South Atlantic Area

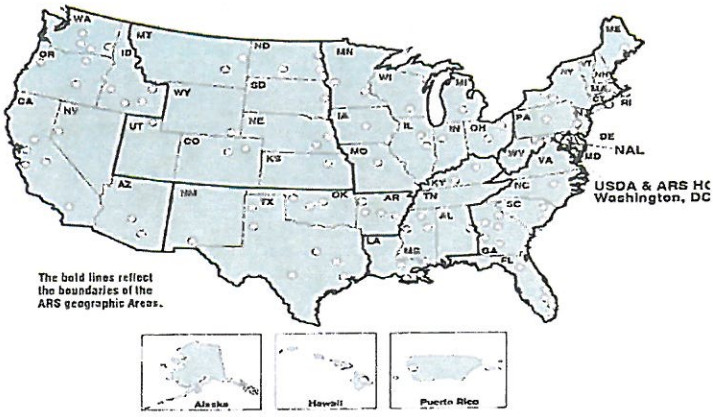
An Area of 5 states (NC, SC, GA, FL, VA) and PR in the Agricultural Research Service dedicated to leading America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.

The **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)** is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. The agency's job is finding solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day, from field to table. ARS has:

- 800 research projects within 18 National Programs
- 2,200 scientists and post docs
- 6,200 other employees
- 90+ research locations, including overseas laboratories
- $1.1 billion fiscal year budget

ARS's mission is to conduct research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to:

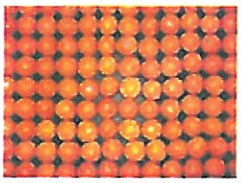
- ensure high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products
- assess the nutritional needs of Americans
- sustain a competitive agricultural economy
- enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and
- provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.



The South Atlantic Area's record of accomplishments and ongoing programs has made it a world leader in agriculture research. Its international reputation attracts thousands of visitors each year from the United States and abroad. ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination in order to: ensure high-quality safe food and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and, provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. SAA research addresses all of these goals through programs in 15 locations across North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Virginia and Puerto Rico.

CANAL Point, FL
Sugarcane Production Research Unit
Mission: To serve as a national sugarcane crossing unit that supports sugarcane cultivar development programs by providing true seed to ARS sugarcane cultivar development programs at Houma, Louisiana, and Canal Point, Florida and to the Texas A&M University at Weslaco, Texas.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
Invasive Plant Research Laboratory
Mission: To address the complex and multi-faceted problems of exotic plant invasions in natural and agricultural ecosystems by conducting research into the impacts of exotic plants as well as the safety and effectiveness of biological control and other methods used to manage invasive plants.



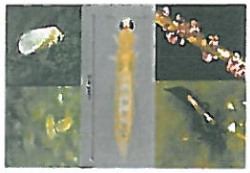
FORT PIERCE, FL
U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory
Mission: To: 1) Provide overall coordination of research activities; 2) give general supervision to ongoing research programs; 3) provide for such activities as greenhouse and farm support; 4) represent the laboratory at official meetings and other necessary functions.

FORT PIERCE, FL
Subtropical Insects and Horticulture Research Unit
Mission: To conduct research to increase the productivity, profitability and sustainability of citrus and other subtropical and tropical orchard crops, ornamentals and vegetables.

FORT PIERCE, FL
Subtropical Plant Pathology Research Unit
Mission: To advance the sustainable production for of citrus, vegetable, turf and ornamental crops by improving disease control, enhancing production efficiency, minimizing environmental impacts and ensuring food safety.

FORT PIERCE, FL
Quality Improvement in Citrus and Subtropical Products Research Unit
Mission: To (1)improve flavor, textural and nutritional quality while extending shelf life and microbial stability of subtropical and tropical fruit and fruit products; (2) use chemical and other analytical techniques to obtain fundamental information about mechanisms by which internal compositional profiles of these commodities are changed through genetics, harvest maturity, storage or processing and determine effects of such changes on available nutrients and other quality factors; (3) develop new mechanisms, or modify established mechanisms for converting commodities into more desirable products; (4) develop new approaches for the conversion of polysaccharides in fruit processing wastes to value-added products; (5)isolate from citrus byproducts, phenols with biological activities targeted towards a number of pharmacological endpoints; and (6)identify citrus genotypes with resistance to disease and that produce high quality fruit.

