

**Rebecca Lynn Larson (Bargabus)**

**EDUCATION**

1999 B.S. (Ecology/Field Biology) St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN

2003 Ph.D. (Plant Science) Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**The Western Sugar Cooperative, V.P./Chief Scientist and Governmental Affairs**  
Denver, Colorado 2016-Present

- Manages all internal research activities, including field yield trials and disease nurseries used for hybrid approval
- Represents all research functions on the Western Sugar Cooperative management team and responsible for all research reporting to the Western Sugar Cooperative grower board
- Steers Joint Research Committee, a board of Cooperative employees and farmers, in planning and investing in outside research in support of Cooperative activities
- Manages development, implementation, expansion, and reporting related to the Cooperative's on-farm sustainability program
- Manages all government relations activities
- Serve as primary public communicator for all on-farm technical matters

**The Western Sugar Cooperative, Research Agronomist**  
Denver, Colorado 2015-2016

- Managed all internal research activities, including field yield trials and disease nurseries used for hybrid approval
- Collaborated with Joint Research Committee, a board of Cooperative employees and farmers, in planning and investing in outside research in support of Cooperative activities

**Syngenta Crop Protection, Head of Product Evaluation for Diverse Field Crops, North America**

Longmont, Colorado 2012-2015

- Managed a team of senior scientists focused on late stage hybrid and agrichemical evaluations for sugar beet, sunflower, canola, sorghum, alfalfa and pulse crops (known as Diverse Field Crops)
- Co-led the Seedcare Bioteam, overseeing and prioritizing seedcare protocols impacting Diverse Field Crops
- Guided product advancement through all major markets in North America, including designing, analyzing and interpreting all late-stage sugar beet hybrid trials and disease nurseries
- Led pre-commercial seed production/conditioning activities

- Member of the Biological Assessment leadership team, Product Evaluation leadership team, Diverse Field Crops management team and the Sugar Beet management team serving as the voice for end-to-end matters related to Research & Development in North America
- Accountable for end-to-end Research & Development activities for sugar beet and sunflower, including all trialing operations, seed productions, inventory management and budgets

**Syngenta Seeds, Head of Product Evaluation & Regional Trialing Lead for Sugar Beets**  
Longmont, Colorado 2010-2012

- Managed the late-stage hybrid pipeline; planned seed productions, yield trials and disease tolerance evaluations
- Guided product advancement through all major markets in North America
- Member of the Biological Assessment Leadership Team which lead the reorganization of the North American Research & Development structure/operation
- Managed Research & Development activities at five sugar beet, three corn, one soy and one cereals research station housing 45 full time employees and greater than \$10M in operating budgets
- Represented Sugar Beet Research & Development to external customers at seed committee meetings and official variety trial tours
- Managed all regulatory compliance and stewardship for genetically modified sugar beet, including regulated traits, in North America

**Syngenta Seeds, Plant Scientist III Sugar Beets**  
Longmont, Colorado 2007-2010

- Planned and evaluated all late-stage yield trials, disease nurseries and seed productions
- Worked closely with sales and marketing team to understanding market gaps and determine how to fill them with existing Research & Development pipeline
- Managed Research & Development activities at the Longmont sugar beet station housing seven full time employees and \$900K in operating budgets
- Managed all regulatory compliance and stewardship for the Longmont site

**USDA-ARS, Research Plant Physiologist**  
Fort Collins, Colorado 2004-2007

- Developed proteomic tools (multidimensional liquid chromatography, tandem MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry, protein-protein interaction arrays) for understanding resistance and disease in sugar beet in response to *Beet necrotic yellow vein virus* and *Fusarium spp.*
- Discovered a role for phytohormone signaling in hairy root development and identified potential biomarkers for rapid resistance selection
- Actively and quickly published research findings in accredited peer-reviewed scientific journals



- Managed several assistant scientists, lab technicians, work study students and interns

**USDA-ARS**, Post Doctoral Research Associate  
 Fargo, North Dakota 2003-2004

- Developed *Barley stripe mosaic* virus vectors for silencing *Beet necrotic yellow vein* virus in sugar beet leaf assays

**Montana State University**, Research Assistant  
 Bozeman, Montana 1999-2003

- Characterized the mode of action of a biological control agent (BCA) as induction of systemic resistance. The BCA has been patented through Montana State University (U.S. patent application serial #: 11/361,283) and has been licensed to Montana Microbial Products. Knowledge gained in these studies provided the framework for developing a rapid screening method for identifying novel BCAs. Was inducted into the Montana State University Inventors Society in 2014.

## **PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

**Board member**, Beet Sugar Development Foundation, 2021-Present

**Board member and Secretary/Treasurer**, American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists, 2019-2021

**Board member**, Colorado Ag Commission (Hickenlooper Administration), 2018-2020

## **TOTAL CAREER SENIOR AND JUNIOR AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS**

Refereed Journals-	10	Book Chapters-	2
Invited Presentations-	50+	Technical Reports-	30+
Abstracts-	16	Proceedings-	1