Agricultural Research Service

A Government Perspective on the Current State of Entomology and What It Takes to Excel Today and Survive in the Future

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Actually Dan Strickman’s perspective
Some Numbers

• ~6000 members of ESA
• ~170 entomologists in ARS now
• ~200 entomologists in ARS four years ago
• 29 open positions on USAJobs
  – 14 not really entomology
  – 2 permanent
  – Top pay range $34,412 to $125,695
• Higher paying jobs more specialized
Kinds of Work

FUNCTIONS
- Technical
- Operational
- Research
- Administrative

AGENCIES
- USDA
- HHS
- EPA
- DoD
- DoI
- NSF
Excellerate

• Operations
  – See through
  – Drive through
  – Follow through

• Research
  – Satisfy
  – Innovate
  – Communicate
  – Develop

• Administration
  – Serve
  – Provide
  – Lead
  – Say “no”

• EVERYONE HAS A BOSS
Survive

The Ideal

• Have a goal
• Make a plan
• Work for early successes
• Adjust as necessary
• Be willing to accept personal disruption

Sometimes the Reality

• Get a foot in the door
• Make yourself indispensable
• Avoid trouble
• Be positive
• Be willing to accept personal disruption
The Future

• Grand sorting of traditional skills
• We need a breakthrough in effectiveness
• Tension between more specialized training and more flexible work goals
• Greater biological challenges

AT THE END OF THE DAY....
THE BUGS WILL DECIDE