

The ERS Experience

Narrator: “The Economic Research Service (ERS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture; producing research and analysis on food, farming, natural resources, and rural America. Located in the heart of the nation’s capitol, ERS offers enriching career experience and rewarding work.”

Anita Regmi - Senior Economist: “I am very proud to be working on U.S. trade negotiating issues in ERS. I have been involved in the WTO - DOHA round of negotiations and other free trade agreement. What that makes me feel is that the research work that I am doing is very relevant to policy issues and it is not just doing research in an ivory tower.”

Marc Ribaldo - Senior Agricultural Economist: “We recently looked at a project looking at the impact of new Clean Water Act regulations on the animal feeding sector. This built upon some previous research which we had done. EPA and NRCS, in particular, were aware of our work and we were invited to participate in the rule making process that precedes any new regulations.”

Sheila Sankaran - Executive Editor, *Amber Waves*: “We are constantly thinking of ways to innovate here at ERS in general, and in particular with *Amber Waves* [magazine]. For example, with our online magazine, we’ve added new features such as podcasts. So whenever an issue is posted, we [also] post an interview with the author that can then be downloaded for listening.”

Mitch Morehart - Senior Agricultural Economist: “I’ve had a lot of great opportunities to travel and actually visit farms in my job. Part of my responsibilities involves data collection. We do a survey each year, and I find that very important because as a researcher data is key to a lot of what we do. Having the opportunity to travel, and visit farms, and keep in touch with farming at the grassroots level has been very beneficial to my career.”

William Kandel – Sociologist: “There are so many opportunities really to develop and network professionally here in Washington; not only at a policy level but also among academics.”

Chris Davis - Agricultural Economist: “ERS has been a very positive experience for me; especially [as] a young researcher. Here I have had the opportunity to work with, to learn from, as well as talk with some of the brightest economist in the nation.”

Ephraim Leibtag - Economist: “At ERS researchers have a great opportunity to expand their research because of the great support we have for technology; we have always had the state of the art computers, the best software applications and a lot of support. If there is something new out there that you need for research, our funding and IT team as well as our support staff are great getting us the tools we need for our research.”

Lisa Mancino - Economist: “One thing I really enjoy about working here is I get the chance to work in the area of Food Choices, Diet and Health - which has always been an interest to me and also policy relevant, and topical, and an area that is booming in terms of economical analysis. The ability to tie it with behavioral economics is a real plus for me.”

Narrator: “Just outside the office there are many attractive amenities.” (Pictures of D.C. metro area)

Ephraim Leibtag: “You have both the ability and flexibility to work on products you’re interested in, but also [there is a] connection to policy and the real world.”

Mitch Morehart: “One of the things I like about ERS is there is a very diverse group of employees.”

Anita Regmi: “It’s been a lot of fun working in ERS.”

Chris Davis: “ERS is very supportive of their economist.”

Marc Ribaud: “I feel my work is valued.”

Lisa Mancino: “You have such a great access to good data and we have funding for research. People that never even heard of me now want to work with me.”

Narrator: “The Economic Research Service; meaningful work, a stimulating environment and an enviable location. Would you like to be a part of it? Be a part of us - ERS”