

PETER BERGHSEY JOHNSEN

Peter B. Johnsen (b. 1950) was named Director of the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR) located in Peoria, Illinois in 1994. The Center is a major research facility of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service with a research staff of 270 and an annual operating budget of \$30 million.

Work at the NCAUR focuses on the discovery and development of technology in three areas: microbial metabolic engineering and fermentation; food safety and environmental quality; and biomaterials and processing. As the leading USDA technology transfer facility, NCAUR commercializes promising products and technology through patent licensing and partnerships with private industry.

Johnsen was raised in north Florida and received his B.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was Assistant and then Associate Professor at the Monell Chemical Senses Center of the University of Pennsylvania where he taught in the Department of Biology and College of Veterinary Medicine. He has been a Visiting Scientist at the University of Bonn in Germany, and was a recipient of an Olin Fellowship to work at the University of Oslo in Norway. Johnsen's area of technical expertise is in the sensory physiology of taste and smell, natural products chemistry and human sensory evaluation.

Johnsen joined the USDA Agricultural Research Service in 1986. He was Research Leader of the Food Flavor Quality Research Unit at the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, Louisiana and has published over 60 research papers, contributed to numerous technical books and has received two patents.

In 1999 he was presented with the rank of Meritorious Executive by the President and in 2000 was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry. In 2003 he was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering. In 2004 he was selected as Federal Laboratory Director of the Year. Johnsen is active in community affairs and serves on the boards of the Central Illinois Boy Scouts of America, Peoria NEXT, Methodist Hospital and the Peoria Economic Development Council. He is a graduate of the Illinois Agriculture Leadership program and farms in Marshall County.

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