



# National C-FAR

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

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## National C-FAR June Update

**House and Senate Testimony:** National C-FAR Board President, Terry Wolf, presented testimony on behalf of National C-FAR in the House of Representatives on June 27 and Barbara Glenn in the Senate on June 28. The testimonies were well received and several members favorably mentioned the doubling goal. Copies of the testimonies, their summaries and charts are available upon request and are posted on the website, [www.ncfar.org](http://www.ncfar.org). The testimonies offered our perspective on four key questions:

1. Why should the federal government invest in food and agricultural research, extension and education?
2. What have been the measurable benefits of federal investments for American farmers and consumers?
3. Why should we double federal investments in food and agricultural research over the next 5 years?
4. How should the doubled funds be invested?

*In our answers to these questions, we stressed that:*

1. Food and agriculture is an important sector that merits federal attention and support.
2. Food and agricultural research and education have paid huge dividends in the past, not just to farmers, but also to the entire nation and the world.
3. There is an appropriate and recognized definable role for federal support of research and education.
4. Federal investments in food and agricultural research should be doubled over the next 5 years.

**Joint Statement with Food and Society Approved:** National C-FAR Board members approved a joint statement with the Food and Society Project. The text of the final statement endorses the doubling of food and agricultural research and was modified to reflect National C-FAR's interest in not only competitive grants, but formula and intramural funding as well. Joint planning is already underway. A conference phone call was held on July 3 to develop the plans for the August 21 meeting at The Ohio State University and the September 10-11 meeting in Washington, DC, which are discussed below.

### **A joint statement of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant College's (NASULGC) Food and Society Committee and National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR)**

*NASULGC's Food and Society Committee and National C-FAR share a common concern and set of goals. We feel that a broadly based, multi-agency, national initiative is necessary to generate increased federal funding for our nation's food and agricultural research and education programs. This funding is paramount to take advantage of many scientific breakthroughs of the last decade to serve our stakeholders, both traditional and new. We*

*recognize that by seeking new or increased funds from a variety of agencies, they will be distributed according to the policies of each agency. Broadly stated, in the next five years, we need to at least double federal funding for food and agriculture research and education programs.*

*NASULGC's Food and Society Committee and National C-FAR have formed a Joint Implementation Committee to pursue our common goals. Initially, this committee will coordinate a series of stakeholders meetings to build a broad base, an alliance of political support. These meetings will build on the strengths of all groups or organizations that share our common goal.*

*A tremendous synergy occurs as we bring our two organizations together to conduct these stakeholders meetings in support of our common goal. National C-FAR has, and continues to build, a diverse stakeholder-based coalition encompassing food, agriculture, and related organizations. NASULGC is composed of the 212 largest public universities in the United States with a demonstrated history of successful programs in food and agriculture.*

**August 21 Regional Meeting in Ohio:** National C-FAR, the Food and Society Project and The Ohio State University are holding a joint meeting with stakeholder groups on The Ohio State University Campus in Columbus on August 21. About 75 stakeholder groups, including National C-FAR current and prospective members located in Ohio and other nearby states, will be invited to participate. This meeting is the first of four or five regional meetings to be held in the next few months. These meetings will provide our members an opportunity to engage in discussions of research and education needs. The meetings will also provide an opportunity to explain National C-FAR and recruit new members. President Terry Wolf will be on the program. We have provided Ohio State with names and addresses of National C-FAR current and prospective members in the region. Invitations will be mailed soon. Any person or organization that would like to attend this meeting can notify Ellen Jansen, [ejansen@uiuc.edu](mailto:ejansen@uiuc.edu) or 217-333-6575, and she can make the arrangements. There will be no registration fee or charge for the meeting. Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.

**Hold September 10-11 Date For Joint Meeting and National C-FAR Board Meeting:** A September 10-11 meeting similar to the Ohio State meeting is being planned for Washington, DC. We expect the meeting to begin at noon on Monday, September 10 and adjourn the afternoon of September 11. The program and schedule are being developed, but all members of the National C-FAR Board and members in the mid-Atlantic area will be invited. We are planning to invite Cabinet officials and members of Congress to participate in the meeting. The meeting will be held at a critical time when funding decisions for the new 2003 food and agriculture research budget are being discussed. Please hold the September 10 and 11 dates on your calendars. A National C-FAR Board meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon, September 11, following the joint meeting.

**Letter sent to support IFAFS:** President Terry Wolf sent a letter on July 10 to Senator Herb Kohl, Chairman of Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies in support of the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS) in the Senate's 2002 agricultural appropriations bill. We believe it is important to maintain a balanced portfolio of federal food and agricultural research and education programs, including competitive grants, formula funds and intramural programs. Unfortunately, the House agricultural appropriations bill for 2002 rescinds funding for the IFAFS competitive grants program, which accounts for about half of USDA's competitive grants for food and agricultural research. The IFAFS program has been an effective and efficiently operated new program that has had a successful launch. The House removal of funding is directed at the mandatory funding nature not the merits of the program.

**Communication Needs Considered:** A joint meeting of the Research Committee with several member representatives involved in public communications is scheduled for July 12, 1-3 p.m. at the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Office. The purpose is to discuss the development of information requested by Congressional staff to help them bolster the case for doubling federal funding of food and agricultural research. The basic idea is to determine the type of information on food and agricultural research that Congress needs and wants, assess the information now available, and develop a plan for filling the gaps. The Research Committee has already gathered some success stories and plans to use them to illustrate the benefits of food and agricultural research.

**Legislative Committee Active:** The Legislative Committee, chaired by David Graves, will hold its monthly meeting at the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives office on Friday, July 13, 10-12 a.m. The committee continues to meet with key congressional staff members to identify ways that we can assist them with their efforts on behalf of food and agricultural research and education. The July 12 Communications Meeting is an example of a follow-up to the needs identified at previous Legislative Committee meetings. Also, in our recent testimony, we have responded to requests of House staff to better define food and agricultural research programs in the federal government.

**Statement to USDA Listening Session Submitted:** A statement has been submitted to the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) Listening Session to be held on July 12 in Lancaster, PA. A second session will be held in Bloomington, MN on July 26. Two other sessions will be announced later. The purpose of these sessions is to “solicit input and comments on the effectiveness of existing agricultural research, education and extension programs”. This is an opportunity for National C-FAR members to be heard and we encourage your participation or submission of comments to these meetings.

**Membership increased to 93 during June:** The five new members who joined in June are University of California, DANR (University); University of Maryland, College Park (University); LSU Agricultural Center (University), Dr. Gale Buchanan of University of Georgia (Individual); and the American Society of Animal Science (National). Continuing to serve existing members and recruit new members are our top priorities. Recommendations from existing members are the best way to recruit new members. Please encourage prospective members to review our website and to request a new member kit. We have updated our brochure to include the list of members. Copies can be obtained from Ellen Jansen, [ejansen@uiuc.edu](mailto:ejansen@uiuc.edu) or 217-333-6575.

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