Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Report

ESS Meeting and SAES/ARD Workshop

September 14-17, 2009

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dr. Toni Betschart, Associate Administrator for ARS Research Operations and Management retired on September 3. Dr. Caird Rexroad, currently Associate Administrator for ARS National Programs, has been appointed to Dr. Betschart’s previous position. In turn, Dr. Judy St. John is appointed as Acting Associate Administrator for National Programs.

The FY 2010 budget for ARS is still awaiting final appropriation action by Congress. Action to date suggests that current ARS FY 2009 programs and budget will for the most part be sustained plus modest increases of 2 to 3 percent overall for pay act and selected programs and facilities. Final Congressional action is expected in late September or October. Current and future research emphasis areas are bioenergy, climate change, human nutrition/obesity prevention, food safety, and global food security.

ARS has a significant research presence in Oklahoma in cooperation with Oklahoma State University and Langston University. ARS laboratories are located at El Reno (U.S. Grazinglands Research Laboratory), Stillwater (Wheat, Peanut, and Other Field Crops Research Unit and Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit), Woodward (Southern Plains Range Research Station), and Lane (South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory). One of the ARS scientists organizationally attached to the El Reno laboratory is duty-stationed at Langston University for cooperative research on forages and grazing lands.