

## USDA outlines future ag research

WASHINGTON, D.C. — New directions for agricultural research in the 1980's are being planned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief science agency, emphasizing research on critical national needs up to 1990 and projected over the next 20 to 50 years.

Terry B. Kinney Jr., administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, said the agency is realigning its programs and funding "to achieve a proper balance of resources needed to pursue national research in the years ahead."

Agency resources will be concentrated, Kinney said, in two high priority areas — one addressing

immediate needs of agriculture through 1990 and the second increasing basic high-risk research that has long-term payoffs.

Among the immediate needs, Kinney said, are ways to increase the uses of agricultural products, reduce soil and water losses, and improve human nutrition.

"One of our immediate jobs is to increase research that will help ease the surpluses and other economic binds facing agriculture," he said.

"We want to tap, as one example, the potential that crops and by-products have for being turned into value-added products," he said. "That would open new markets for agriculture products, bolster incomes of farmers and

ranchers, and help this country's exports.

"We are redirecting our scientific talent and resources in line with Secretary of Agriculture Block's policy to focus research on national goals," Kinney said. "The agency is projecting that \$75 million of its current budget be redirected over 6 years, from 1984 to 1990."

Kinney said the redirections for the agency are spelled out in two documents:

— A program strategy that outlines research possibilities for the next 20 to 50 years.

— A six-year plan that identifies research areas for increased emphasis for the 1980's.

Kinney said the six-year plan also sets funding targets and priorities, and establishes a yearly review.

Following are the six objectives and changes in percentage and

actual dollar targets for 1990. They are based on the agency's 1982 budget of \$413 million, the latest budget available when the planning was started.

— Converting agricultural products, 3 percent (\$10 million) increase.

— Soil and water resources, 1 percent (\$6 million) increase.

— Human nutrition, 3 percent (\$14 million) increase.

— Systems research applied to agriculture, 1 percent (\$3 million) increase.

— Plant production, 7 percent (\$29 million) decrease.

— Animal production, 1 percent (\$4 million) decrease.

Kinney said that funds for plant and animal production will be shifted to broaden the base of fundamental knowledge, including genetic engineering and other biotechnologies. "We must take advantage of opportunities that

will be opened by new developments in advanced technology," he said.

Kinney said that the actual dollar targets for 1990 are based on a constant budget of \$413 million, the 1982 total. Budget increases in subsequent years will result in increased research on all six objectives of the agency.

All of the funding targets for 1990 are the result, Kinney said, of a planning process started within the agency in December 1981. Over 500 agency scientists and engineers were involved.

"After evaluating all the options with administrative and field staff," Kinney said, "hard choices were made."

Kinney said the agency's new directions "take aim at providing stability to a national research program that must contribute to long-term stability of American agriculture."

## Del. picks Weed

### Advisory Committee

DOVER, Del. — Delaware's Secretary of Agriculture Donald J. Lynch announced the selection of a five member Weed Advisory Committee.

The Committee's members are Christopher Wicks, Middletown; John Thomas, Marydel; Dale Ockels, Milton; Terry Van Horn, State Noxious Weed specialist and Frank Webb, Extension specialist. This committee has been established to advise the Department on matters concerning noxious weed problems in the State.

Secretary Lynch explained that under the new Noxious Weed Control law, the Department of Agriculture will be designated species of weeds that adversely affect or threaten agriculture production as noxious weeds. To assist in accomplishing this, the Weed Advisory Committee will be reviewing agricultural weed problems and providing recommendations to the Secretary. Lynch said public involvement will be necessary to develop an effective noxious weed control program.

For further information contact Terry Van Horn, Department of Agriculture, Drawer D, Dover, DE 19903 or telephone 800/282-8685 or 302/736-4811.



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