

June 24, 2019

## At USDA, a drought of stories on its own climate research

The Trump administration has resisted drawing attention to Agricultural Research Service studies related to climate change, according to POLITICO Pro reporter Helena Bottemiller Evich, who writes that USDA is “defying a longstanding practice of touting such peer-reviewed research from the Agriculture Department’s acclaimed in-house scientists.” The administration actively attempted to suppress news releases about an ARS study that documented how increasing concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide reduce the nutritional content of rice.

### Highlights from a USDA study



#### EFFECTS ON RICE

Higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations increase the growth of rice grains, yet decrease their nutritional value, lowering concentrations of protein, minerals and B vitamins.



#### POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

These findings raise potential concerns about public health because rice is an important staple crop for billions of people. An estimated 600 million people, many of whom live in Southeast Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia and Myanmar, get more than half of their daily calories and/or protein from rice.

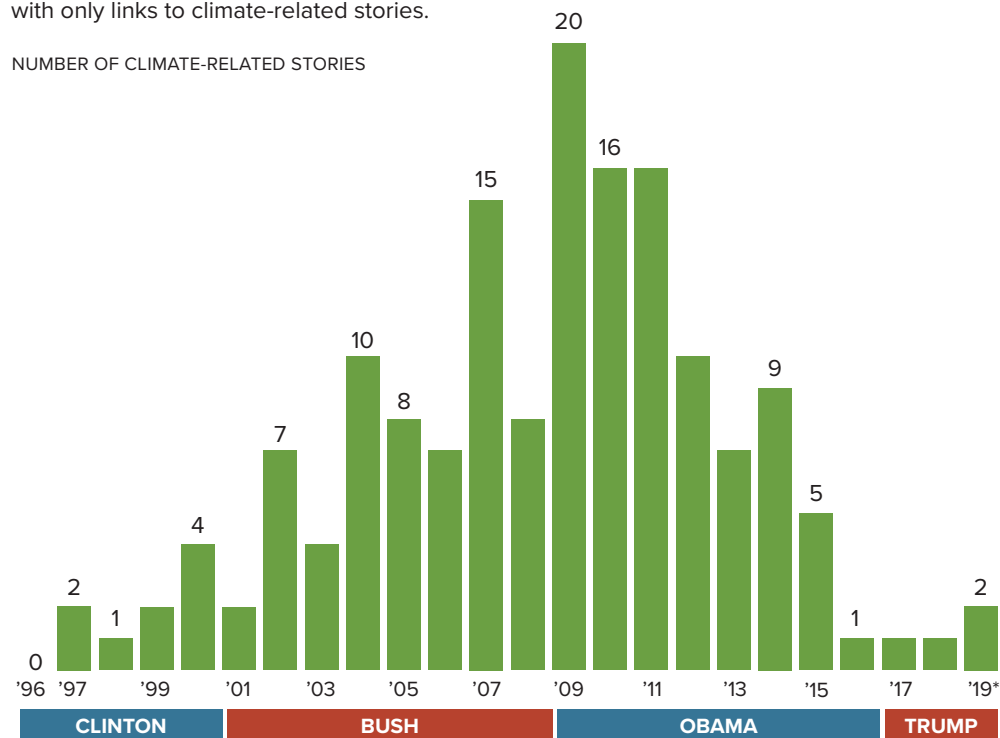
Sources: Science Advances, USDA ARS, POLITICO report by Helena Bottemiller Evich

By Patterson Clark, POLITICO Pro DataPoint

### A pattern of ignoring climate science at USDA

Agricultural Research Service news stories that mention studies related to climate change, global warming, atmospheric carbon dioxide, carbon sequestration or storage, greenhouse gases or global desertification have grown scarce under the Trump administration. Not included in the tally below: News about climate scientists winning awards or articles with only links to climate-related stories.

NUMBER OF CLIMATE-RELATED STORIES



\*2019 data as of June 7