

■ Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), which was created in 1994, forms a national and international research and education network. CSREES combines the research and higher education functions of the former Cooperative State Research Service with the education and outreach functions of the former Extension Service.

Mission

In cooperation with its partners and customers, CSREES focuses on advancing a global system of research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental and human sciences to benefit people, communities, and the Nation.

CSREES programs increase scientific knowledge and provide access to that knowledge; strengthen the capabilities of land-grant and other institutions in research, extension, and higher education; increase access to and use of improved communication and network systems; and promote informed decisionmaking by producers, families, communities, and other customers.

The Agency's purpose is to improve economic, environmental, and social conditions in the United States and globally. These conditions include improved agricultural and other economic enterprises; safer, cleaner water, food, and air; enhanced stewardship and management of natural resources; healthier, more responsible, and more productive individuals, families, and communities; and a stable, secure, diverse, and affordable national food supply.

Partners

CSREES works in partnership with the public and private sectors to maximize the effectiveness of limited resources. Partners include:

- Land-grant institutions in each State, territory, and the District of Columbia,
- More than 130 colleges of agriculture,
- 59 agricultural experiment stations,
- 57 cooperative extension services,
- 63 schools of forestry,
- 16 1890 historically black land-grant institutions and Tuskegee University,
- 27 colleges of veterinary medicine,
- 42 schools and colleges of family and consumer sciences,
- 29 1994 Native American land-grant institutions, and
- 127 Hispanic-serving institutions, including 81 members and 45 associate members of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Programs

CSREES research, extension, and education leadership is provided through programs in plant and animal production, protection, and processing; natural resources and environment; rural economic and social development; families, 4-H, and nutrition; partnerships; competitive research grants and awards management; science and education resource development; and communications, technology, and distance education.

The agency develops research and education programs in cooperation with its partners, using advanced research and educational technologies that empower people and communities to solve problems and improve their lives. The CSREES partnership with the land-grant universities and their representatives is critical to effective and shared planning, delivery, and accountability for research, higher education, and extension programs.

Advanced Communication Technology

CSREES is a recognized international leader in designing, organizing, and applying advanced communication technologies and in meeting the growing demand for enhanced distance education capabilities. CSREES provides essential community access to research and education knowledge and connects private citizens to other Federal Government information. All State extension system offices and 75 percent

of county offices are interconnected via interactive communication technology. This capability enables CSREES to respond in a timely and credible manner to critical issues and public needs.

Reaching Diverse Audiences

Rural America is more diverse, both in human and financial resources, than ever before. In response, CSREES is a diverse and multicultural organization that values and is committed to pluralism as a long-term investment in the future.

CSREES at Work

CSREES is a key to knowledge-based agriculture, for it provides a critical connection between extension educators—who identify and communicate agricultural, environmental, and community problems—and researchers at campuses and experiment stations. The researchers, in turn, generate new knowledge and develop a new generation of scientists. Educators and researchers work together to initiate and stimulate new research that helps solve real world problems.

■ **CSREES Is**

- *Cutting-edge research programs on value-added products, plant and animal genomes, integrated pest management, water quality, human nutrition, food safety, and animal and plant systems*
- *Model education programs on food safety; sustainable agriculture; water quality; children, youth, and families; health; environmental stewardship; and community economic development*
- *5.6 million youth involved in 4-H projects and programs*
- *The National Research Initiative, which supports research to solve key agricultural and environmental problems*
- *Grants to provide educational opportunities in the agricultural and food sciences*
- *Innovative design of interactive distance education activities to reach diverse audiences and sustain access to lifelong learning*
- *Immediate electronic access to flood and disaster safety, recovery, and other vital information*
- *3 million trained volunteers who work with outreach education programs nationwide*
- *Over 9,600 local extension educators working in 3,150 counties*
- *Over 9,500 scientists conducting research at 59 State agricultural experiment stations*
- *International education programs taught by over 200 extension professionals in 17 countries*

For Further Information

Contact your local county extension office (offices are listed under local government in the telephone directory), a land-grant university, or the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-0900. Telephone: 202-720-3029; Fax: 202-690-0289; Internet address: csrees@reeusda.gov

■ **Did you know?**

- *CSREES information is electronically accessible globally via Internet through Almanac (almanac@reeusda.gov), Gopher (gopher.reeusda.gov (port 70)), and World Wide Web (<http://www.reeusda.gov>).*
- *CSREES promotes research and development of industrial products that are environmentally friendly and biodegradable and that can be recycled and manufactured from renewable resources grown domestically.*
- *Nearly 100 CSREES extension educators from 29 land-grant universities participated in the USDA Poland/American Project, helping with Poland's transition to a market economy.*
- *The CSREES AgriAbility project provides on-farm assistance to over 2,000 farmers with disabilities and educates agricultural, rehabilitation, and health professionals on safely accommodating disability in agriculture.*
- *Agriculture ranks as one of the three most hazardous U.S. industries. CSREES funding supports farm safety education programs in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.*
- *Hibiscus, also known as kenaf, is a source of industrial fibers for manufactured products such as printing and writing paper, building materials, and containers that combine kenaf with recycled plastic. It is used as an adsorbent material in oil/chemical spill booms, poultry litter, animal bedding, and potting soil. Since 1986, CSREES has led efforts to commercialize kenaf; this plant can produce 6-10 tons of dry fiber per acre.*
- *A CSREES distance learning partnership with the National Association of Counties gave communities nationwide access to interactive discussion of children's issues. This access not only provided a broader range of information for local communities, but it also encouraged their active participation in a continuing learning process.*
- *In 1990-95, jobs in the food and agricultural sciences outpaced graduates by 11 percent. A continuing 5 percent shortfall is projected over the next 5 years.*

- *Women represent more than 38 percent of the baccalaureate enrollment in agriculture, renewable natural resources, and forestry programs at land-grant and State institutions, and their enrollment in academic areas related to agriculture is growing.*
- *58 percent of U.S. forests (358 million acres) is held by 10 million private owners. CSREES has educational programs in all States to help these owners manage their forests with environmentally acceptable methods.*
- *The CSREES pesticide applicator training program trains over half a million people each year on the safe and environmentally sound use of pesticides.*
- *CSREES aquaculture programs assist U.S. farmers, who raise nearly 100 aquatic species for food and recreation with a farm gate value of nearly \$1 billion.*