

# **Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program**

- To assist regulatory authorities in conducting their risk assessments of Agr. GMOs**
- Monitoring dispersal of GMO's**
- Gene transfer between GMO's & other organisms**
- Comparative studies of GMO & non-GMO production systems**
- GMO risk minimization**

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1075>

# Representative Projects - BRAG

- Environmental impact of transgenic *Alcaligenes* used to control Pierce's disease
- Quantifying aerial dispersal of corn (*Zea mays*) pollen
- Ecology of transgenic antibiotic-producing *Pseudomonas fluorescens*
- Potential fitness impacts of gene flow from Bt crops to wild relatives
- Ecotoxicology of transgenic maize in northeastern agroecosystems



# BRAG – Stats

- Funding rate 27 % - 2005
- Funding rate 32 % - 2006; 28% - 2007
- Total program funding ~\$3 – 3.9 M
- Approximately 40 proposals submitted each of the last two years
- Plant gene flow was #1 topic submitted
- Environmental fate of transgene-expressed proteins, recombinase mitigation of gene flow, microbial and macrofaunal impacts, conferences, insect resistance management

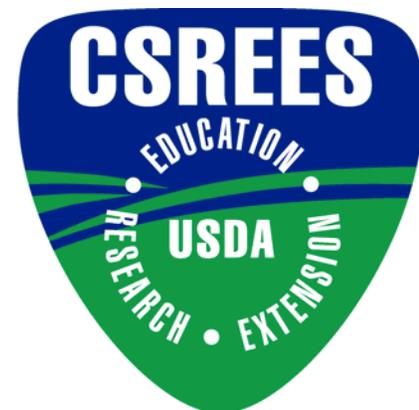


# What we Fund

- **Projects involving risk assessment of any bio-product of biotechnology**
- **Projects that address critical questions of interest to the regulatory agencies (EPA, APHIS)**
- **Projects which offer comparison of methods in U.S. agriculture (e.g., Conventional vs Biotech vs Organic production ....); Risk : Benefit**

# What we do not Fund!

- **Development of biotech products**
- **Food safety / allergenicity research**
- **Research that is clearly the responsibility of the developer (stewardship)**
- **Social acceptance / economic impacts research or analysis**
- **Medical / human health product assessment**





# BRAG Contact Info

- Dr. Daniel Jones, NPL, 202-401-6584, [djones@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:djones@csrees.usda.gov)
- Dr. Chris A. Wozniak, NPL, 202-401-6020  
[cwozniak@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:cwozniak@csrees.usda.gov)
- Kathy Kimble-Day, Program Specialist, 202-401-4420, [kday@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:kday@csrees.usda.gov)