FEDERAL LABORATORY CONSORTIUM

FLC

FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The Only Government-wide Forum for Technology Transfer

Town Hall Meeting: The Role of Technology Transfer Offices in National Competitiveness

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RICK BRENNER

- Assistant Administrator, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- Director, ARS Office of Technology Transfer (OTT, ***approx. 42 FTE with 1 SES and 10 GS-15s***)
- FLC Member-at-Large (2004-present)
- FLC Executive Board, Program Committee (national and Mid-Atlantic Region), Education and Training (E&T) Committee
- USDA Agency Representative to FLC ***(28 agencies in USDA)***
- Recipient of FLC Technology Transfer Award (1989), ARS Technology Transfer Awards (2), ARS Outstanding Scientist of the Year Award (1997)
- 20 years as ARS research scientist, including 7 as Research Leader (Mexico, Florida)
- B.S. Forestry (Univ. of IL), M.S. Medical Entomology (U of IL), Ph.D., Medical Entomology (Cornell)

Suggested Topics

Session is a follow up to a Town Hall meeting at NE FLC meeting

Session Theme: Enhancing U.S. Global Competitiveness

- Role of labs in economic development -- importance? constraints?
- T2 "culture" in the agency – is your Office respected, or just tolerated? What can be done to improve the culture?
  - Are scientists compliant in timely reporting of ID? Are there adequate incentives / recognition? Suggestions for improvement?
- Are partnerships with private sector nurtured? Is this important to meeting your agency mission?
- Other barriers or impediments to successful partnerships and T2? Legislation? Budget? Political pressures?
- Are there other burning issues of the times?

New Directions in Strategic Public / Private Partnerships?

Provide training and access to resource options to partners of USDA (e.g., CRADA, Licensees)

- SBIR
- NASVF
- Partnership intermediaries
- MEP
- Local / regional / state Economic Development entities

- Small Business Development Centers
- Business school internships
- University Research Parks
- Rural Development
- DoD Technology Transition Funds
- Enhanced Use Lease opportunities

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Strategic Planning: Pursuit of New Authorities to Promote Commercialization

Should federal agencies pool authorities to create Federal Technology Accelerators?

- Enhanced Use Lease Authority
- Access to pilot plants
- Private sector-assisted conversion of underutilized federal research facilities
- Integrate with economic development incubators (community or university)
- Create tax incentives for developing technologies by utilizing domestic renewable resources / energy credits / carbon credits?

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THE ANNUAL REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

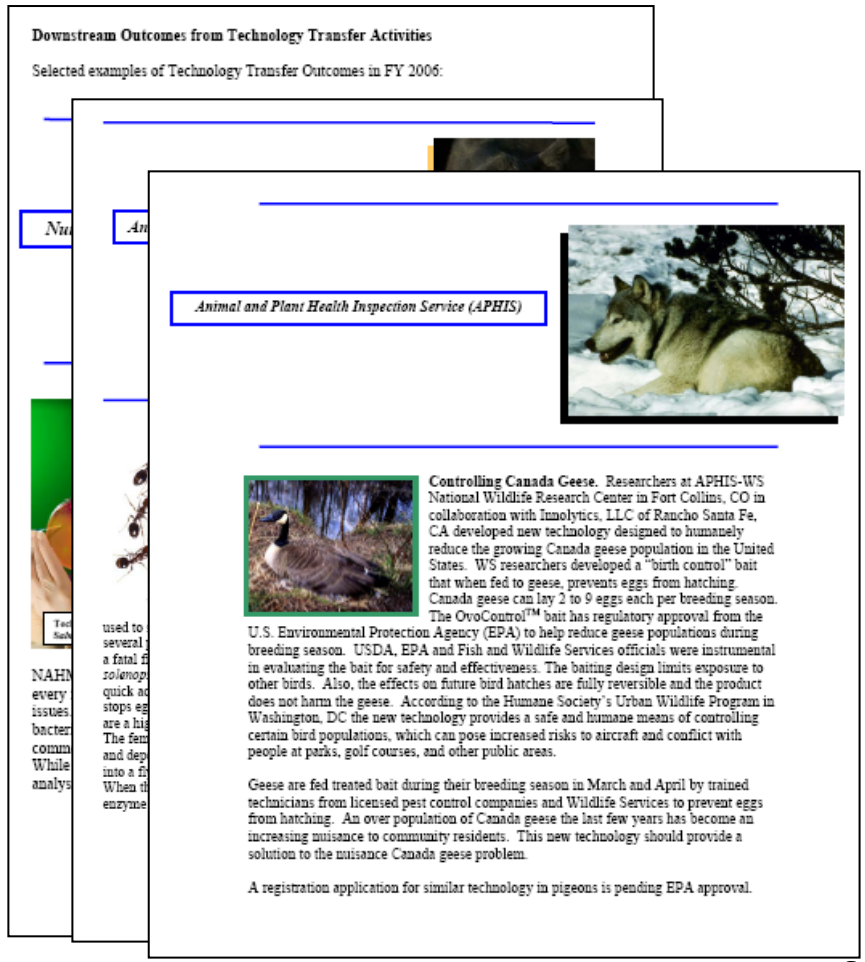

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Photo: Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, MD
(Joann Perkins)

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