



FOR RELEASE
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Stabenow and Blunt Recognized as the 2011 Friends of Agricultural Economics

Washington, Sept. 8, 2011 – Today the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) and that National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators (NAAEA) recognized Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) as the “2011 Friends of C-FARE and Agricultural Economics” for their appreciation of the application of economics to policy issues involving agriculture, natural resources, food and nutrition topics, at a reception held in 902 Hart Senate Office Building. C-FARE Chair, Dr. Damona Doye from Oklahoma State University stated, “Our profession is grateful to both Senators for their continued appreciation of economic analysis to improve public policy.”

Dr. Steve Hanson, Michigan State University, presented the honor to Senator Stabenow. He stated “Senator Debbie Stabenow has long been a supporter of agricultural research and innovation. Because the state of Michigan is a microcosm of the issues involved in U.S. farm policy, it is confronted by almost all of the major issues contained in U.S. farm bill legislation.” Hanson added, “In her role as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Senator Stabenow has actively sought the input of the agricultural economists and other researchers on issues for the 2012 farm bill and other major issues.”

As Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and a member of the Senate Energy, Finance, and Budget Committees, Senator Stabenow has a unique role to play in shaping our nation's agricultural policies. Debbie Stabenow has long been a champion of agriculture and forestry, Michigan's second largest industry. In 2011, she became Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

Dr. Mike Monson from the University of Missouri presented the honor to Senator Blunt. He stated, “Senator Blunt, with his Missouri farm background, understands the key role that agriculture plays in driving the nation's economic recovery.” Monson added, “Senator Blunt is a strong supporter of continued investments in agricultural research to provide producers the tools needed to stay competitive in the world market, ensure our food supply, improve the efficiency of our infrastructure and foster policies that provide benefits to the entire economy.”

Senator Roy Blunt was elected to the United States Senate in 2010. Senator Blunt is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Senate Rules Committee. He serves as the Ranking Republican on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

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The reception was held in conjunction with the NAAEA as part of their biennial meeting which focuses on economics policies and funding issues of importance to researchers and producers across the country. The reception also honors the economists who provide information and guidance to the policy process, especially those who work on Capitol Hill and at the various government agencies. Agricultural economics is the study of the economic forces that affect the food, fiber and fuel industry from the producer and rural communities to the agribusiness and the consumer.

The Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the national presence of the agricultural economics profession. C-FARE's governing board includes prominent agricultural economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests. For more information or to view the press releases on-line please visit our website at www.cfare.org.

The NAAEA is a section of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association. The mission of the NAAEA is to improve the leadership and management of agricultural economics programs; to support the acquisition of resources to carry out agricultural economics research, teaching, and extension programs; and to address common needs and concerns of agricultural economics administrators. Membership in the NAAEA includes individuals who administer departments or units in academia, public agencies and foundations offering and supporting agricultural economics, resource economics, agribusiness management and similar research, teaching, and/or Extension programs.
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