

Northeastern Region

Gary A. Thompson

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education (College of Agricultural Sciences) and
Director, Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station
The Pennsylvania State University



Gary is the Northeast's field leader. When a job needs to be done, Gary does it: efficiently, effectively, and economically. Each of these work attributes personify Gary's commitment to excellence and to the core values of the Land-grant system. His contributions to the Land-grant system are conspicuous on institutional, regional and national levels. Gary is the Chair-Elect of ESCOP, a member of the Board of Agriculture Assembly Policy Board, a representative on the APLU Budget and Advocacy Committee, a member of the Board of Trustees for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) and a member of the Board of Directors for the Peru Center of Excellence in Cacao. Formerly, Gary served as the Director of the Northeast Region's Sun Grant Association, Chair of ESCOP's Budget and Legislative Committee, Chair of the National Agricultural and Biotechnology Council, and a member of the Program Advisory Board of USAID's Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab. From a regional perspective, Gary has worked as the administrative advisor to five regional projects (NEERA 1005, NE 1201, NE 1227, NECC 1501 and NE 1727), chaired the Board of Directors for the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and served on NERA's Multistate Activities Committee. Gary's willingness to take on responsibilities that assist the Land-grant system serves an example for us all.

Gary is the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, College of Agricultural Sciences, at Penn State and the Director of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station. In this capacity, he administers a research portfolio that is among the top colleges at Penn State with annual expenditures of more than \$100 million. Gary oversees eighteen graduate education programs as well as the college's participation in seven Penn State intercollege graduate degree programs. As Director of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, Gary supervises the research activities of faculty and staff in the College on the University Park Campus as well as three regional research and extension centers.

Importantly, Gary leads by example; he's a world-class scientist. He's been supported by various external funding agencies including the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, he's published and presented widely and he's mentored high school students, undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Gary received his B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the M.S. from the University of Wisconsin, Ph.D. from Purdue University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Arizona. Gary is a tangible and valued product of the Land-grant system; a system for which he now lends his expertise, talents and leadership.