



# National C-FAR

National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
*Teaming Together For A Better Tomorrow*

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## National C-FAR April Update

*This informal update is intended to keep members and friends abreast of the National C-FAR progress during the third month since its founding on January 31, 2001, and plans for the future. Feedback is welcomed and encouraged. As you will see below, the research and legislative committees have been meeting and developing plans. Testimony and letters have been submitted to congressional committees urging the doubling of food and agricultural research over the next five years, and plans are underway to participate in several meetings to explain our goals and recruit new members. Currently, we have over 75 members.*

**Plans are being made to hold a reception on May 22 from 5:30-7:30 pm** at the American Farm Bureau Federation, 600 Marilyn Avenue, SW, Suite 800, Washington, DC. The reception is timed so that those attending the workshop of the Board of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the National Research Council meeting on May 22 and 23 can also participate. We will have a brief program beginning at 6:00 p.m. with President Terry Wolf giving an update of the Coalition's plans. Senator Richard Lugar (R, IN), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, has been invited to discuss agricultural research and the next farm bill. Invitations are being sent to some 90 prospective member organizations. All National C-FAR members are invited and are urged to encourage prospective members to attend.

**Both the National C-FAR Legislative and Research Committees will be meeting Friday, May 4,** at the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Meeting Room, 50 F Street, NE, 10th Floor, Washington, DC. The legislative committee will be meeting from 10:00-12:00 am and the Research Committee from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Any National C-FAR member is welcomed and encouraged to participate in this meeting. Terri Nintemann of Senator Lugar's staff and John Goldberg of the House Ag Committee staff have been invited to discuss the farm bill and ag research at the legislative meeting. At the research committee meeting, the objective will be to pull together a sense of the size of the federal food and agricultural research outside USDA.

**President Terry Wolf and several members of National C-FAR will be participating in the US National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Board on Agriculture's May 22 – 23** public workshop, "Opportunities in Agriculture: A Vision for USDA's Food and Agricultural Research in the 21st Century", in Washington, DC. The workshop is an opportunity for National C-FAR members to place input in an NRC study of strengthening USDA's research capabilities to meet national needs. For additional information and to register to attend, contact David Meeker, Director of the NAS/NRC Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources at (202) 334-3062; fax: (202) 334-1978; e-mail: [dmeeker@nas.edu](mailto:dmeeker@nas.edu). As noted above, all participants in this workshop are being invited to attend our May 22 reception.

**Secretary Veneman presented USDA's 2002 budget proposal to the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Agriculture on April 26 in a grueling daylong session.** Several National C-FAR members attended and, although not too surprised, were disappointed by the lack of emphasis given to food and agriculture research in the discussion and questions. This lack of attention on food and ag research reinforces the importance of our coalition continuing to stress it at every opportunity. The proposed 2002 USDA agriculture research budget is \$2.1 billion, a \$150 million or 7% cut from 2001. This, of course, is the wrong direction from National C-FAR's testimony for a \$500 million increase for 2002 and doubling over the next five years. The decrease in the USDA ag research budget is due to the elimination of earmarked projects added by Congress. Other than the reduction of the congressionally earmarked projects, most other major research programs were held constant or increased slightly. The Agricultural Research Service 2002 budget is \$916 million, an increase of 2%. The formula funds for land-grant university research and extension were continued at \$544 million. Competitive grants for the National Research Initiative and Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food systems were maintained at their 2001 levels of \$106 million and \$120 million, respectively. The Congressional earmarked projects are likely to be added back in again, but we would hope that this perennial power struggle could be transformed into a more constructive and cooperative process based upon shared priorities. The problem is that the squabbles over how to carve the pie draws attention away from increasing its size and rather pits the stakeholder groups against each other. So divided that we fail to get increased funding. Building unity is one of the major goals of National C-FAR.

**Letter to Appropriations Sub-Committees:** Statements were submitted by National C-FAR to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture in conjunction with its hearings on FY 2002 appropriations. Similar testimony was provided to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. These statements were developed at the recommendation of the Legislative Committee and are consistent with National C-FAR's objectives and earlier testimony before the Senate Agriculture Committee. The letters advocate doubling of food and agriculture research and education funding over the next 5 years.

**A letter has been sent to Chairman Larry Combest of the House Agriculture Committee** urging hearings be held on agriculture research and expressing support for including a Food and Agriculture Research and Extension Title in the Farm Bill. Hearings are being held on other provisions of the next farm bill and we want to make sure that food and agriculture research provisions in the farm bill that expire next year are enhanced. Copies of the letter can be requested from Ellen Jansen, (217) 333-6575 or [ejansen@uiuc.edu](mailto:ejansen@uiuc.edu).

**A letter was also sent to Secretary of Agriculture Veneman** to highlight the formation of the Coalition and to urge support for its objective of doubling research funding over the next 5 years.

**Congratulations have been sent to Dr. Joseph Jen, Nominee for USDA Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics.** Dr. Jen is Dean of Agriculture, Cal Poly, in San Luis Obispo, CA. He has been on the faculty of Clemson University, Michigan State University and University of Georgia and has worked for Campbell Soup Company. He has published over 60 scientific articles and has served as a consultant to the United Nations, U.S. food companies and foreign governments. In his position with USDA, he will be responsible for \$2.1 billion of food and agriculture research and education programs. We plan to meet with Dr. Jen as soon as he is confirmed.

**Please email [ejansen@uiuc.edu](mailto:ejansen@uiuc.edu) with your current email address for future electronic mailings.  
Thank you!**

**A Board conference call was held on April 27** to discuss an invitation to meet with the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) Food and Society Project. This project, sponsored by university presidents and funded by Kellogg Foundation, intends to increase federal funding for food and agriculture research and education by \$1 billion. We have met with the leadership of this project and participated on programs with them a half dozen times during the past year. Dr. Jim Stukel, President of the University of Illinois, has been serving as the liaison with National C-FAR and we have regularly been sharing information. Because of our parallel objectives, we want to continue to keep in close contact and seek ways to work cooperatively. The board approved our continuing to meet and discuss our mutual objectives. We are scheduled to meet with them in Chicago on May 18.

**The Research Committee** met on Thursday, April 5, 2001 in The National Council of Farmer Cooperative Offices in Washington, DC. Attendees included Joe Coffey, Ken Collins, Jack Cooper, Barbara Glenn, Rob Hedberg, Dick Herrett, Jennifer Yezak Molen, Tracy Fox and David Reid (via phone). There was significant discussion of roles for the committee that focused on three items: 1.) What the committee can do to document problems solved and benefits provided by food and agriculture research; 2.) What can be done to enumerate the broad range of researchable problems and research opportunities that lie ahead; and 3.) How we can delineate the appropriate budget baseline as the starting point for the doubling initiative. Barbara Glenn and Rob Hedberg have drafted a memorandum to ask all National C-FAR members to identify the most significant problems food and agricultural research has solved for them in the past. This will be used to provide concrete examples of the contributions of research, education and extension. The memo will also ask members to identify current problems that still plague their sector of the food system and that research can remedy. We intend to make available this information on our website so it can be used by all members. We also plan to address the human capital aspects of our agricultural research capacity.

**President Terry Wolf has accepted invitations to make presentations** on behalf of National C-FAR at three upcoming meetings that we are hoping to attract new members:

May 21 - Chicago, IL. National Ag Biotechnology Council. NABC represents around 30 major Land Grant universities and provides a forum to discuss biotechnology issues.

July 17 - Madison, WI. North Central Land Grant Meeting.

July 24 - Minneapolis, MN. NASULGC meeting of the Administrative Heads of Agriculture.

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Thank you!**