



# National C-FAR

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

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## National C-FAR September Update

### Calendar of Upcoming National C-FAR Events:

- National C-FAR, the Food and Society Project and Texas A&M University are sponsoring a Regional Food and Agriculture Research Meeting, October 29, College Station, Texas
- Terry Wolf will be speaking at The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board Buffet Reception, October 30, between 6:00-7:30 p.m., Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC
- National C-FAR Legislative and Research Committee meeting, November 2
- National C-FAR Board Conference call, 10-11:30 a.m. Eastern, November 8
- National C-FAR proposed annual meeting and "Food and Agricultural Summit," January 30-31 or Feb 6-7, 2002, Washington, DC

**Our plans have been revised in light of the September 11 tragedy.** A group of National C-FAR members met on September 20 in Washington, DC at the offices of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and recommended that the timing of a "Food and Agricultural Summit" be changed from this fall to early next year - specifically to January 30-31 or February 6-7 in Washington, DC. It was also recommended that the proposed November 8 National C-FAR Board meeting in Washington, DC be changed to a teleconference call on that same date. Those in the Washington, DC area can participate in the conference call by gathering at the offices of Ray McAllister and use his conference calling facilities. This will reduce the costs of the call and expand the participation.

**U.S. House of Representatives on October 5 passed** by a vote of 291 to 120 of the 10-year "Farm Security Act of 2001." House Agriculture Committee Chairman Combest stated that the comprehensive bill "makes unprecedented investments in conservation programs that will improve the land for generations to come; in rural development programs to foster economic growth in small communities across the country; in trade promotion programs to expand markets for U.S. products; and in research to promote more efficient agricultural systems and more wholesome and nutritious foods." (For details, see <http://agriculture.house.gov/>.) With respect to agriculture research, while we can be pleased that the bill extends most of the existing agricultural research programs which were slated to expire next year and increased the mandatory funding of The Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAS) from \$120 million to \$145 million, it is fair to say that most of the major changes and funding increases were for the commodity programs and conservation.

**The National C-FAR Legislative Committee** met from 10-12 noon on October 5 at the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives offices for its regular monthly meeting. Twelve members were present to hear the presentation from Bart Chilton of Senator Daschle's staff discuss food and agricultural research legislative prospects in the Senate. Mr. Chilton pointed out, as have previous congressional staffers in their comments to the committee that unfortunately the term "food and agricultural research" does not resonate with a broad audience. Accordingly, he believed that we should appeal to a broader set of societal values that mean something in their everyday lives. As an example, he mentioned the public attention to the West Nile virus compared to avian influenza. He encouraged the development of meaningful, concise, and appealing messages that convey the tremendous accomplishments of food and agricultural research. Mr. Chilton noted that the tragedy of September 11 had changed legislative focus to anti-terrorism, making it more challenging to gain congressional attention on agricultural research, although, some areas such as food safety and security and bio-terrorism have gained prominence and are candidates for increased funding. He expects the Senate to take up and pass a farm bill this year.

**Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin of Iowa and ranking Republican member Richard Lugar** recently released an outline of "Objectives for the New Farm Bill." With respect to agricultural research, the objectives are to "Strengthen the Foundation of the United States Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors":

- Increase cutting edge, publicly available research to maintain and improve agricultural innovation, productivity growth, efficiency, and profitability.
- Bolster systems for protecting the safety and security of the food supply and safeguarding plant and animal health.
- Focus additional research on developing new uses and markets for agricultural commodities.
- Develop and promote, through research, extension and on-farm demonstrations, the adoption of practices that limit the adverse impacts of agriculture and forestry activities on the environment.
- Increase research to enhance the safety and nutritional quality of foods.

**Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman** released on September 19, a 111-page report entitled "Food and Agricultural Policy - Taking Stock of the New Century." Of particular interest to National C-FAR members is the discussion food and agriculture research, most of which is in Section IV, pages 60-71. The report makes "a strong commitment to the research and cooperative extension system that undergirds production, marketing, food safety, nutrition, and natural resource conservation." The report calls for "a balanced portfolio for supporting" research and the importance of "building the knowledge base." The report raises the possibility of the creation of an "Agriculture Infrastructure Investment Fund which could be empowered to accept contributions from other government and private sources and retain receipts gained from the disposition of unneeded property."

**The National C-FAR Research Committee met with Dr. Joe Jen**, Under Secretary for Research, Extension, and Economics at USDA at 2 p.m., October 5, to discuss the USDA research programs and priorities and explore ways National C-FAR can cooperate with the USDA. Persons attending included Rob Hedberg, Brian Hypes, Barbara Glenn, Bernadette Dunham, and Joe Coffey. Dr. Jen emphasized that USDA policies recognize the crucial role of food and agricultural research. He reiterated his commitment to a balanced portfolio of research

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**Thank you!**

using the full variety of funding mechanisms and that he will be aggressively supporting enhanced programs within USDA. One of his initial priorities will be to secure full funding of the National Research Initiative (NRI) competitive grants program at its full \$500 million authorization rather than its present level of about \$100 million.

