



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



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?



THE ANNUAL REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

U.S. Department of Agriculture
FY 2006 Annual Reporting on Agency Technology Transfer

Cover Photo: An experimental pepper line developed at the Agricultural Research Service

Release Date: December 15, 2006

Downstream Outcomes from Technology Transfer Activities
 Selected examples of Technology Transfer Outcomes in FY 2006:

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Controlling Canada Geese. Researchers at APHIS-WS National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, CO in collaboration with Immunolytics, LLC of Rancho Santa Fe, CA developed new technology designed to humanely reduce the growing Canada goose population in the United States. WS researchers developed a "birth control" bait that when fed to geese, prevents eggs from hatching. Canada geese can lay 2 to 9 eggs each per breeding season. The OvoControl™ bait has regulatory approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help reduce geese populations during breeding season. USDA, EPA and Fish and Wildlife Services officials were instrumental in evaluating the bait for safety and effectiveness. The baiting design limits exposure to other birds. Also, the effects on future bird hatches are fully reversible and the product does not harm the geese. According to the Humane Society's Urban Wildlife Program in Washington, DC the new technology provides a safe and humane means of controlling certain bird populations, which can pose increased risks to aircraft and conflict with people at parks, golf courses, and other public areas.

Geese are fed treated bait during their breeding season in March and April by trained technicians from licensed pest control companies and Wildlife Services to prevent eggs from hatching. An over population of Canada geese the last few years has become an increasing nuisance to community residents. This new technology should provide a solution to the nuisance Canada geese problem.

A registration application for similar technology in pigeons is pending EPA approval.



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

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