

Importance of Grains Research

All of the grains milled by NAMA members benefit from the USDA research units across the country that carry out or support small grain research activities. From research on mycotoxins and wheat scab, to efforts to understand oat rust, the work and support provided by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and other agencies is critical to keeping the U.S. grain supply chain on the cutting edge of a highly competitive global marketplace. While NAMA and industry leaders also contribute to the research initiatives and believe in strong public-private partnerships, the success of U.S. agriculture is due in large part to the sustained federal investment in foundational agriculture research. These investments have assisted U.S. producers in growing the most abundant food supply in the world.

Wheat Research: ARS resources that support such activities as wheat genotyping, quality, genetics, breeding, pest and disease research are critical to improving the wheat breeds and technologies necessary to provide economical solutions to producers and quality food products to consumers. The genetic complexity of wheat and minimal investments in research due to competition for funds from row crops, increases the importance of work being done by ARS.

- ARS Wheat Quality Laboratories: Wooster, OH; Manhattan, KS; Fargo, ND; and Pullman, WA.

Oat Research: Continued investment by ARS and the federal government in strong oat research programs is critical to keeping the U.S. at the forefront in the development and implementation of new technologies to improve oat productivity and quality. Basic genetic research, including new molecular techniques, plant breeding, research on disease resistance, germplasm enhancement, and research on new and value-added uses will enhance the value of oats and provide benefit to the producer, processor, end-user and consumer. In addition, oats play an important role in sustainable grain production in the U.S. and provide producers with another crop option. To remain a viable crop, progress in oat improvement must be sustained.

- ARS facilities critical to oat research: Fargo, ND; St. Paul, MN; Brookings, SD; and Aberdeen, ID.

Corn Research

Milled corn is found in a wide variety of food including corn meal, grits, corn flour, corn flakes and breakfast cereals. In addition to being rich in antioxidants, milled corn foods are delicious, making it easy to get essential nutrients such as carotenoids into one's diet.

Advances in corn genetics and technologies have been significant in recent decades. However, work remains to be done on the human diet, limiting mycotoxin contamination, controlling foodborne diseases, and improvements to crop production. The support of ARS facilities across the country ensures this important research continues.

- ARS facilities critical to dry milled corn research: Peoria, IL