

**From:** [Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)  
**Subject:** IMPORTANCE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY AT USDA  
**Date:** Friday, July 5, 2019 11:27:40 AM

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Subject: The Importance of Scientific Integrity in USDA  
From: The USDA REE Leadership Team  
To: All USDA Research, Education and Economics (REE) Employees  
Date: July 5, 2019

Dear USDA-REE Colleagues,

As your leadership team, we write to you today to highlight USDA's support of scientific research and to reiterate that USDA has no policy, practice, nor intent to minimize, discredit, de-emphasize, or otherwise influence the climate-related science carried out by USDA scientists and agencies. Scientific integrity is of paramount importance in USDA, and the USDA Scientific Integrity Policy<sup>[1]</sup> specifically states that "scientific findings and products must not be suppressed or altered for political purposes and must not be subjected to inappropriate influence." We all must continue to reflect this policy and uphold the very highest standards of integrity, including scientific integrity.

Thanks to the great work of the REE Mission Area, over 500 articles related to climate science projects were published in scientific journals in 2018. These publications are a critical part of the research lifecycle, and articles are widely consumed by the academic, research, and business stakeholders that drive innovation for our nation every day.

In addition to journal articles and press releases, USDA has utilized many options and platforms for communicating with our climate science stakeholders. This includes posting information on our external websites, maintaining a robust and strategic social media presence, and cultivating a sustained community outreach effort that engages farmers and ranchers throughout our nation.

As we have done consistently, we will continue to share our discoveries and scientific advancements with our stakeholders and all who rely on us to help feed the families of our nation.

We take this responsibility seriously, and we look forward to informing and engaging on the accomplishments of USDA's entire food and agricultural research, data, and statistics portfolio.

Respectfully,

Scott Hutchins, Ph.D.

USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE)

Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Ph.D.

USDA Administrator, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) & Acting USDA Chief Scientist

Hubert Hamer

USDA Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

J. Scott Angle, Ph.D.

USDA Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Ephraim Leibtag, Ph.D.

USDA Acting Administrator, Economic Research Service (ERS)

Dionne F. Toombs, Ph.D.

USDA Director, Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-scientific-integrity-policy.pdf>