GAINESVILLE, FL
Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology
Mission: To conduct research on insects of agricultural, medical and veterinary importance with the goal of achieving control of pest species through the development of environmentally acceptable approaches.



GAINESVILLE, FL
Insect Behavior and Biocontrol Research Unit
Mission: To describe, analyze and manipulate the behaviors and environments of pest and beneficial insects, and to develop area-wide tactics for managing lepidopterous, thrips and fruit fly pests utilizing natural enemies, molecular manipulations, and semiochemicals and other signals and cues.

GAINESVILLE, FL
Imported Fire Ant and Household Insects Research Unit
Mission: To develop integrated management processes for imported fire ants and other invasive pest ants.

GAINESVILLE, FL
Mosquito and Fly Research Unit
Mission: To develop novel technologies for detection, population monitoring, and non-pesticidal control of biting and filth breeding insects in agricultural, urban, and suburban environments and to develop repellents for the protection of humans and animals from biting and filth breeding arthropods.

GAINESVILLE, FL
Chemistry Research Unit
Mission: To isolate, purify, chemically identify,and synthesize pheromones and other semiochemicals that control, regulate, or modify many types of insect behavior.

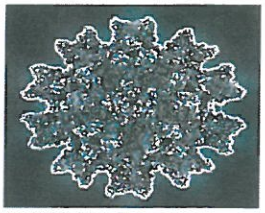
MIAMI, FL
Subtropical Horticulture Research Unit
Mission: To support the agricultural industries in the southern areas of the United States by providing environmentally sound research on: (1) the genetics of tropical and subtropical fruit and ornamental crops; (2) the interdiction and control/eradication of exotic plant insect pests; and (3) developing a potting mix from construction debris, biosolids, and organic composts with improved water holding and ion exchange capacities to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of wastewater from nursery irrigation operations.

ATHENS, GA
Richard B. Russell Research Center (RRC)
Mission: To conduct research in 3 main thrust areas: (1) the ensuring and improvement of food and feed safety; (2)the ensuring and improvement of food and crop quality and production efficiency and (3) the practical exploitation of natural chemical and biochemical products.

ATHENS, GA
Quality Assessment Research Unit, RRC
Mission: To research issues affecting the quality and safety of poultry and other agricultural products and develop commercially-viable systems relative to stakeholder needs in both industry and government by detecting physical and chemical quality attributes of foods, feeds, and their byproducts with nondestructive methods including dielectrics, spectroscopy, and sensory and detecting physical, biological, and chemical contamination of foods and processing streams with rapid optical methods.

ATHENS, GA
Poultry Microbiological Safety & Processing Research Unit, RRC
Mission: To provide stakeholders the means to deliver wholesome poultry meat products to consumers with progressively lower prevalence of bacterial enteropathogens.

ATHENS, GA
Toxicology and Mycotoxin Research Unit, RRC
Mission: To determine the action mechanisms and toxicological hazards of mycotoxins to humans and animals, and to develop intervention approaches to eliminate such hazards from foods and feeds.



ATHENS, GA
Bacterial Epidemiology and Antimicrobial Resistance Research Unit, RRC
Mission: To study antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic food borne pathogens and commensal bacteria.

ATHENS, GA
Egg Safety and Quality Research Unit, RRC
Mission: To protect both the health of consumers and the marketability of eggs by conducting research to develop improved technologies for egg production and processing that reduce or eliminate microorganisms that can transmit disease to humans or cause spoilage.

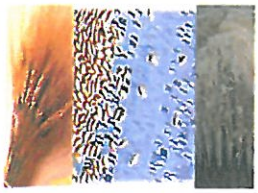
ATHENS, GA
Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory (SEPRL)
Mission: To provide scientific solutions to national and international exotic, emerging and endemic poultry viral diseases through a comprehensive research program emphasizing basic and applied research in diagnostics, prevention, and control strategies, prediction of disease outbreaks, molecular epidemiology, and understanding disease pathogenesis.

ATHENS, GA
Exotic and Emerging Avian Viral Diseases Research Unit, SEPRL
Mission: To conduct basic and applied research on avian influenza, Newcastle disease, West Nile and other exotic and emerging viruses of poultry and other birds.

