



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

College of Agriculture  
& Life Sciences

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Dear Colleagues,

Since 1887, your Arizona Experiment Station has evolved to meet our state's changing needs and economic challenges. Sometimes changes were done to us and sometimes we've chosen them.

We face contemporary issues of Great Recessionary and other state budget cuts, the introduction of Responsibility Centered Management at the UA and dramatic changes in how water will be managed in south-central Arizona. Today we must work even smarter. We must choose to innovate to strategically deliver infrastructure support for greater Extension, research and teaching mission delivery from Maricopa Agricultural Center (MAC).

Jeff Silvertooth strategically leads all agronomic science and education programs in the Arizona Experiment Station. He focuses on ensuring Maricopa, Safford and Yuma Agricultural Centers best provide infrastructure support for our arid and semi-arid lands Extension, research and teaching agronomic missions. In June 2015, Jeff developed, led and implemented an innovative administrative model at and for the Yuma Agricultural Center. Under Jeff's management and leadership, this successful model will now be replicated at MAC.

Effective March 23, Mr. Greg Main, MAC Superintendent assumes the delegated authority, responsibility and accountability for leading and managing MAC as an Experiment Station unit. This includes all budget, compliance, personnel, as well as financial and business activities to optimally support our Extension, research and teaching mission delivery. Mr. Main reports directly to Jeff Silvertooth.

Our state faces significant agronomic challenges and opportunities. MAC is central to our strategy to best serve Arizona agronomics. School of Plant Sciences Professor and Bud Antle Endowed Chair for Excellence, Rick Ward, will continue his leadership in crop systems research and will continue to work at MAC. Dr. Ward's background and expertise in plant breeding and agronomy complements our other Antle Chair holder, Dr. Rod Wing, a world expert in plant genomics. Both Dr. Ward's and Dr. Wing's leadership are strategically critical as we hire our new molecular plant breeder in the School of Plant Sciences. This will take us from one, when I arrived, to three investigators covering all components of improved crops to meet our century's challenges.

I want to thank Rick, Greg and Jeff for their innovation, proactivity and smart leadership to ensure that we are best positioned to deliver on our three missions in Extension, research and teaching from MAC.

Sincerely,

Shane C. Burgess  
Vice President for Veterinary Sciences and Cooperative Extension  
Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Director, Arizona Experiment Station

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