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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Cooperative State  
Research, Education,  
and Extension Service

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## FACT SHEET

# Investing in Science, Securing Our Future

CSREES supports research, education and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations through federal funding and leadership.

**Research:** CSREES enables researchers to solve problems critical to our farmers, consumers and communities. CSREES provides funding for individuals; institutions; and public, private, and non-profit organizations. CSREES-funded research may be basic or applied. Basic research discovers the processes and systems that make a plant, animal, ecosystem, food system, community or marketplace work. Applied research expands on basic research findings to uncover practical ways in which new knowledge can benefit individuals and society.

**Education:** CSREES education programs promote teaching excellence, enhance academic quality and develop tomorrow's scientific and professional workforce. In cooperation with public and private sector partners, CSREES provides national leadership to address critical educational issues. CSREES teaching initiatives strengthen agricultural and natural resource sciences literacy in K-12 education, improve higher education curricula, incorporate new technologies in instruction delivery and increase the diversity and quality of future graduates to enter the scientific and professional workforce.

**Extension:** CSREES' partner institutions have a third mission in extension, or training citizens to solve problems and improve their lives. These programs are managed by thousands of county and regional extension offices, bringing land-grant expertise to the local level. CSREES plays a key role in the land-grant extension mission by distributing annual congressionally appropriated formula funding to supplement state and county funds. CSREES affects how these formula funds are used through national program leadership to help identify timely national priorities and ways to address them.

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CSREES funds competitive grants to integrate research, education and extension projects to address high-priority agricultural issues. Research is expected to address knowledge gaps that are critical to the development of practices and programs to address a problem. Extension activities will lead to measurable, documented changes in learning, actions or conditions. Education initiatives will strengthen institutional capacities and result in curricula and related products that provide sustained impact.

CSREES' areas of interest are grouped in the following National Emphasis Areas:

- \* 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

**Agency Leadership**

Colien Hefferan, Administrator  
Ralph Otto, Associate Administrator  
Betty Lou Gilliland, Assistant Administrator for Management and Policy  
Dennis Kopp, Assistant Administrator for Program and Analysis  
James Spurling, Assistant Administrator for Public Liaison

**Employees**

Approximately 320, located in Washington, DC.

**Partner Land-Grant Institutions**

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1862 Land-Grant Universities | 57        |
| 1890 Land-Grant Universities | 18        |
| 1994 Land-Grant Universities | <u>33</u> |
| Total                        | 108       |