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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! 

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Thomas Henry, Research Entomologist with the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, received the L.O. Howard Distinguished Achievement Award from the Eastern Branch Entomological Society of America. This prestigious award recognizes his outstanding research on the systematics of True Bugs.

COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER

The Bee Research Lab has been selected to lead an ARS Area wide program to improve colony survival in bees. Program funding is \$4.8 million over 5 years with funds going to all four of the ARS honey bee laboratories. The Beltsville Bee Research Lab provides overall coordination with the goal of improving honey bee colony survival in the U.S. The program responds directly to the recent nationwide "Colony Collapse Disorder" affecting honeybee survival.



TRAINING WORKSHOP

Joanne M. Holden, Research Leader, Nutrient Data Laboratory (NDL), BHNRC, conducted a training workshop on Food Sampling in Tucuman, Argentina February 25-29, 2008. The workshop was held as part of a Regional Technical Cooperation Project "Development of Databases and Tables of Food Composition in Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay to Strengthen International Trade and Consumers' Protection" of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the U.N. Approximately 20 scientists met for one week to discuss and

develop specific sampling plans for 15 foods (five per country) to be sampled and analyzed to estimate the nutrient composition. The course material and approaches for sampling were developed by Ms. Holden, Dr. Pamela Pehrsson, NDL, and Dr. Charles Perry (retired, National Agricultural Statistical Service). The FAO requested that the NDL scientists, world-renowned experts in food sampling methodology, transfer this technology to scientists of these Latin American countries.

VISITORS TO BHNRC

On March 20, the Food Components and Health Laboratory, Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center (BHNRC), hosted participants attending the 2008 National Institutes of Health Nutrition and Cancer Prevention Research Practicum. Approximately forty scientists, physicians, and allied health professionals from the U.S. and four other countries attended. Drs. David Baer, Janet Novotny, and Beverly Clevidence, research scientists with the Laboratory, and Drs. Kim Stote and Craig Charron, post-doctoral fellows, presented their research and participants toured the BHNRC Human Studies Facility, where much of the research was conducted. The practicum, a one-week educational opportunity, is sponsored by the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Nutrition at the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health.

On the Research Side...

ORGANIC FARMING

The Beltsville and North Atlantic Areas (BA and NAA) are cooperating with the Department of Economic Development of Worcester County, Maryland, to establish a Demonstration Organic Farm. Success in this effort will provide a location to promote and develop long term relationships for cooperative research. ARS has the ability to address several agricultural/horticultural issues unique to the Eastern Shore. Two research and development projects have already been identified as suitable for the Farm. One project will involve Dr. Kim Lewers (BA) and Fumiomi Takeda (NAA) in the establishment of multi-season strawberry production. The other project will involve Margaret Pooler (BA) and Donna Fare (BA) in the evaluation of new nursery plant production procedures using US National Arboretum releases.