ATHENS, GA
Endemic Poultry Viral Diseases Research Unit, SEPRL
Mission: To conduct basic and applied research on avian metapneumovirus, enteric viruses of turkeys and Marek's disease herpesvirus.

BYRON, GA
Fruit and Nut Research Unit
Mission: To meet agriculture sector needs - both small and large farms - for a) stone fruit (peach nectarine, plum) scion and rootstock cultivars, and b) production and management strategies and tools to enable economic production and protection of pecan and stone fruit crops.

DAWSON, GA
National Peanut Research Laboratory
Mission: To conduct research on food safety, water and energy conservation, peanut production and postharvest, and systems research designed to minimize risk and enhance viability of the US peanut industry.



GRIFFIN, GA
Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Research Unit
Mission: To preserve plant genetic resources for present and future researchers and educators.

TIFTON, GA
Southeast Watershed Research Unit
Mission: To develop the scientific understanding and associated technologies of water-shed systems essential to maintaining/enhancing the environmental and natural resource base upon which a viable, sustainable, and productive agricultural economy depends.

TIFTON, GA
Crop Genetics and Breeding Research Unit
Mission: To conduct research on warm-season grasses for forage, turf, and bioenergy; corn; peanut; pearl millet and sorghum to solve agricultural and environmental problems of regional and national interest.

TIFTON, GA
Crop Protection and Management Research Unit
Mission: To conduct basic, developmental and applied research in the southeastern Coastal Plain to generate new principles, practices, and germplasm for the economical and environmentally sound, management of nematode, weed, disease, and insect pests of crops, and to minimize the effects of agricultural chemicals on the environment and public health.

RALEIGH, NC
Market Quality and Handling Research Unit
Mission: Includes enhancement of flavor and shelf-life of domestic and export peanuts and peanut products by developing improved methods in production, handling, and roast processing; qualitative and quantitative determination of peanut components which contribute to nutrition and health of consumers; evaluation and use of genetic resources to improve market quality factors; and provide a safer food supply to consumers by developing accurate methods to detect and remove mycotoxin contaminated commodities from the food and feed systems and reduce the economic risk of farmers, handlers, and manufacturers.

RALEIGH, NC
Food Science Research Unit
Mission: To develop improved processes for the preservation and utilization of vegetables including cucumbers, sweetpotatoes, peppers, and cabbage, which will enhance quality, retain nutrients, assure safety, reduce energy use, and minimize high salt processing wastes.

RALEIGH, NC
Plant Science Research Unit
Mission: Research involved in the use of plant molecular genetics, classical genetics, and plant breeding for crop improvement; development of superior populations and germplasm of cereal grains (corn, wheat, oat, and barley); development of new techniques to evaluate, manage and control disease in cereal grains; and determination of how atmospheric contaminants and climate change affect plant growth, development, yield, and plant-soil interactions.

RALEIGH, NC
Soybean and Nitrogen Fixation Research Unit
Mission: To broaden the narrow genetic base of U.S. soybean breeding by genetically tapping into the treasure trove of genetic resources of the USDA soybean germplasm collection.

MAYAGUEZ, PR
Tropical Crops and Germplasm Research Unit
Mission: To conduct agricultural research to: 1) assess tropical sorghum and dry bean genetic resources for disease resistance and genetic diversity and develop germplasm adapted to temperate regions, and 2) to introduce, preserve, evaluate, regenerate, distribute and develop cultural and management systems for tropical/subtropical crops that are of economic importance to the Continental and Insular U.S.

CHARLESTON, SC
US Vegetable Laboratory
Mission: To conduct research to solve region-wide and national problems in the production and protection of vegetable crops.

FLORENCE, SC Coastal Plain Soil, Water and Plant Conservation Research Unit
Mission: To anticipate, identify, and solve natural resource problems in agriculture that are important to the USA in general and the SE Coastal Plain in particular.

South Atlantic Area Contact List

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Crop Genetics and Breeding Research Unit	Corley Holbrook, Research Leader	(229) 386-3176
Crop Protection and Management Research Unit	Brian Scully, Research Leader	(229) 387-2330
Market Quality & Handling Research Unit	Timothy Sanders, Research Leader	(919) 515-9108
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Coastal Plains Soil, Water, and Plant Research Center Coastal Plain Soil, Water and Plant Conservation Research Unit	Kenneth Stone, Acting Research Leader (LC)	(843) 669-5203