Welcome from the Administrator

The National Agricultural Statistics Service is one of the world’s most important and recognized organizations producing agriculture statistics and providing service to the community that produces and uses such data. Our reputation for reliability and excellence reflects the dedication and hard work employees throughout this agency exhibit every day.

But the agency’s credibility and long-standing record for producing timely, accurate, and useful agriculture statistics is equally due to the contributions of those who preceded us – and that is why we established the NASS Hall of Fame. We want to recognize and honor former employees whose contributions to the agency and to agriculture statistics transcend time. Each year, at the time of the annual awards ceremony, NASS will induct into the Hall of Fame former staff members who are retired at least five years from federal service and whose work has had lasting impact on the information we collect, the way we operate, and the service we provide. Like today’s honorees, all future Hall of Fame inductees will also exemplify integrity, honesty, and commitment to public service.

For this inaugural induction, we recognize five individuals, now deceased, who worked for the agency after 1957, when the Department of Agriculture developed a plan to expand data collection and make it the work of a separate agency within the Department. We are so pleased to recognize these outstanding individuals and to show the agency’s appreciation of their important and lasting contributions.

Dr. Cynthia Clark
Administrator
Our Thanks to the Nominating Committee

Our thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for contributing generously of their time and talent to identify today’s Hall of Fame inductees. Their charge was to identify former employees who worked for USDA agricultural statistics since 1957, which is when the shift to making the agricultural statistics function a separate agency within the Department of Agriculture began. In this inaugural induction, we wanted to honor individuals who are deceased, retired more than five years ago, and whose impact transcended time.

The committee members are:

**John E. Lee, Nominating Committee Chair**  
Former Administrator, USDA Economic Research Service

**Richard D. (Rich) Allen**  
Former Chair, Agricultural Statistics Board  
Former Deputy Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service

**Keith Collins**  
Former Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**William E. Kibler**  
Former Chair, Crop Reporting Board  
Former Administrator, Statistical Reporting Service/National Agricultural Statistics Service

**Katherine K. Wallman**  
Chief Statistician, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
Program

Welcome
Dr. Cynthia Clark
*Administrator*, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Remarks
Dr. Catherine Woteki
*Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics*,
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. John E. Lee
*Chair*, Hall of Fame Nominating Committee

Hall of Fame Induction

Closing Remarks
Dr. Cynthia Clark

Reception
Bruce M. Graham made many contributions to the early development and success of the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS), serving in nearly every top management position, including Acting Administrator. Through his leadership of the Survey Operations Group (SOG), the important “Project A” moved from a research project to a fully operational way of estimating crop and livestock production.

An important key to implementing Project A was expanding probability area frame surveys to more state offices. In most states, the assignment for state training schools and conducting the new surveys was given to new or relatively inexperienced agricultural statisticians. Under Bruce’s guidance, the Survey Operations Group not only provided good training but helped

Bruce M. Graham provided outstanding leadership in the Statistical Reporting Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, including leadership of the Survey Operations Group. This group expanded the use of probability area frame surveys into most states, a key to implementing the transformative “Project A.”

Bruce M. Graham
these new employees develop a “can do” attitude.

Serving on the SOG was demanding. Members worked with mathematical and commodity statisticians to develop questionnaires and to edit parameters, summary procedures, and manuals for both enumerators and state survey coordinators. They developed all training materials, operating procedures, equipment, and instructions for implementing new methodologies, and conducted the regional training schools. The process worked since Bruce Graham encouraged and guided the group all the way.

Mr. Graham, who transferred to Washington, D.C., in 1957, was quickly recognized as an excellent trainer. His 10 years in state offices and his M.S. in statistics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, coupled with his outgoing personality and tremendous energy, made him a most likable and effective Chief of Field Operations and Enumerative and Objective Yield Surveys. He instilled confidence in young staff that the new operating system would work and that they would play a key role. He moderated all of the early training schools. His confident, reassuring manner helped participants realize they could handle their new assignment.

