



National C-FAR

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

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March 6, 2002

National C-FAR -- March 2002 Update

- The Farm Bill Conferees have been appointed and work is underway to develop the conference report which then must be passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the President. Title VII of the bill contains the provisions relating to agriculture research. We have been told by the House Staff that both the House and Senate version contain similar total authorization levels for food and agricultural research, but the versions do differ in key ways. The Senate version contains a sense of Congress in support of National C-FAR's doubling objective for food and agricultural research. Our Legislative Committee is finalizing a message to the conferees which in current draft form states in part: *"We strongly support the inclusion of the Senate provision, section 797 communicating the sense of Congress regarding the doubling of funding for agricultural research. We support building a balanced portfolio of federal food and agricultural research and education programs, including competitive grants, special grants, formula funds and intramural programs. We believe that the current Farm Bill provides an important opportunity to initiate the doubling objective. We urge the conferees to utilize the Farm Bill to make a net additional increase in the pool of funds available for food and agriculture research and extension and education. Public benefits justify this action."* The draft statement is now being circulated to members of the Legislative committee for their comments and suggestions.
- A date and agenda for the second annual meeting of National C-FAR to be held this spring is being planned and should be announced soon. The delay has been due to the decision to postpone linking the annual meeting with a "Food & Agricultural Research Summit" which has been discussed extensively for several months. The summit will be held this fall or next spring. Due to the extensive involvement of our membership, congress and the administration in the Farm Bill, it was reluctantly decided it was not feasible to have the summit this spring.
- A conference call of the National C-FAR Board will be held March 11 at 1:00-2:00 p. m. Central Time to discuss our plans for the second annual meeting, have a report from the legislative, Research, and membership Committees, and to discuss our proposals for seeking administrative and legislative support. All members of the board are urged to participate in this important conference call or designate a representative to participate on their behalf. To participate in the call, dial 877-815-4133. The passcode is 92642 and the leader Joe Coffey.
- Membership has reached 115. Membership renewals for 2002 have reached 75. Members who have not renewed are encouraged to do so soon. Application forms are available on line at www.ncfar.org or from Joe Coffey. The membership brochure has

been updated and will be placed online at our website www.ncfar.org. The Membership Committee will be meeting on March 6 at 10: 00 a.m. at the American Crop Protection Association, 1156 15th St, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005, under the leadership of Ray McAllister. Members are encouraged to send representatives to offer assistance our membership drive for 2002.

- We are seeking proposals to provide two types of support: 1) Representation in Washington, DC and 2) Staff, administrative and record keeping support for the organization's activities. These activities could be combined with one organization or performed by two different ones. Washington representation to date has been handled by members of the National C-FAR Legislative Committee. We are considering complementing this effort via a retainer of approximately \$25,000 per year to work with the legislative Committee by advising them on legislative strategy and updated on major federal food and agricultural research issues. For the past year, the administrative support has been provided by our sister organization, Illinois C-FAR located on the University of Illinois campus. Illinois C-FAR is not able to continue this support and we are beginning to search and evaluate organizations that may be able to provide the support in the future. We expect this support to also cost around \$25,000.
- We are now seeking an organization to provide administrative support on a contractual basis. Illinois C-FAR, which has provided the support since our founding, will no longer be able to do so. Mrs. Ellen Jansen, who had so effectively provided the support, has accepted a promotion with the University of Illinois. We really appreciate Illinois C-FAR and Ellen's assistance during our inaugural year. In connection with the request for proposal for administrative support, we are also beginning to explore
- A regional meeting of food and agricultural research stakeholders, sponsored by The Food & Society Project in cooperation with National C-FAR will be held on March 28 at the University of California, Davis. Two previous regional meetings were held at Ohio State and Texas A&M. Members in the western states are encouraged to participate. The contact is Charles E. Hess, Professor Emeritus and Special Assistant to the Provost Department of Environmental Horticulture One Shields Avenue University of California Davis, CA 95616, PH: 530/752-8117, FAX: 530/752-1819. Home PH: 530/758-0671. Email cehess@ucdavis.edu
- We were disappointed that the President's FY 2003 budget for USDA's Research, Education, and Economics, the major agency for federal food and agricultural research and extension funding, was reduced to \$2.329 billion in FY 2003, a \$200 million or 8% reduction from the estimated expenditures in FY 2002.
- "A Science Roadmap for Agriculture," prepared by the Experiment Station on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges provides an excellent background and rationale, objectives, challenges and potential impacts of agricultural research over the next 10 to 20 years. The Roadmap is online at <http://www.nasulgc.org/publications/agriculture/science/roadmap.pdf>. Food and agriculture researchers are challenged to meet include:

**Please email ncfar@assochq.org with your current email address for future electronic mailings.
Thank you!**

- Develop new and more competitive crop products and new uses for diverse crops and novel plant species
- Develop new products and new uses for animals
- Lessen the risks of local and global climatic change on food, fiber, and fuel production
- Provide the information and knowledge needed to further improve environmental stewardship
- Improve the economic return to agricultural producers
- Strengthen our communities and families
- Ensure improved food safety and health through agricultural and food systems

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Thank you!**