



## Director's Update June 2012

### Greetings from REACCH headquarters!

REACCH (Regional Approaches to Climate Change for Pacific Northwest Agriculture) is a very large coordinated project that brings together expertise from many disciplines and four institutions to address the complex issue of helping the cereal production industries of the inland Pacific Northwest to remain sustainable. Messages will appear regularly in this location with highlights of the events and activities taking place across the entire REACCH project.

As our name indicates, projected climate change is a focus of REACCH, but it is not the only one. Our mission is to establish the scientific, educational and extension networks and the research and communication infrastructure to help address the long-term processes that contribute to agricultural sustainability in the region. REACCH will partner with others in our region and elsewhere to help ensure such efforts are coordinated effective and efficient.

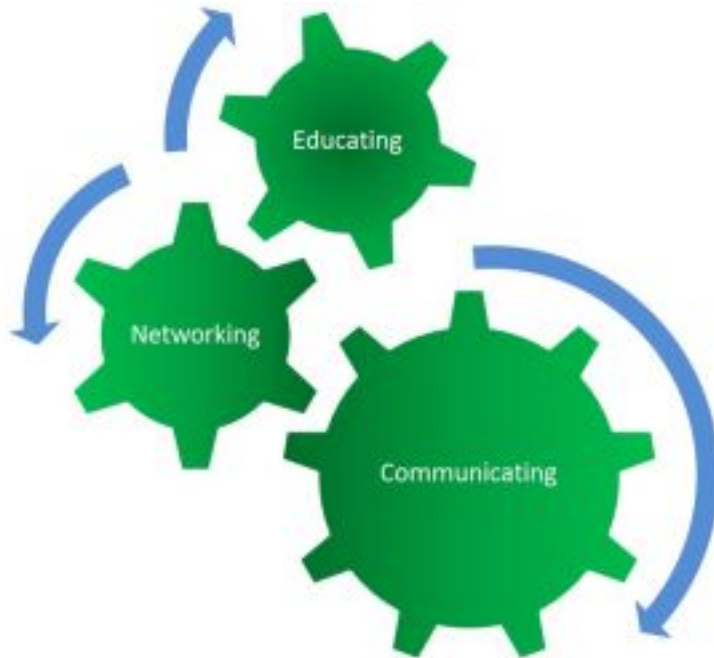
The project involves more than 40 scientists, students, and other staff members. We are organized around 9 objectives and 3 cross-cutting themes, each with teams working to address specific issues. The entire effort is cross-disciplinary and integrated with opportunities for members of our teams to work together on the science, education and extension dimensions. You can see this structure, read project personnel bios and learn more about ongoing activities within our project website ([reacchpna.org](http://reacchpna.org)).

As director, I work with our project manager, Dianne Daley Laursen, assistant Lenea Pierzchanowski, Environmental Data Manager, Erich Seamon and others to coordinate project-wide activities, track the teams progress, and help keep us on our many interrelated efforts. Every day we are energized by the fine work of all the professionals.

So, here are some highlights of recent activities for REACCH!

**Communicating.** Since our annual meeting, we are working hard to follow the excellent input we have had from our stakeholders and our Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and our Scientific Advisory Panel. One major response is this web site and another is our quarterly Newsletter, which you are now perusing, to help us communicate better to our partners and users.

**Networking.** One of our goals is to help establish broader networks of science working on agricultural sustainability and climate change. As project director, I traveled to Washington D.C. last week to meet with administrators and program leaders at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (our funding entity) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in the USDA. ARS is establishing 10 new Long Term Agricultural Projects within its system, including the Cook Farm, which is a critical site for REACCH. Thanks to Dave Huggins who was successful in getting the Cook farm identified as one of the new ARS sites! We will work closely with ARS to



develop approaches that can link the ARS LTAR network with university-funded projects on agricultural sustainability nationwide. We're excited to be part of this initiative. Next week I will be joining one of our partner projects, the PINEMap project on climate change and southern conifer production for their annual meeting in Atlanta. This is part of our ongoing effort to keep our large NIFA funded projects on climate and agriculture linked and to make sure we keep learning from one another.

**Educating.** Our education team is preparing for three milestones that will take place in the next few months. Jodi Johnson-Maynard, Katt Wolf, Jonathan Velez and others have been working on this. We have recruited 15 undergraduates from around the country to spend 9 weeks with us this summer working on different parts of REACCH. These students were selected from a large pool of applicants and are all highly motivated, top performers interested in agricultural sustainability. They will include placements in entomology, cropping systems, agricultural economics, climate science, sociology and others. The students will take part in shared activities that help them learn about integration and the project. The education team is also planning teacher workshops for this summer, now in partnership with a NASA-funded climate education project located at the University of Idaho. Finally, graduate students are joining the project in greater numbers now. We are on track to have xx on board this fall. Like the undergraduates, our education component includes deliberately integrating these students and mentoring them to be collaborative scientists, as well as skilled in their disciplines. For more information, see the education pages in the REACCH website.

Otherwise, work is proceeding apace throughout REACCH as we prepare for a coming field season, establishing experiments, monitoring pests, weeds and diseases, and planning our summer field tour. This last point is of interest to all. We welcome you to participate at one or more of the stops on our tour, which will take place on June 20-21 this year. Stay tuned for more information about that.

Thank you for your interest in REACCH. Please feel free to contact me directly, or the rest of REACCH leadership at any time. We are a publically funded project that aims to serve the public through our research, education and extension activities.

*Sanford Eigenbrode, REACCH Project Director*