

Happy anniversary to the Economic Research Service. The Economic Research Service to me sort of represents the whole evolution the growth in the AgEconomics profession really back even before the ERS but I say especially in the last fifty years since they were formed in 1961. When I think of ERS I think of the big wealth of information knowledge the analysis that they do. Whether it was when I worked at USDA, many years ago, or whether it has been since I left USDA I often think about ERS when I need information and need anything. They have really world class experts in a lot of their individual areas. Without question they have been very service oriented. That's in the name Economic Research Service and like so many at USDA that's what they reflect. Without exception over the years they've just provided great service to me personally but I think to the public and public policy makers generally. Congratulations on fifty years to Kitty Smith and all the staff at ERS.