



**Gene Lester, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.**

Postdoc. – University of California  
Ph.D. – Michigan State University  
M.S. – University of Illinois  
B.S. – University of Wisconsin



**USDA, National Program Leader, 2013 to present.** Directs two National Programs.

1. **Product Quality and New Uses**: postharvest food, loss and waste, nutritional quality, and non-food bio-based product development; a total of 60 research projects, 180 scientists, located over 19

states. Crops of investigation: cotton, fish, dairy, fruits and vegetables, grains (wheat, barley, oats & rice), oilseeds, poultry & eggs, wool, leather, processed foods, pulses, sugar and peanuts.

2. **Biorefining and Biofuels**: lignocellulosic feedstocks, and sugar crop bagasse-refining and conversion technologies; a total of 9 research projects, 35 scientists, located over 4 states.

As National Program Leader my responsibilities are to plan research objectives, allocate personnel, and budget for these science-based research programs.

**Research Plant Physiologist, 1982-2013.** USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, MD and Weslaco, TX. Research area: determine environmental, management, plant physiological and genetic factors affecting postharvest market quality, shelf-life, and human bioactive (nutritional) content of fresh fruits and vegetables.