Bruce Graham’s excellent leadership, his familiarity with staff and operating systems, his technical background, and management style led to his selection as Deputy Administrator. He established and chaired a committee that recommended all promotions and transfers in the Statistical Reporting Service. The committee was strongly supported by staff and was a principal reason that the Statistical Reporting Service and the Forest Service were named the two best agencies to work for in USDA. Bruce Graham served with distinction as Deputy Administrator of SRS and NASS for more than 10 years.
As Chair of the Crop Reporting Board (1950 – 1962), Sterling R. (Bert) Newell led development of the 1957 long-range plan for major expansion of USDA data collection. He helped convince Congress to support the plan, which ultimately led to the creation of the Statistical Reporting Service (now the National Agricultural Statistics Service).

Sterling R. (Bert) Newell was the primary author of “A Program for the Development of the Agricultural Estimating Service,” which he presented to the House of Representatives appropriation hearings on February 7, 1957. This was in response to a request from Congressman Jamie L. Whitten, who chaired the Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations. Mr. Newell’s presentation and responses to questions led to additional funding over the original USDA budget requests and enabled faster implementation of the probability-based surveys then being tested.

In addition to answering questions from within USDA and from external organizations, Bert Newell saw a particular need to address field staff concerns thoughtfully. The first Agency National Conference in 20 years
was held later in 1957. In planning the conference, Mr. Newell requested recommendations from the field on topics and length of sessions. That conference, with the *Quo Vadis* theme, provided detailed progress summaries and expansion plans along with presentations from each estimation branch. Mr. Newell specifically addressed questions from the field in an “all hands” format.

When Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman created the Statistical Reporting Service and the Economic Research Service in 1961, Bert Newell continued in the position of Deputy Administrator and Chairman of the Crop Reporting Board for about a year to provide continuity before retiring. At his retirement ceremonies, several speakers referenced the “Newell Revolution” to describe his service heading up the Board from 1950 to 1962. Although he retired shortly after the Statistical Reporting Service was formed, Mr. Newell’s long years of work in USDA statistics and his role in developing plans for improvements had a lasting impact on the growth and development of the agency NASS is today.

As chair of the Crop Reporting Board, Bert Newell provided leadership during the critical planning leading to the organization and formation of the new Statistical Reporting Service, which later became the National Agricultural Statistics Service. He was instrumental in developing and executing the 1957 long-range plan that guided the establishment of durable and effective survey and operational methods and that steered SRS and NASS thinking for the next two to three decades.
Cary Palmer was an outstanding State Statistician in South Dakota and Texas. In that capacity, he was a role model for state statisticians. The influence of his example as a successful manager in those two important agricultural states was felt across the new Statistical Reporting Service (SRS). But one of his most important contributions was his ability to recruit outstanding college graduates to become statisticians in SRS.

The detailed plan to implement SRS’s expanded responsibilities when it became a new agency was referred to as “Project A.” Since the agency’s success in implementing Project A hinged on hiring new agricultural statisticians to carry out the expanded workload, it is appropriate to recognize...
a State Statistician who excelled in recruiting. There is no better choice than the legendary recruiter Cary Palmer. In South Dakota, and then in Texas, Mr. Palmer recruited many quality agricultural statisticians to the agency. Some were recruited before 1957, and served important roles in training other new statisticians for the Statistical Reporting Service.

In South Dakota, Cary Palmer used the student trainee program in an unusual fashion. The university was 60 miles from the state office, so trainees could not spend much time in the office. Mr. Palmer developed projects that they could work on at the university and he monitored their progress. He expected the best the trainees had to offer and gave them the opportunity to succeed. As a growing agency, SRS needed many recruits with a farm background and an undergraduate degree who would start as a GS-5 or GS-7 and be willing to move to other areas of the United States at their own expense.

In South Dakota, Mr. Palmer hired 14 agricultural statisticians in less than eight years. All 14 finished their careers with SRS. Ten advanced to State Statistician or Branch Chief positions and the others were well-regarded analysts. He also recruited SRS employees from Texas universities.

