



# NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Dear National C-FAR Members and Supporters,

As the Board approaches its December 18 work session, at which the Board is charged with determining the future direction of National C-FAR, I want to assure you that key actions in support of public funding for food and agricultural research are continuing.

Research Committee: Leveraging limited funding under a plan of action authorized in 2002 by the Board, the 'Research' Committee, chaired by Tamara Wagester (CFARE), is continuing to help to lay the necessary groundwork to support future advocacy work for increased public funding through an increased awareness initiative targeting key policy staff. As indicated in the Nov. 5 Research Committee Report

[[http://www.ncfar.org/Research\\_Committee\\_Action\\_Report\\_Nov\\_5.pdf](http://www.ncfar.org/Research_Committee_Action_Report_Nov_5.pdf)], actions taken or planned include—

- **Anthrax & Penicillin** success stories sent to all congressional offices, key committee staff.
  - *Mastitis & Witchweed* to follow mid-November/December, respectively.
- Other subjects approved, with profiles to be developed.
- Revised *Guidelines* for evaluating additional submissions.
- Building contact database for key executive branch contacts.
- Evaluating establishment of media contact list.

The first four 1-pagers, guidelines and additional information can be found at "Benefits of Public Investment in Food & Ag Research—Selected Profiles," <http://www.ncfar.org/research.asp>. To further leverage resources, the Research Committee is urging all National C-FAR members to utilize the materials in their own outreach efforts.

Legislative Committee: A meeting notice will be sent out shortly inviting interested members to work together and develop a 'baseline' action plan for 2004. Regardless of the outcome of the December 18 Board work session, it is important that National C-FAR maintain an appropriate level of visibility before Congress, identifying appropriate opportunities and effective messages to advocate increased public investment in food and agricultural research. Any time Congress addresses the subject of food and agricultural research, National C-FAR should be heard from as a thoughtful advocate for increased public investment. This session will also be used as an opportunity to examine the current National C-FAR committee structure, and whether there may be a more efficient and effective means of carrying out programs.

Presentation to Board Work Session: Each Committee serve as a resource to the Board through a brief report and recommendations at the December 18 work session.

### Other News:

- As your Liaison, I was invited to brief the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEE) at their recent meeting. We remain closely aligned. They're 'advising.' National C-FAR is 'advocating/lobbying!'
- We have delayed sending out invoices for 2004 until we can share information about the action plan for 2004, including the results of the December 18 Board work session.
- What are YOU doing as a member to use National C-FAR and its products as a tool in your outreach work? Let me know so we can inspire others through your example.
- This is a customer-owned and driven coalition. Your input and suggestions about actions and opportunities that NC-FAR might consider are welcome at any time.
- As this report went to press, the outcome on funding for ag research for FY 2004 has not yet been finalized.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Thomas (Tom) Van Arsdall, National C-FAR Liaison