

**Synopsis of the USDA Future Scientists Program to be held at Rice and Aquaculture Research Centers near Stuttgart, AR:**

The two-day summer institute will be hosted for participating teachers at the USDA/Agricultural Research Service (ARS)/Research Centers near Stuttgart, AR on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

10-20 Science Teachers are selected who are committed to introducing their students to the science of and employment opportunities available to them in Agriculture and who will make use of the USDA/ARS labs in Stuttgart, AR as educational resources. There are two foci of the program:

- 1) The first is to spend about half of the time helping the teachers to learn about the life cycle of the corn earworm (*Helicoverpa zea*) and corn (*Zea mays*) and sorghum through lecture and hands-on work in the lab and field before they are shown how to grow the insect in the classroom and how to conduct simple experiments.
- 2) The other half of each institute is devoted to exposing the teachers to the work of some of the RICE and AQUACULTURE research units at Stuttgart, AR.

**Bonus Benefits!**

- 1) \$200 travel stipend
- 2) Digital microscope
- 3) 20 hours of Prof. Development credit through TAMU recognized nationally
- 4) Free materials/links to USDA/ARS labs and scientists/technicians
- 5) Lunches during 2-day institute

**School visits by Program Director:**

During the school year, Dr. Wilson visits each participating school and makes a general presentation to a large group of students or teaches the class schedule of the teacher in the Future Scientists Program.

**Student Research Presentation Days**

The Student Research Presentation Day is the culmination of the student and teachers' year-long involvement in the project. It is held at a mutually agreeable day at the end of the school year (May 2018).

Each teacher selects four or five students to present the work of the teacher's various classes on the project. Parents are encouraged to attend and many make the effort to accompany their child. Event held at the USDA/ARS Stuttgart Rice Research Center.

***Worms: kindly supplied free to schools from ARS insect unit in Stoneville, MS***