dr. Moseman's scientific contributions. (See article page 6)

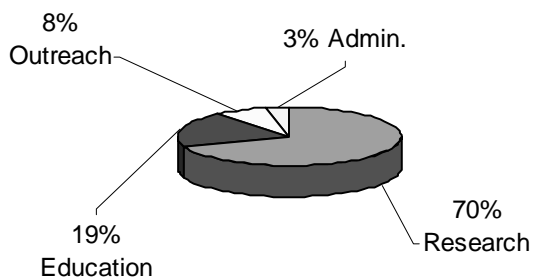
A similar program was initiated several years ago when Mrs. Mike Faust contributed funds to support research in the Fruit Lab in memory of her husband.

**Phil Kearney**, CFC Chair

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### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Once again FAR-B turned to financial reserves this year to cover the Professional Travel Grant of \$20,000 allocated to the three BARC institutes according to their number of SYs and \$12,485 to fund three Innovative Ideas Awards to BARC scientists.



On the income side of the balance sheet, the funds received through CFC contributions were \$1,500 lower than in 2005. Fortunately, incoming funds from membership dues, donations from members, and interest on investments were considerably higher than in 2005. The graph below shows the distribution of FAR-B's expenses. Please note that only three cents of every dollar goes to administer FAR-B's program, and much of

that went for printing and mailing of The FAR-B News and printing of FAR-B's new membership brochure.

**Vernon Pursel**, Treasurer

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### **POINSETTIA SALE NETS \$500 TO HELP FAR-B**

Thanks to Freddi Hammerschlag, who originated and executed her suggestion, FAR-B organized its first plant (Behnkes poinsettias) sale in Fall 2006.



**Freddi Hammerschlag and Hank Becker**

Notices were sent out to all FAR-B members and to Beltsville Agricultural Center (BARC) employees in November. Pick-up was held in the National Visitor Center on December 6. We sold 135 Poinsettias plants for \$12.00 each. The money collected from the poinsettias has gone into the FAR-B travel fund for BARC scientists. FAR-B hopes to hold this sale again in 2007 in addition to a chrysanthemum sale in early fall.

**Freddi Hammerschlag**, Board Member

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### **FAR-B TREASURER INDUCTED INTO ARS SCIENCE HALL OF FAME**

On September 13, 2006, Vernon Pursel, who is recognized worldwide for reproductive and genetic technologies in farm animals was inducted into the ARS Science Hall of Fame. His influence on

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gene engineering and his development of frozen swine semen has profoundly influenced animal and biomedical science. Freezing of swine semen for artificial insemination was unsuccessful until the 1970s when Pursel developed a procedure that is used to this day.



**ARS Administrator Ed Knipling, Vern Palmer, and Area Director Phyllis Johnson**

Advances resulting from his research have increased use of artificial insemination to include over 80 percent of the U.S. swine herd. In 1984, Pursel and collaborators were the first to successfully transfer foreign genes into farm animals. Their centrifugation technique made methods used in mouse experiments possible in pigs and cows, and they proved gene transfer is practical in farm species

Transgenetic technology promises better animal growth and milk production, enhanced disease resistance and higher quality food, as well as inexpensive farm production of human medicines.

Since 1986, the Science Hall of Fame program has recognized outstanding ARS researchers for their career achievements. Those inducted are nominated by their peers for making major contributions to agricultural research. The scientists must be retired, or eligible to retire, to receive the award.

Pursel's awards include being named a Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) in 2004 and receiving the

ASAS Award in Animal Physiology and Endocrinology in 1995, USDA Unit Award for Distinguished Service in 1989, and USDA Superior Service Award in 1977. His research has had a major impact on methodologies used by other scientists.

Beside Vern, two other current FAR-B board members have been honored among the Hall of Fame Awardees -- FAR-B president Darwin Murrill in 2002 and Symposia Chair Mort Boroza in 1997.

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## **NATIONAL VISITORS CENTER ATTRACTS GROUPS FROM 28 COUNTRIES**

In 9 months from April through December 2006, approximately 176 groups visited the ARS National Visitor Center (NVC) in Beltsville. The groups consisted of 3,232 individuals from over 28 countries.

These visitors learn much about the breath of ARS's mission and research goals and accomplishments. They include domestic and international professionals and dignitaries, consumers, and Federal employees from various agencies.

The NVC informed 2,906 domestic, and 355 international persons. Domestic visitors included numerous Federal training programs from the agencies of the Departments of Agriculture, State, and Defense, as well as university and industry officials and professionals.

International delegations included several ministers of Agriculture, Embassy officials, and a delegation of professors from Baghdad University in Iraq, who have applied for a CSREES research grant directly as a result of their visit to the NVC.

