

■ Delivering the Goods

How does USDA take these technologies and products from the labs to the marketplace? REE works with land-grant institutions and industry to move research results into the marketplace to boost economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for all Americans. REE works in partnership with the State agricultural experiment station system, based at land-grant universities to carry out a balanced program of fundamental and applied research. This critical connection—with extension educators identifying and communicating agricultural, environmental, and community problems to researchers at campuses and experiment stations—helps provide cutting-edge technologies and new products.

USDA uses Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) to get many of its research accomplishments to farmers, business people, and consumers. Under these agreements, USDA and its private sector partners agree to develop certain technologies jointly so they can be commercialized. With more than 650 such partnerships, USDA leads all Federal research organizations in CRADA activity. CRADAs combine government expertise with entrepreneurial ability, allowing government and small business to do more together than they could alone. CRADAs maximize resources and deliver results, giving farmers and consumers products they need, and giving small business and rural America Federal partnerships that enhance products and stimulate the economy.

USDA also collaborates with other Federal Departments. Several joint projects have been initiated between USDA agencies and the National Laboratories operated by the Department of Energy for research and development, technology transfer, technology utilization, and technology commercialization activities. USDA has collaborated with the Department of Defense in investigating new methods to control pests and reduce pesticide use, as well as finding ways to replace critical materials that are not available from domestic producers. Cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) includes close coordination of human nutrition research done by the two Departments. The CRADAs and the Federal partnerships are examples of how REE can stimulate economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of Americans.