



News Update – Pending Budget Cuts to ARS

In response to the Presidents budget proposal for 2019 (a reduction of \$143m,) the Agricultural Resource Service (ARS) is proposing the following cuts;

The proposed changes include the closure of the **Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit** in Corvallis. This is the unit Dr. Dave Gent and Dr. John Henning operate within.

The stated goal of these reductions is to decrease \$19,025,000 from ongoing research projects to support higher priority research. The 2019 budget has identified a number of existing projects throughout the US which are slated to be discontinued. The reasons stated are as follows;

1. Mature and objectives have been mainly accomplished,
2. Of relatively low impact, significance or relevance to national priorities,
3. Marginal or below threshold funding for program viability or sustainability,
4. Conducted in substandard or inadequate infrastructure and future costs are prohibitive,
5. Lacking a critical mass of scientists/support personal for an effective program,
6. Carried out by other research institutions.

Projects based in Corvallis include;

1. Reducing the Impact of Diseases on Hop Production – savings \$717,000
2. Hops – savings \$85,000
3. Multi-objective Optimization of a Profitable and Environmental Sustainable Agricultural to Produce Food and Fiber in Changing Climate – savings \$1,578,000
4. Improvement of Biotic and Abiotic Stress Tolerance in Cool Season Grasses – savings \$1,105,000
5. Disease Modeling and Genetic Approaches to Enhance Wheat and Grass Seed Crop Biosecurity – savings \$625,000

Industry representatives are visiting Washington DC next week (March 7/8) to show support for the Hop Research currently conducted at the Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit.

Please consider submitting communication to the ARS group in support of public hop research, on your organization's letterhead. Contact Bryan or Judy Thoet for details.