



# **National C-FAR**

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

---

1101 W. Peabody Drive • Urbana, IL 61801  
217/333-6575 • Fax: 217/244-8594 • E-mail: ejansen@uiuc.edu

March 3, 2001

## **National C-FAR February Update**

February was a low-profile month for National C-FAR as we focused on getting the articles of incorporation filed and visiting with key Congressional staff members about the purpose and objectives of National C-FAR. By month's end, there was some very encouraging news. Secretary of Agriculture Veneman, in her first public speech as Secretary, placed a high priority upon ag research (see more details below). Board member, Bob Stallman, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, testified before the House Agriculture committee and recommended "federal funding for agricultural research should be increased by \$500 million annually."

The public profile of National C-Far will be much higher in March. Activities planned or underway include:

- David Graves, National C-FAR vice president and chair of legislative committee, on March 2 held a meeting with key Washington representatives of National C-FAR members and discussed legislative approaches. Kevin Mathis, Executive Director, Campaign for Medical Research, who has been successful in getting the policy adopted for "doubling of medical research," shared his experiences and suggestions pertinent to our goal of doubling food and ag research.
- Terry Wolf will chair a review of the revised draft by-laws which will be submitted to the Board by mid month.
- The Articles of Incorporation will be completed next week enabling us to officially do business.
- David Graves will meet with member organization CARET on March 4 to provide an update on National C-FAR.
- Terry Wolf will meet with the National Agricultural Research, Education and Economics Advisory Board on March 21 to provide an update.
- Ray McAllister, Chair of membership committee, is planning to hold a committee meeting and encourage his committee members to hold member recruitment meetings and make short recruitment presentations at other food and agricultural meetings. The focus will be upon recruiting national and corporate members, some 50 of which have been identified.
- Plans are being made to meet with the new undersecretary for ag research in USDA as soon as he or she is appointed.
- A meeting with Secretary Veneman is being sought, perhaps for March 20 or 21, to discuss National C-FAR's agenda.

- A teleconference meeting of the board will be held in late March to approve the By-Laws and develop plans and strategies.

These are the highlights of activities and events in February:

- National C-FAR has 59 members, consisting of 19 national organization members, 18 affiliate university members, 2 corporate members and 19 individual, state, and regional organization affiliate members and one honorary member - Dr. Borlaug.
- Revenues from memberships and special "seed grants" total \$119,500 and disbursements to date total \$22,599.13. Expenses incurred but not paid include \$28,672.19, leaving a balance of \$68,138.68.
- David Graves reports that the National C-FAR visits with staff members of key agricultural and appropriations committees have been well received. Staff members liked the idea of a coalition and were interested in exploring ways the Coalition could "add value" or "help" congress in building support for food and ag research.
- Secretary of Agriculture Veneman, in her first public speech on February 22, to the Agricultural Outlook Forum, gave strong support to food and ag research. Here are some key quotes from her prepared remarks which are available on the web ([www.usda.gov/news/releases/2001/02/0031.htm](http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2001/02/0031.htm)):
  - "We will support research and development to find new solutions for issues related to food safety, the environment, biotechnology, energy and other new uses."
  - "We will focus our efforts... in key areas. First, we will seek opportunities to expand trade....Second, technology development and adoption through research, education and extension...."
  - "We must maintain consumer confidence in our food supply by building coalitions that encourage education and research, as well as policies that are based on sound science."
- President Bush released a "FY 2002 Budget Blueprint" on February 28, but we will not know the details until early April. The Blueprint "funds important agriculture priorities including trade expansion, pest and animal disease prevention, food safety and research and development." It also "eliminates approximately 300 earmarked research projects saving about \$150 million..." And the budget "redirects USDA research to provide new emphasis in key areas such as biotechnology, the development of new agricultural products and improving protection against emerging exotic plant and animal diseases and pests of crops and livestock."
- On January 30, The Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture today presented its final report, "Directions for Future Farm Policy: The Role of Government in Support of Production Agriculture." A key role of the federal government recommended was to "Provide support for agricultural research and education."

Summary – I am encouraged by the growing awareness of the importance of food and agricultural research and education. It's becoming much more widely recognized that added food and agricultural research is needed to enhance food safety, maintain our international competitiveness, and protect our environment. Both Secretary Veneman and key Congressional committee staff are quite receptive to a coalition of food and agricultural research. Our challenge is going to be to continue to build and strengthen our coalition and get our compelling case for

“doubling food and agricultural research and education” across to the general public and leaders in food and agriculture organizations, the Administration and Congress.

Joe Coffey  
3221 Regatta Pointe Court  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
Phone: (804) 744-1486  
Fax: (804) 744-2192  
Email: [jdcoffey@home.com](mailto:jdcoffey@home.com)