

**Paul Sebesta** is the director of the USDA-ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, IL, and began his research career in 1980 as an assistant professor of agronomy and winter wheat breeder at North Dakota State University. In 1982 he assumed the position of project leader with HybriTech Seed International, Inc., a Monsanto subsidiary. Sebesta began his administrative career in 1987 as a unit head with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University, where he was responsible for intellectual property rights management, plant materials licensing as well as foundation seed production, distribution and marketing. From 1995 to 2004 he served as the Director of the University of California Desert Research and Extension Center (DREC) in El Centro California. While at DREC, his research focused on the use of sugarcane and sweet sorghum as feedstocks for the production of ethanol, electricity and other value-added bioproducts. In 2004 Sebesta was employed by the National Audubon Society as a program director. He began his tenure with USDA- Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in June of 2005 and served as the director of the USDA-ARS Kika de la Garza Subtropical Agricultural Research Center in Weslaco, Texas from 2005 to 2008. In 2008 Sebesta assumed his current position at the USDA. He earned his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Oklahoma State University.