
USDA and Bee Lab Updates

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Food, Conservation, and Energy Act



2008 Farm Bill

- Passed June 22, 2008
- Enacted Oct. 1, 2008



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

- Headed by a Presidential appointee
- Replaces Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)
- Funding will be driven more by competitive grants



Research, Education and Extension Office (REEO)

- Headed by a Chief Scientist, under the Secretary of Agriculture
 - Agricultural Research Service (ARS) now falls under REEO
 - Direct both NIFA and ARS priorities (?)
 - 6 Divisions (similar to our Program Offices)
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REEO Divisions:

- Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment
 - Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
 - Plant Health, Production, and Products
 - Animal Health, Production, and Products
 - Agricultural Systems and Technology
 - Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities
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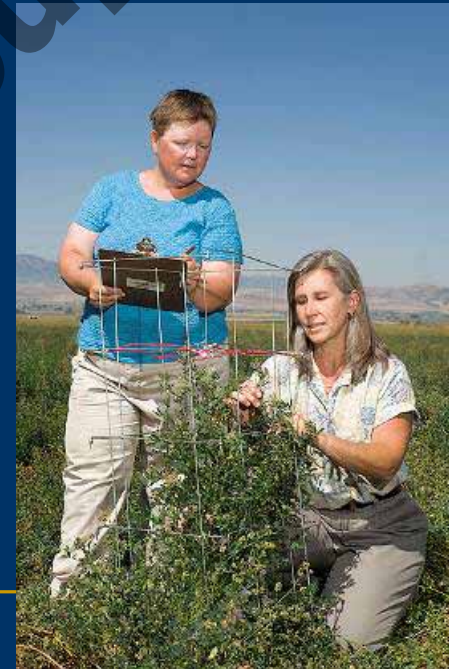
Division Chiefs' Mission

- Identify and prioritize USDA Agricultural research, education, and extension needs
- Recommends funding levels – one line item for REE, competitive programs will receive priority
- Capacity and infrastructure programs
- Assess strategic workforce needs



Bee Lab 5-Year Research Plan

- Alkali Bee Research
 - Understand densities needed
 - Improve bee survival
- Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee Research
 - Understand number of bees needed
 - Improve retention of bees after release
- Disease Control



Other Research Areas

- Blue orchard bees
- Bumble bees
- Conservation of wild bees

