



# NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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TO: National C-FAR Members & Supporters

FR: Joseph Layton, President

RE: 2006 Plan of Action

I am pleased to report to you that the Board of Directors had a productive year-end meeting in which the Board approved and set into motion an ambitious action program for 2006.

**Membership involvement** in the action program remains essential to our organization's success. As one Board member stated, "**The greatest value to our organization is gained by showing up and participating, not just writing the check.**" Board minutes containing additional details can be viewed at <http://www.ncfar.org/what.asp>. I would urge you to review the action items and consider ways you can become more involved. Examples include serving on committees and task forces and responding to requests for support of information.

Highlights of the Board meeting and 2006 action program include:

- ◆ The **Research Outreach Committee (ROC)**, chaired by Larry Heider (AAVMC), will continue to take the lead in implementing the following action initiatives:
  - The **Success Profiles** initiative is being revitalized, with up to 5 profiles approved for 2006. To the extent appropriate, the Success Profiles will be coordinated with the Hill Seminar series.
  - The **Hill 'Lunch-N-Learn' Seminar Series** will build off the progress and lessons learned from our inaugural 'Break & a Briefing' Seminar Series in 2005, with up to 6 seminars authorized.
    - You can access a *PowerPoint presentation* reviewing the inaugural series of 5 seminars at [http://www.ncfar.org/Hill\\_Seminar\\_Series.asp](http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp) to gain a better sense of the value produced and the lessons learned.  
Highlights:
      - \$7,000 in sponsorship support contributed by 12 organizations.
      - Highly leveraged through 'in-kind' contributions, including travel costs, by others.
      - 12 leading Members of Congress served as Honorary Hosts.
      - For 5 seminars, over 325 rsvp's, nearly 200 attendees including over 100 hill staff. Regular e-mail contact with over 700 hill staff, plus key administration officials and ag media.
    - Our team will seek to hold the seminars using a luncheon format in the Capitol to facilitate access for Hill staff in both the House and Senate and encourage a high turnout.
    - Once a schedule is set, the ROC will be soliciting *additional recommendations* for leading-edge speakers and topics, as well as additional success stories. Staff will also be seeking *additional sponsorship funds* to underwrite the seminar series.

- Ownership involvement remains critical. I would ask you to *please be responsive* to these requests.
  - CSREES Administrator Colien Hefferan and CSREES Liaison Rob Hedberg and ARS Liaison Karen Pierce participated in the Board meeting as invited guests. A joint commitment was made to establish a *stronger collaborative effort* between National C-FAR and the research and extension agencies to *enhance the Seminar Series and Success Profiles*.
- National C-FAR continues to support the Danforth Task Force '**National Institute**' recommendations. Legislation may be re-introduced in the coming weeks, and the ROC will monitor and evaluate.
- The ROC will monitor developments concerning the NASULGC '**CREATE 21**' proposal.
- ◆ *A Farm Bill Task Force has been formed and charged with preparing a draft statement and any strategy recommendations in the context of Farm Bill reauthorization, to be presented to the Board .*
  - Karl Glasener (Tri/Societies) is Chair.
  - Other members are Brian Hyps (ASPB), Ted Cartwright (IFT), Any Maccabe (AAVMC), and Joe Layton (ASA).
  - Participation in the Task Force is open to other interested members.
  - National C-FAR submitted **USDA Farm Bill Forums Comments** for the record, based on our existing position. They can be viewed at <http://www.ncfar.org/what.asp>T .
- ◆ In response to an action alert, National C-FAR has received several recommendations to the **National Research Council request for Education Committee Study Nominees**, which are being transmitted to NRC for consideration.
- ◆ National C-FAR ended 2005 in sound financial condition, and the Board approved a **2006 Budget** to support the action program.
- ◆ The Membership Committee reported a modest increase in membership during 2005, and the Board endorsed the **goal of increasing Membership in 2006 by 10 percent**.
  - THANKS to members who have already sent in your 2006 dues.
  - WELCOME to the **Peanut Foundation** as a new member!
  - If you have not already done so, please send yours in. We want our staff to focus on program implementation rather than repeated follow up dues reminders.

In closing, I would encourage you to review the section in the minutes which summarizes each Board member's observations about National C-FAR's mission and value-added program. I am pleased that the Board is engaged and excited about moving forward. I hope their enthusiasm and commitment are contagious and that you 'catch the fever.'

*Teaming Together For a Better Tomorrow*