

BARC e-Update



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BARC is part of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and encompasses programs at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center; the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.; and worksites in Chatsworth, New Jersey; Presque Isle, Maine; and McMinnville, Tennessee. BARC is the largest and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. BARC's record of accomplishments and its ongoing programs have made it a world leader in agricultural research.

Blowing Our Own Horn!



SYSTEMATICS – A NATIONAL RESOURCE



BARC is home to some of the largest scientific collections in the world. Because support for collections is a vital government function and budgets have been declining in recent years, the President's Science Advisor, Dr. John Marburger, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy have set up a special multi-Agency panel to look at the state of scientific collections across the government. BARC's Director, **Dr. Phyllis Johnson**, was chosen to Co-Chair this important group along with the Smithsonian Institution's Under Secretary for Science, Dr. Dave Evans. **Dr. Michael Schauff**, also from BARC, serves as the group's Executive Secretary. Working with representatives from most major government departments and organizations like the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of

Health, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, this Interagency Working Group is gathering information about all Federal scientific collections and will use that information to help inform the Administration and others of the need to continue to support and strengthen this vital national resource.

BARC SCIENTIST OPENS IAEC ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. V.R. Reddy, Research Leader of the Crop Systems and Global Change Laboratory, opened the International Agricultural Engineering Conference with a presentation on the role of crop models in achieving food security and mitigating global environmental change. The conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand, December 6 – 9, 2005. During a technical session, Dr. Reddy gave a presentation on cotton modeling to assess climate change and crop management. Reddy, an IAEC editorial board member, also chaired a technical session.

Community Interest...

ACTIVE RECRUITMENT FOR HUMAN NUTRITION COCOA AND TEA STUDY

The Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center is planning a diet study to start in March 2006 and run through May 2006. This study is being conducted to learn how cocoa and tea consumption may affect blood sugar control in the body. Participants will be required to eat all meals for five study periods, each lasting five days, for a total of 25 days at the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center. During the study periods, Monday through Friday, breakfast and dinner must be eaten at the Center. Lunch and weekend meals will be provided for carry-out. For this study, male and female volunteers must: be 25 – 65 years old, be a nonsmoker, and have a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 27. Participants will receive payment of \$750.00 upon completion of the study. If interested, you must attend an Information Meeting where details of the study will be discussed and you will have an opportunity to ask questions. For more information or for meeting location/times, please visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov/hsf>.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE AT BARC

Did you know that a tomato usually travels about 2,000 miles from where it is grown to your salad bowl? Consider an alternative - join a community supported agriculture (CSA) farm, and join thousands of others who want to support local farmers while receiving delicious, healthy, fresh produce all summer long! CSA subscribers purchase a share of the product harvest, or a weekly portion from farmers they come to know and trust, at the start of the season. For the rest of the summer, members receive weekly shares of the harvest. Beyond fruits and vegetables, some CSA farmers offer meat, eggs, herbs, flowers, and other products. 2006 will mark the fourth year that BARC has hosted a CSA drop-off site for the Howard County Growers, a partnership of six farms. The 16-week season, which runs from June through September, features fresh fruits and vegetables, baked bread, and other farm products such as jam. Member shares are delivered in coolers weekly to BARC. For more information on CSA's in your area, visit www.sare.org/csa/index.htm or contact Valerie Berton at vberton@sare.org. Information on Howard County Growers can be found at www.hceda.org/agriculture/subscription.html.



Aerosol Robotic Network (AERONET)



BARC is part of a world-wide AERONET network. The network consists of field-deployed sunphotometers which "wake up" several times an hour, look for the sun and then scan the sky several ways. Data is transmitted from the sunphotometer and bounced off a geostationary satellite to NASA where it is processed. The data obtained is primarily used to remove the effects of "haze" and water vapor from satellite imagery. All of the data from AERONET is processed by NASA at no cost, and the data is openly available to anyone via the following website, <http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/>. The BARC data listing on the site is still under construction. The Ames, IA site (technically a BARC "satellite site") is listed, as are Soil Moisture Experiment (SMEX) data sets that were taken with the device located here at BARC. The most recent uses of the data have been to study the effects of aerosols on climate and weather. USEPA is considering the use of data from these instruments for an air quality index.

BARC RESEARCH SUBSTANTIATES BARLEY HEALTH CLAIM

Research by USDA/ARS scientists was used to support the new FDA interim ruling on a health claim for barley food products. The petition was made by the National Barley Foods Council and requested permission to allow labels on barley food products to state a health claim that the consumption of these foods can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. The claim indicates that to qualify for the health claim, a food made from barley must contain at least 0.75 grams of the soluble fiber beta-glucan per serving. This would be equivalent to eating a bowl of hot barley cereal. Human studies conducted at the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center in the Diet and Human Performance Laboratory by **Dr. Kay Behall** and **Judith Hallfrisch** (retired) demonstrated that consumption of barley over 6 weeks lowered blood cholesterol; these studies were the primary human study evidence cited in the petition.



Mark Your Calendar!

REGISTER NOW FOR WORKSHOP ON SPATIAL STATISTICS

The "Spatial Statistics for Agricultural & Environmental Research Applications" workshop is being held at BARC on March 15-16. The workshop is a collaborative effort among statisticians at USDA/ARS, DOI/USFW and DOI/USGS. Dr. Jay Ver Hoef is the keynote speaker, and presentations will be given by faculty from various universities and by USDA, USGS, and USFW statisticians and scientists.

For more information, please contact spatial@ba.ars.usda.gov or click on the following link for the agenda and on-line registration: www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=11416.

luncheon speaker from the Mars Corporation, networking opportunities, presentations of available partnering opportunities, examples of partnerships with BARC, and a facilities tour for "Partnering Opportunities" (tour includes 3 facility stops). For program information, contact Robbie Melton at rmelton@marylandtedco.org or 410-715-4164. To register on-line, visit www.techcouncilmd.com/Calendar/html/495.html.

BHNRC WINTER/SPRING SEMINAR SERIES CONTINUES



Tuesday, January 24, 1:30 pm

Mickey Parish, Chair, Nutrition & Food Science Department, University of Maryland

"UMD and BARC: Opportunities for Collaboration in Nutrition and Food Science"

Building 005, Room 021, BARC-West

For information contact: Donna Rhodes, 301-504-0348

Tuesday, February 7, 1:30 pm

Richard Anderson, Nutrient Requirements & Functions Laboratory, BARC

"Cinnamon, Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease"

Building 307C, Room 122, BARC-East

For information contact: Gloria Solano-Aguilar, 301-504-8068

Tuesday, February 21, 1:30 pm

Jeanne Rader, Food and Drug Administration

"Update from the FDA Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling & Dietary Supplements"

Building 005, Room 021, BARC-West

For information contact: Janet Roseland, 301-504-0715



REGISTER NOW FOR BARC/TEDCO SHOWCASE

On Thursday, February 23, 2006, in cooperation with the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), BARC will be holding a Bioscience for Life: Technology to Enhance Health, the Environment and Agriculture showcase at the Holiday Inn, College Park. Registration will run from January 16 – February 16. **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?** Companies involved in any of the following: bioscience-health, bioenergy, agricultural business, growing and breeding plants, environmental safety and protection, pharmaceuticals, food safety and quality improvement, developing value added products, or environmental protection. State and local government officials who will have the opportunity to network with businesses and researchers with potential for local expansion or establishment. **THE DAY FEATURES:** keynote

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