Cary Palmer had outstanding skill in recruiting and using student trainees for special projects and summer work and outlining career possibilities at a time when demand for new recruits was great. He kept in touch with his recruits until they were well-adapted to SRS methodology. After assignments in two or three field locations with promotions, the recruits were assigned to the Headquarters office in Washington, D.C., for further development. Many went on to become outstanding statisticians and leaders in SRS and later NASS.
Glenn D. Simpson was an avid student of organizational structures and was instrumental in shaping the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) functional structure. With Harry Trelogan providing the “out-front” leadership and generating support for the new agency, Simpson put together the organizational structure, identified staffing needs, and led the development of operating procedures and policies. He chaired the committee that developed the original USDA Statistical Scope and Methods publication (Misc. Publication 967, 1962), which guided the statistical processes and procedures of the Statistical Reporting Service for many years to come.

Glenn Simpson guided the establishment of the Statistical Reporting Ser-
vice as it moved from being the Estimates Division of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service to an independent USDA agency. As chair of the Crop Reporting Board from 1962 to 1971, Mr. Simpson was key to implementing the 1957 long-range plan, especially on the operational side in dealing with how massive amounts of data would be collected, tabulated, and reported.

He was also a leader in getting the Statistical Reporting Service to consider and adopt advanced technology in automatic data processing, such as using regional office technology to conduct estimates and communicating back and forth with the national office to produce national estimates. He guided the agency’s introduction of the first computer in USDA and SRS.

Mr. Simpson started his agricultural statistics work as the Wyoming Agent in 1934. Organization and management were his forte, and he improved and strengthened those attributes with everything he did. He transferred to New York in 1938, where he assisted with a Work Projects Administration (WPA) project in New York City; was assigned to the Census Bureau in 1940; and served as an officer in the Marine Corps during war and peace. He became Secretary of the Crop Reporting Board, Assistant Director and Director of Field Operations, and the first Deputy Administrator of the newly created SRS. He had a Master’s degree in management.

After Congress established the Statistical Reporting Service, and especially after Mr. Simpson became Deputy Administrator of SRS and chair of the newly established Program Planning Committee, he was the leader in guiding research and development in the agency for the next decade.
Harry C. Trelogan was the founding Administrator (1961-1975) of the Statistical Reporting Service (now the National Agricultural Statistics Service). He provided the vision and leadership that began the transformation of previous USDA data collection programs into an internationally renowned statistical agency.

Harry C. Trelogan was the founding Administrator of the Statistical Reporting Service (now NASS), serving from 1961 until 1975. A leader with vision and broad perspective, Dr. Trelogan saw how a comprehensive program of credible statistics could serve American agriculture and enhance the work of USDA. He helped convince the Department and Congress to support his vision, and then provided the leadership to make that vision a reality.

Because he recognized that SRS lacked adequate statistical methodology and expertise for its work, Dr. Trelogan started a one-year Master’s-level study for young staff at Iowa State and North Carolina State. By 1975, SRS had the best-trained group of 30 math stats doing research and operating
programs. He encouraged SRS staff to be active in professional organizations and to work closely with commodity organizations and state departments of agriculture, and he led SRS through a major modernization and upgrading of professional skills to create an efficient agricultural data collection, processing, and reporting organization.

Harry Trelogan advanced computerization (a new technology) of state statistical offices, and adapted to advances in research and computer technologies by hiring mathematical statisticians, computer programmers, and systems analysts. He established the first probability-based estimates of national crop acreage and established a Remote Sensing Branch to research the use of satellite information for crop acreage estimations. He oversaw the adoption of Statistical Analysis Software (SAS). One of his final accomplishments was to participate in the creation of the World Agricultural Outlook Board (which began to publish the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report) in 1973.

Harry Trelogan was an excellent administrator, a visionary leader in the adoption of new technology, an innovator in the development and adoption of new processes and methods, and a supporter of professionalism and training. He presided over early efforts on civil rights awareness and training. He had credibility with Congressional committees and secured support for improved and expanded data collection in USDA.

With M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Trelogan had a long and distinguished career as a university professor and in other positions at USDA before leading the new Statistical Reporting Service. He received the USDA Superior Service and Distinguished Service awards, and was President of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, where he was also a Fellow, in addition to being a Fellow of other national and international organizations.