**Jennifer Woodward-Greene**, Director National Visitor Center

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## **FRESH, ORGANIC FARM PRODUCE NOW AVAILABLE FROM CALVERT FARM**

Calvert Farm, located in Cecil County, Maryland close to the borders of Pennsylvania and Delaware, is a small farm, certified Organic by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. They are a member of the Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association and the Maryland Certified Organic Growers Cooperative. The farm is working with five other small family farms to bring subscribers the best variety and freshest farm grown fruits and vegetables to your table.

Calvert Farm also has a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) produce subscription. Anyone interested can fill out an application to apply for a subscription to 20 weeks—May 20 through September 30—of farm fresh produce. Produce will be delivered to USDA BARC/NAL in Beltsville on Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. Limited CSA subscriptions are available on a first come, first served basis.

A subscription for the 2007 growing season costs \$40 for a non-refundable reservation fee (due by Feb 15<sup>th</sup>). Payment in full is due by March 31, 2007. The total due will be \$40 reservation fee plus \$20 per week per box. (1 box @ \$20 X 20 weeks plus \$40 equals \$440.) You may subscribe to more than one box. This program is available to federal employees and retirees.

For further information about their CSA, phone 410-658-3914 or email them at [farmer@calvertfarm.com](mailto:farmer@calvertfarm.com). Subscriptions are available on line at [www.calvertfarm.com](http://www.calvertfarm.com). Print out this form, fill it out, and mail it Calvert Farm.

The farm welcomes your questions and encourages visitors. It thanks subscribers for their interest in Calvert Farm. Your subscription helps keep the family farm alive and well.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

During the last few months, the FAR-B Board has initiated an effort to try to increase the number of Sustaining, Patron, Personal, and Associate members in the organization. As we identify retirees and former BARC employees, letters are being sent inviting them to join our ranks.

As a result of this initiative, we would like to welcome Tim Clark, Ed Dougherty, Julius Menn, Jerrell Powell, Roger Ratcliffe, Alley Watada and Richard Zimmerman as new members of FAR-B. This effort will continue as other potential members are identified.

We are also in the process of developing a new Membership Directory that will be mailed with this newsletter to all FAR-B members. We hope that when you receive your copy, you will find it useful for getting in touch with acquaintances and former colleagues and also for identifying people who are not FAR-B members and urging them to join.

If you prefer, you can send the names and addresses of potential members to us and we will follow-up.

**Allan Stoner**, Membership Chair

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### ***John G. Moseman***

John G. Moseman, 84, a USDA scientist who specialized in studying the pests that infect barley, died of lung cancer on July 24 at his home in Gaithersburg.

During his more than 40 years at the USDA, Dr. Moseman, helped scientists and farmers understand powdery mildew and leaf rust, pathogens that can damage and destroy the cereal grain. Using both traditional and new techniques, he bred

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strains of barley that proved resistant to these diseases.

A major food and animal-feed crop, barley is used in both bread and beer and has been cultivated by humans since the late Stone Age in the Middle East. It was a staple food of ancient Egypt and is still among the top three crops grown worldwide.

Dr. Moseman, who wrote more than 100 research papers, coordinated international research projects and was the keynote speaker at many worldwide conferences on cereal crops, did his best to maintain the scientific ethos of sharing knowledge worldwide, despite politics. During the late 1960s, he coordinated two similar research projects, one with an Israeli scientist and one with an Egyptian scientist. He organized a meeting with the pair at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, allowing them to share data that led to the much-needed development of drought-resistant strains of barley.

When diplomatic issues in the 1960s made contact between American and Soviet scientists exceedingly difficult, Dr. Moseman arranged for plant material and genetic information to be transferred to a Canadian scientist, who could relay it to the then-Soviet Union.

In 1972, Dr. Moseman became chairman of the USDA's Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institute in Beltsville. He retired in 1986.

Born in Oakland, Neb., he grew up on a farm during the Depression. After graduating from high school at 16, he spent a year working with his father and older brother developing hybrid seed corn. The seed had to be stripped from each cob and carefully sorted by hand. "Moseman and Sons Iowa 139 Seed Corn" was the first certified hybrid seed corn sold in Nebraska.

He graduated from the University of

Nebraska at Lincoln and immediately entered the Army Air Forces. He was trained as a meteorologist at New York University and served as a weather forecaster for a B-29 squadron based in Fairmont, Neb. He later served in Puerto Rico and Guam.

After his discharge in 1947, he received a master's degree in plant genetics at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash., and a doctorate in plant pathology from Iowa State University in Ames.

Dr. Moseman joined the faculty at North Carolina State University in 1950 on a joint appointment with the USDA research station in Raleigh. In 1954, he was transferred to BARC, where he served as a bench scientist before becoming leader of barley investigations and, finally, chairman of the institute.

