FY18 PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

USDA Agricultural Research Service

ARS in Idaho

The University of Idaho (UI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (ARS) cooperate to advance the sustainability and competitiveness of agriculture in Idaho and nationally.

Key ARS-university collaborations focus on potato variety development and agronomy and small grains at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center, viticulture at the Parma Research and Extension Center, and irrigation management and water use efficiency at the Kimberly Research and Extension Center.

UI researchers also collaborate with Washington State University on the ARS Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, Washington, and with the ARS-operated U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho.

Background

The partnership between the USDA Agricultural Research Service and University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has for decades produced substantial benefits for growers and consumers through economically and environmentally sustainable production methods and nutritious, safe food for consumers.

Recent Accomplishments

- The Tri-State Potato Development program makes the Pacific Northwest states of Idaho, Washington and Oregon the most productive and efficient potato producers in the nation by breeding and testing new potato varieties well suited to the region’s climates and environments. ARS researchers are critical to those efforts.
- The ARS Small Grains Germplasm Repository at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center provides a valuable resource for wheat and barley breeders seeking new traits that can reduce the crops’ water and fertilizer requirements and resistance to pests and diseases.
- Collaboration with the USDA ARS-operated U.S. Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois is enhanced with the addition of UI faculty tasked with drawing on a century of station research data to help find new solutions to today’s environmental challenges related to rangeland and wildlife management.

Upcoming Goals

- Expand collaboration on water and rangeland conservation research to benefit Idaho’s farmers and ranchers.
- Enhance ARS-UI genomics and agronomy research collaborations to benefit agricultural producers and the environment.
Projected Impact of Continued and Increased Funding

Strong collaborations among USDA Agricultural Research Service and UI researchers support Idaho producers and protect the environment. Potato growers in Idaho, Washington and Oregon, benefit from collaborative variety development and testing, as do growers nationwide and internationally.

Accounts: Agriculture Appropriations, Agricultural Research Service

FY17 Funding: House $1.151 billion; Senate $1.177 billion