

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

Notice is hereby given that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agriculture Research Service (ARS) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to build a new Sugarcane Research Laboratory (SRL) at its Ardoyne Farm Sugarcane Research Unit located at 501 Bull Run Road in Schriever, Louisiana. The Unit is situated in the middle of sugarcane fields in a rural area of Terrebonne Parish. Two (2) new greenhouse buildings would be constructed at the Ardoyne Farm Sugarcane Research Unit. The purpose of the proposed action is to consolidate the SRL in one locale, to improve efficiency and to provide an updated facility with more space for the research efforts of the USDA SRL.

An EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and USDA-ARS regulations. The EA provides information necessary to determine whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) should be prepared or if a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) decision can be made.

Consideration of the activities involved in the proposed construction at the Ardoyne Farm Sugarcane Research Unit has been determined to have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment or on local natural resources. As a result of this EA, it is determined that an EIS is not required for the Proposed Action; therefore, a FONSI is recommended.

The EA and the FONSI are available for viewing at the following website: [Southeast Area : USDA ARS](#). Please contact Shelia Parker, Safety and Occupational Health Manager, via email at [shelia.parker@usda.gov](mailto:shelia.parker@usda.gov) for additional information or questions.