Dr. Moseman was a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Phytopathological Society. He belonged to the honor society Phi Kappa Phi and to Sigma Xi, the scientific research society. After his retirement, he was president of FAR-B from 1993 through 1995.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Marjorie Jean Bell Moseman of Gaithersburg; three children, Dr. David R. Moseman of St. Paul, Minn., the Rev. Barbara Smith of Nevada City, Calif., and Tom Moseman of Equinunk, Pa.; and a brother.

### ***Lowell E. Campbell***

Lowell Eugene Campbell, 84, of Frederick, died on Saturday, Aug. 21, at Homewood at Crumland Farms, Frederick. He was the husband of Deborah Kreitler Campbell for 56 years.

Born on June 13, 1920, in Preble County, Ohio, he was a 1938 graduate of Lanier High School and attended Ohio State University before his military service.

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After graduating from the Army Air Force technical school at Yale University, he served in the Army Air Force during WWII as an airway communications officer in India and Burma. After his military service, he received degrees in engineering and agriculture at Ohio State University.

He was employed by USDA from 1947 to 1985 at Beltsville, and authored or co-authored more than 50 technical publications, including book or handbook chapters concerning forage harvesting, dairy equipment, farm lighting, standby electric generators, greenhouse and plant lighting and environmental requirements for plant growth.

Mr. Campbell was a member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, the American Society of Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Washington Society of Engineers and the Washington Academy of Science, serving on numerous technical committees of these organizations. FAR-B records show he was member from 1986 to 2004.

Besides his wife, he is survived by three children, David Campbell and wife Paula of Ellicott City, Jane Brockman of Brunswick, Ga., and Ellen Campbell of Baltimore; six grandchildren, and a sister, Miriam Campbell Lucas of Columbus, Ohio.

#### ***Frederick Gustav Meyer***

Frederick Gustav Meyer, 88, the director of the herbarium at the US National Arboretum, died of pneumonia Oct. 13 at his home in Silver Spring. He had Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Meyer was born on Dec. 7, 1917, in Olympia, Wash. He graduated from Washington State University, where he also received a master's degree in botany in 1941. He served in the Army medical corps in Europe during World War II and

settled in St. Louis, where he earned a doctorate in botany from Washington University in 1949. He did postdoctoral work at University College in London and then returned to St. Louis to work in the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

In 1956, Dr. Meyer became a research botanist and taxonomist in the New Crops Research Branch at BARC. In 1963, he joined the arboretum. Under his leadership, the herbarium doubled in size and he was instrumental in acquiring important collections.

He worked for 15 years on researching and writing a book, published in 1994, on the cultivated woody plants of the southeastern United States. He also worked for 30 years updating and translating *The Great Herbal of Leonhart Fuchs*, a 16th-century treatise on almost 500 species of plants. He retired in 1991 but continued consulting until 2001.

Dr. Meyer was considered one of the nation's best taxonomists in identifying cultivated plants, and he researched plants around the world. His main interest was in the classifications and relationships among ornamental plants, but he also became an expert in medieval botany and personally introduced the hereditary material of several thousand plants to the United States.

He was the first in modern times to collect the genetic resources of native wild coffee from southern Ethiopia. In 2002, with archeologist Wilhelmina Jashemski, he co-edited an acclaimed book, *The Natural History of Pompeii*. He identified the plants that were blooming in the gardens of Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D.

Dr. Meyer's first collection trip, to southern Europe for nine months in 1959, resulted in the identification of 2,800 types of plants. On the second trip, in 1963, he identified and collected an additional 1,200 specimens.

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He lived in a Takoma Park house built in 1887 that had a large garden where he grew plants he had collected during his travels. When Dr. Meyer moved to a retirement community in 2000, he donated more than 23,000 plant specimens and 700 books, some from the 16th century, to the Arboretum.

He married Lillian "Jean" Nicholson Meyer, a botanical artist who contributed to his works, in 1946. She died in 1983. They had no children, but he is survived by a sister.

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### **FAR-B FUNDS HIGH-TECH MICROSCOPE**

In 2004, the FAR-B Board of Directors felt FAR-B should be doing more to help the research effort at BARC. One way to do this would be to help fund new research equipment. After discussion with the Area Office, the FAR-B Board of Directors funded \$25,000 for the Systematic Entomology Lab to help purchase a state-of-the-art Remote Imaging System (RIS) built by Photografix, Inc. that allows researchers at the Natural History museums in Washington, DC, London, and Paris to remotely view specimens, particularly type specimens, that determine the valid taxonomic name.



**The microscope allows researchers at the Natural History museums in Washington, DC, London, and Paris to remotely view specimens.**

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