



www.csrees.usda.gov

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Cooperative State  
Research, Education,  
and Extension Service

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

# Investing in Science, Securing Our Future

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), supports research, education and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations through federal funding and leadership. CSREES provides annual funding to land-grant universities and competitively granted funds to researchers in partner organizations. CSREES also helps universities identify and meet research, extension and education priorities in areas of public concern that affect agricultural producers, small business owners, youth and families and others.

CSREES focuses on critical issues affecting people's daily lives and the nation's future. The advanced research and educational technologies we support empower people and communities to solve problems and improve their lives at the local level.

We respond to quality-of-life problems such as:

- \* Improving agricultural productivity
- \* Creating new products
- \* Protecting animal and plant health
- \* Promoting sound human nutrition and health
- \* Strengthening children, youth and families
- \* Revitalizing rural American communities

We do this through an extensive network of state, regional and county extension offices in every U.S. state and territory. These offices respond to public inquiries and conduct informal, noncredit workshops and other educational events. You're connected to this system—which is now 90 years old—through your nearest extension office, which provides answers to commonly encountered problems through educational materials, Web-based information, the telephone and other means.

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### GLUE GOES GREEN

An Oregon State University researcher developed an environmentally friendly wood adhesive made with renewable natural resources, replacing current adhesives that release cancer-causing chemicals.



### VEGGIES UNDER WRAPS

Food technologist Dr. Tara McHugh\* has developed vegetable- and fruit-based films that may be used to provide a layer of protection for meats, fruits and vegetables from E. coli and other pathogenic bacteria, keeping produce safe and fresh.

\* McHugh conducts her research at the Agricultural Research Service in Albany, CA



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### ALL-WEATHER RICE

Researchers at the University of California\* and the International Rice Institute identified a gene that allows rice crops to survive flooding, potentially saving the world's poorest populations \$1 billion a year in lost rice crops – their primary food source.

\* Davis and Riverside campuses

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CSREES' broad areas of interest include:

- \* Agricultural & Food Biosecurity
- \* Animals & Animal Products
- \* Economics & Commerce
- \* Families, Youth & Communities
- \* International
- \* Pest Management
- \* Technology & Engineering
- \* Agricultural Systems
- \* Biotechnology & Genomics
- \* Education
- \* Food, Nutrition & Health
- \* Natural Resources & Environment
- \* Plants & Plant Products

CSREES collaborates with many institutions and individuals. Our key partners are land-grant universities and colleges. However, we also partner with other federal agencies, non-profit associations, professional societies, commodity groups and grower associations, multistate research committees, private industry, citizen groups, foundations, regional centers, the military, task forces and other groups.

With support from more than 600,000 volunteers, 4-H—USDA's 105-year-old youth development program administered through CSREES—engages more than 6.5 million young people every year and teaches them life skills through hands-on learning and leadership activities.

Congress created CSREES, through the 1994 Department Reorganization Act, by combining the USDA's Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) and Extension Service (ES) into a single agency. This move united the research, education and extension portfolios of both agencies and consolidated their expertise and resources under one leadership structure.

CSREES is one of four USDA agencies that make up its Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area. The other three agencies are:

- \* Agricultural Research Service (including the National Agricultural Library)
- \* Economics Research Service
- \* National Agricultural Statistics Service

The USDA-REE agencies provide federal leadership in creating and disseminating knowledge spanning the biological, physical and social sciences related to agricultural research, economic analysis, statistics, extension and higher education.