



Institute of
Barley and
Malt
Sciences

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Continued genetics research important to U.S. barley stakeholders

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) has announced a search to refill a full-time, permanent Research Geneticist position to continue important barley and oat genetics and breeding work at the Small Grain and Potato Germplasm Research Unit in Aberdeen, Idaho.

Plant breeding and genetics research aimed at the development and release of improved barley and oat germplasm will be the main focus of this position. Specific breeding targets are the development of spring and winter two-rowed and six-rowed malt barley cultivars, feed and food barley cultivars and improved oat cultivars. Other objectives are to improve the hardiness of winter malting barley varieties and to support work to map key quality traits in barley and oats. Breeding work will employ marker-assisted selection where feasible.

The search will remain open until June 6, and detailed application information can be found at <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=99086450&JobTitle=Research+Geneticist&q=ARS-X11W-0172&where=&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=85&y=14&AVSDM=2011-05-03+12%3a27%3a00> or by calling 301-504-1535 (Job Announcement Number ARS-X11W-0172).

Maintaining a viable national public sector barley research infrastructure, including adequate research personnel, was identified as a top priority by U.S. barley researchers and stakeholders at a “Next Generation Barley Varieties” meeting sponsored by the North Dakota Barley Council in early April to discuss the impact of global economic issues on barley competitiveness and strategies to promote traditional and emerging barley variety development technologies.

“Barley and oats are primarily public sector and non-genetically modified crops and are facing stiff competition from other crops that are receiving substantial private sector investment, including the development of GM varieties. The US barley community – growers, researchers, and malting, brewing, and cereal food end-users are pleased the USDA-ARS is filling this critical small grains research position,” said Dr. Mike Davis, Executive Secretary of the National Barley Improvement Committee.

