



## **Current Research Information System (CRIS)**

### **Organizational Location:**

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)  
Information Systems and Technology Management (ISTM)

### **The System:**

The Current Research Information System (CRIS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's documentation and reporting system for ongoing agricultural, food and nutrition, and forestry activities. CRIS contains over 40,000 descriptions of current, publicly-supported activities of the USDA agencies, the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, the State land-grant colleges and universities, State schools of forestry, cooperating schools of veterinary medicine, Cooperative Extension Service, and USDA grant recipients.

The mission of CRIS is to document the activities of the USDA and the State system partners to satisfy a variety of reporting requirements and to provide access to research, education, and extension information.

### **Participants**

#### **USDA**

Agricultural Research Service  
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service  
Economic Research Service  
Forest Service  
Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### **State Institutions**

State Agricultural Experiment Stations  
1862 Land Grant Institutions  
1890 Land Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University  
1994 Land Grant Institutions (Tribal Colleges)  
Cooperating Schools of Veterinary Medicine  
State Forestry Schools  
Cooperative Extension Service

#### **Other Participants**

CSREES grants, including Small Business Innovation Research grants, and Cooperative Agreement Recipients

### **Subject Coverage**

Agricultural, food and nutrition, and forestry research encompasses a broad range of activities including:

- Management and use of natural resources.
- Protection of crops and livestock from pests and other hazards.
- Production management systems for crops, livestock, poultry, and fish.
- Farm and forest product development and quality improvement.
- Marketing of crop, animal, and forest products.
- Foreign trade and market development.
- Food and human nutrition, health and safety, and consumer protection.
- Rural and community development.
- Family resource management.
- Fish and wildlife management, outdoor recreation, and environmental quality.
- Agricultural education and outreach.

## Project Description

The basic reporting unit documented in CRIS is a project. A CRIS project documents a three to five year activity at a single location. The activity focuses on a clearly definable problem, a manageable phase of a larger problem, or a few closely related elements of a broad-based program. Information for each CRIS project includes:

*WHAT* is being done,  
*WHO* is doing it,  
*WHERE* it is being conducted,  
*WHEN* it is being performed,  
*ACCOMPLISHMENTS* achieved annually,  
*IMPACTS* expected from the effort  
*PUBLICATIONS* associated with the work.

The information from the Work Unit Description provides a basic abstract to describe a project. The Accomplishments Report furnishes an annual update of outcomes, impacts, and publications associated with each project. Funding expenditures and support years are reported each fiscal year via the Funding and Staff Support report for each project. Project information is entered into CRIS through a Web site maintained at the University of Vermont. For assistance with data entry, contact Carolyn Deckers (202-690-0009) or another member of the CRIS Data Management Unit. (See list below.)

CRIS through Web Forms - CRIS Forms Assistance URL: <http://cwf.uvm.edu/cris>

A link to Web Forms is also on the CRIS home page. URL: <http://cris.csrees.usda.gov>

## Products and Services

The Current Research Information System has been serving the agriculture community for over thirty-five years. CRIS has drawn upon technology to achieve significant improvements for the agency, the participating institutions and for general users. Most recent improvements included a robust Web based search facility, electronic data entry system for submitting CRIS reports; rapid update cycles making information available sooner; expanded information for each project; inclusion of a plain language non-technical summary; including impact statements with annual accomplishments reports; accepting unlimited publication citations; and free access for the public through the Web to thousands of research abstracts documented in CRIS.

CRIS provides free, unrestricted access to a database of information through the CRIS web site. (<http://cris.csrees.usda.gov>) Other items available include the Manual of Classification of Agricultural and Forestry Research (which serves as the guide for classifying projects in CRIS), and annual funding summaries of research expenditures by CRIS classification area, by agency, and by region and state for selected fiscal years. In-house search services for information in CRIS and related databases are also available to customers in participating institutions and other governmental and educational organizations. Products available on the Vermont web site <http://cwf.uvm.edu/cris> include: news about CRIS, input manuals for the CRIS information collection and definitions and explanatory information for entering and submitting CRIS data.

## CRIS Support Team

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