**Terry Wolf will be speaking at the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board Buffet Reception** on Tuesday, October 30, 6:00-7:30 p.m., at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. Terry will be providing the Board an update on National C-FAR. The NAREEE Board, chaired by Dean of Agriculture Vic Lechtenberg of Purdue University, is the top national advisory board for food and agricultural research and education to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board is composed of a broad cross-section of distinguished members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The meetings and reception are open to the public. National C-FAR members are encouraged to attend and become better acquainted with the NAREEE Board and meet the new members who will be joining the board.

**A reception in recognition of the importance of Agricultural Genomics and Agricultural Research** was held on Capitol Hill on September 20, 2001. National C-FAR and some 25 other food and agricultural organizations cosponsored the reception. Over 80 persons attended the reception from sponsoring organizations, congressional staff and members of congress. Attendance was hurt by the cancellation of a workshop scheduled to coincide with the reception and by the extraordinary security measures on Capitol Hill in advance of President Bush's address to a joint session. Despite the extraordinary circumstances and logistical nightmare, it was encouraging how many attended and that they were able to hear the very encouraging remarks of Senator Bond of Missouri, Congressman Smith of Michigan and Senator Lugar of Indiana. Each gave very strong endorsements of the need for added funding of food and agricultural research and education. What impact does publicly funded agricultural research have on the structure of agriculture? Does research tend to favor the larger farms or does it favor the smaller ones? To examine these questions, USDA commissioned a study by the National Research Council of the National Academies. Released on October 3, 2001, the study's main conclusion was that research does have some impact on structure, but the changing structure of agriculture has many other contributing factors. The report recommended being alert to adverse the distributional affects of public research and extension and making sure the research serves all farmers. The report strongly encouraged one of National C-FAR's goals of broad public and stakeholder participation in setting research priorities and implementing research projects. A full copy of the 148-page report is on the web at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10211.html>.

**Texas A&M University is to host a Regional Food and Agriculture Research Meeting** on October 29 on campus in College Station, Texas. National C-FAR, the Food and Society Project and Texas A&M are sponsoring this meeting with stakeholder groups to review and discuss food and agricultural research and education directions for the future. This meeting is similar to the regional meeting held on August 21 at The Ohio State University. Invitations are being mailed to food and agricultural leaders in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. As we did with the Ohio State meeting, we will be participating and encouraging current and potential National C-FAR members to participate. If you are interested in attending or would like more details, please contact Patricia W. Gerling, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences, The Texas A&M University System, 113 Jack K.

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**The National C-FAR Research Committee's Accomplishments Work Group Meeting** was held on September 19. Stephanie Smith, Barbara Glenn, Karl Glasener and Rob Hedberg met to work on how to present the success stories accumulated to date from the various member societies. It was agreed that we should consider three different audiences and that our first products should be awareness-raising pieces directed towards the non-ag hill staffers who may never have thought about the value of agricultural research. The second round of materials developed will be appropriate for the administration and staff of key committees related to food, agricultural and natural resources. Ultimately, as time, interest and resources allow, materials can be developed to reach the public. They plan to develop example "one-pagers" describing accomplishments. The intention will be to refine and print. It should also be determined at that point whether or not they need to be further refined by a hired professional writer.

**National C-FAR Research Committee has been active.** On September 21, 2001, Barbara Glenn, Karl Glasener and Rob Hedberg met to work on collating and summarizing the budget numbers prior to meeting with Cliff Gabriel at OSTP. The objective is to understand the major sources of information on federal science funding and how each source's numbers are aggregated. This will be used so that they can talk knowledgably about the entire spectrum of federal funding for food and agriculture research and to help identify gaps and opportunities. It was determined that they also need to contact additional expert sources of potential budget information. In addition to collecting the funding summaries, they plan to collect information directly on each agency to gain a qualitative sense of their research as well as the numbers.

**Membership increased to 111 during September.** The three new members who joined in September are all University Affiliate members and are the three major committees of the Agriculture Division of The National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) – 1. ECOP (Extension Committee on Organization and Policy); 2. ESCOP (Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy), and 3. ACOP (Academic Committee on Organization and Policy). While we are pleased with our growth in membership, we need to step up our efforts to recruit major national organizations and corporations who have not yet joined. Recommendations from our present members are our best way to recruit. Please encourage groups you know to join. Please contact Ellen Jansen, [ejansen@uiuc.edu](mailto:ejansen@uiuc.edu) or 217-333-6575 or view our website (<http://www.ncfar.org/>) for brochures, membership forms, and a list of members.

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