

2013 ARS Science Hall of Fame Awards Program

PURPOSE

The Agricultural Research Service is one of the most important and highly regarded research organizations in the world. This is largely due to the accomplishments, stature, credibility, commitment, and influence of the scientists who work or have worked for ARS. This prestigious program honors those scientists whose extraordinary personal contributions have helped shape the history, culture, science record, and public perception of ARS, and have helped advance U.S. agriculture.

More specifically, this program recognizes outstanding scientists who, through their ARS research, have made widely recognized impact on food and agriculture and who serve or have served as role models for other scientists. Scientists of this stature have made extraordinary career accomplishments that have paved the way for further research in an area of agricultural science and/or have significantly influenced the development of science-based agriculture programs and policy, nationally and/or internationally.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made of former ARS scientists who retired or left the agency in the past 10 years. Current employees must be retirement eligible. A nomination may not be submitted more than twice in three consecutive years. ARS scientists that have also served in program leadership and executive positions may be nominated based upon their personal science contributions and scientific stature. Scientists who are deceased may be nominated and recognized posthumously. Team nominations will not be accepted.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations must address the following criteria:

Outstanding Science – original science discovery and contributions reflecting high levels of creativity and innovation.

Impact on Agriculture - by developing a solution to a significant agricultural problem through research; application of science for beneficial outcome.

Impact on Research – science accomplishments and stature that continue to lead or influence the direction of the agricultural research community and/or influence the development of science-based agriculture policy.

Recognition to ARS - achievements that have brought major recognition and credibility to ARS and/or USDA.

National and/or International Recognition - by his/her peers in the scientific community, including external award recognition.

Additionally, nominations may address:

Continued Professional Service – post retirement professional activities including serving as a role model or mentor for other scientists.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Any ARS employee may submit a nomination of a scientist. Nominations must fully support the accomplishments, achievements, and impact of the scientist. Letters of reference will not be accepted. The nomination format is attached.

Nominations must be forwarded through the appropriate Area Office or the Associate Administrator for National Programs, for purposes of establishing eligibility, and ensuring completeness of supporting documentation, prior to submitting to the Human Resources Division. Nominations are due to the Human Resources Division by April 12, 2013. Each Area may submit no more than three nominations.

The Administrator may appoint a diverse committee composed of subject matter experts from the following categories to assist in the evaluation of the nominations and to make recommendations. Final selections are made by the Administrator.

1. Member from the Office of the Secretary's Staff
2. Agency Administrator within USDA
3. Deputy Administrator, National Programs
4. ARS science manager
5. Senior scientist from the academic community
6. Current ARS Distinguished Scientist of the Year
7. Member of the ARS Hall of Fame
8. Senior scientist or technical representative from the private sector
9. Retired ARS scientist/manager

NATURE OF RECOGNITION

The award recipients will be recognized at the annual ARS Science Hall of Fame Program normally held in September. Each winner will be presented a plaque commemorating the award, and a dinner/ceremony will be held in their honor. An additional plaque and an audio-taped interview with each recipient will be added to the ARS Science Hall of Fame display in Beltsville, Maryland.

Justification:

(Limit of no more than 3 pages with no less than 11 point font, standard spacing and at least 1 inch margins.)