

## ABSTRACT

Dr. Danforth will present the recommendations of a USDA Task Force of distinguished scientists to create a "National Institute for Food and Agriculture" (NIFA) reporting directly to the Secretary. NIFA would employ competitive merit review exclusively and would develop relationships with Congress similar to those of the NIH and the NSF. (Existing USDA research programs would continue their focus of ensuring that advances in fundamental research are adapted, i.e. applied to local and regional needs.) The proposed program would be funded at \$200 million dollars per year totaling \$1 billion dollars over a five year period. NIFA would fund basic plant and animal research which will lead to advancements in production agriculture that hold promising solutions to some of society's greatest challenges specifically in the areas of renewable energy, improved human health, enhanced food safety, environmental stewardship and preservation of Earth's resources. The complete report is at [www.ars.usda.gov/research/research.htm](http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/research.htm).

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## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

William H. Danforth, M.D., was appointed to chair the Research, Education and Economics Task Force for the USDA by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman in 2003. Dr. Danforth is currently Chancellor Emeritus of Washington University and a professor of internal medicine. He chairs the Coalition of Plant and Life Sciences and is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. Dr. Danforth. He is a director on the Board of Trustees of the Danforth Foundation and is a trustee of the American Youth Foundation. He co-chaired of the Board of Directors of Barnes-Jewish Hospital and served on the Boards of Directors of Ralston Purina Company, BJC Health System and Energizer Holdings, Inc.

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR  
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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## BREAK & A BRIEFING SEMINAR



THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR  
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

*Program:*

## Why a National Institute for Food and Agriculture

*Fundamental Research Benefiting  
Food, Fiber, Fuels and the Environment*

April 16, 2007

## PROGRAM

### *Welcome and Introduction*

**JOSEPH H. LAYTON, JR.**  
National C-FAR President

### *Distinguished Speaker*

**Dr. William Danforth**  
Chancellor Emeritus, Washington University

### *Open Forum*

### *Closing*

**JOE LAYTON**

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. For additional information, go to [www.ncfar.org](http://www.ncfar.org); or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director at [tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com).

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