



# NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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July 23, 2003

Dear National C-FAR Members and Supporters,

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NC-FAR) as your president. Your comments, suggestions, questions and efforts are welcome at any time as we all work together to advance the National C-FAR mission and plan of action.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few recent developments and plans for the near future.

### Increased Emphasis on Efforts to Justify Need for Increased Public Research Funding

At the May 20, 2003 meeting [See minutes on website at [http://www.ncfar.org/updates/jun\\_03.pdf](http://www.ncfar.org/updates/jun_03.pdf)] of the National C-FAR Board, it was agreed that:

- National C-FAR needs to do something new to bolster food and ag research funding;
- Establishing this new direction should be a priority; and
- The Board should be directly involved in developing the effort.

The Board authorized the Research Committee to continue and diversify its ongoing effort of developing concise descriptions of research needs and successes as part of the larger effort to build the case for increasing public funding for research. I understand the Committee is already hard at work, having met on July 11.

The Board also authorized action to "...engage DITTUS to develop an operational plan, including budget projections, to implement Phase I of their proposal. The Board will further refine the mission statement of National C-FAR in order to fully integrate the mission with the operational plan."

Our coalition's experience to date and the current federal budget climate certainly reinforce the need for National C-FAR to develop and implement a strategy that presents a more effective justification for why a greater public investment is needed. When the budget climate improves, we need to have laid the necessary groundwork to make real progress toward the goal of increasing public investment in food and agriculture research.

### September Board Meeting

Our coalition is at a critical juncture as we continue our collective efforts to accomplish National C-FAR's important mission. We are working to schedule a "working session" of the Board, sometime in September. The primary objective of

the meeting would be to define an operational plan that enjoys solid backing and involvement of the Board. Materials will be sent out in advance to help prepare for a productive session. The board meeting will be open to all National C-FAR members, and a notice will be sent out once a date is selected.

### 2003 Dues!

July 31 is the deadline for paying 2003 dues. While National C-FAR is currently on firm financial footing, we will need to maintain and grow financial resources to help carry out the program of work. Please be responsive to staff reminders, and give some thought to potential members and financial supporters you might help recruit. Please contact [ncfar@assoqh.org](mailto:ncfar@assoqh.org) if you need an invoice.

### Staff Support Change

Joe Coffey, National C-FAR's Secretary/Treasurer, has submitted his resignation effective August 1. Joe and his wife are in the process of relocating to Florida. I hope each of you will join me in thanking Joe for his invaluable service and wish him well as he embarks on this exciting new chapter in his life. I know he'll continue an active interest in agricultural research and the efforts of National C-FAR. Until we hear otherwise, his contact information is: mobile (804) 647-3501, [jdcoffey@comcast.net](mailto:jdcoffey@comcast.net).

The special committee that was appointed to select a successor selected Tom Van Arsdall. Effective July 1, Tom began serving as National C-FAR's Liaison. His contact information is: (540) 786-4603, [tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com). Many of you are already acquainted with Tom and his work. His assigned priorities include:

- Promote membership development, ownership involvement & outreach;
- Facilitate implementation plan defined by Board and membership; and
- Assist in raising additional funds to support the program of action.

Tom has also been asked to help review the by-laws and to perform other liaison, communications and staff support roles. I understand Tom will be communicating with you further shortly. Please be responsive to his inquiries and requests for involvement. He will need our help in many ways in addition to financial support.

If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact Tom or me.

Sincerely,



David Graves  
National C-FAR President