

December 2009 – January 2010

The Council Caller

The Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the application of economics to food, agricultural, and resource issues at the national level. "The Council Caller" is a monthly e-newsletter provided by C-FARE with informational updates for agricultural and applied economists.

Legislative Action and Updates

USDA to Host Roundtables on Jobs, Economic Growth

In December, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will begin a series of roundtables and community forums on job creation and economic growth in states throughout the country. The roundtables will be hosted by USDA Rural Development state directors and Farm Service Agency state executive directors. Participants will include business owners, community members, state and local officials, union members, non-profit organizations, economists and other interested parties. Participants will discuss on steps that can be taken to grow the economy and put Americans back to work. View the press release for more information http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/12/0614.xml.

Research and Grant Information

Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. Application deadline is March 5, 2010. For more details please visit: http://www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html.

Joint Contributions of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program of the USDA Economic Research Service announces the availability of funds and a request for applications to conduct research on operational issues of USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and its support for the working poor. The deadline for proposal submission is February 17, 2010. For details visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AP/AP043/>.

Innovative Food Defense Projects

The Food and Drug Administration solicits applications that propose to develop Innovative Food Defense programs within the United States. The program should encompass 3 broad strategies in its food defense activities (1) Awareness; (2) Response; and (3) Recovery. Food defense is a term used to describe activities associated with protecting the nation's food supply from intentional contamination. For more details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-203.html>. Application deadline is July 15, 2010.

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award

The purpose of the Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program is to stimulate research in educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists, but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. These AREA grants create opportunities for scientists and institutions otherwise unlikely to participate extensively in NIH programs, to contribute to the Nation's biomedical and behavioral research effort. AREA grants are intended to support small-scale health-related research projects. Application deadline is January 7, 2013. For more details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-070.html>.

Agricultural Marketing Service Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program

FSMIP provides matching funds on a competitive basis to assist eligible entities explore new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the U.S. marketing system. FSMIP funds a wide range of applied research projects that address barriers, challenges, and opportunities in marketing, transporting, and distributing U.S. food and agricultural products domestically and internationally. FSMIP also seeks unique and innovative proposals on a smaller scale that may serve as pilot projects or case studies useful as models for other States. Of particular interest are proposals that reflect a collaborative approach between the States, academia, the farm sector and other appropriate entities and stakeholders. Application deadline is February 10, 2010. For more details visit: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FSMIP>.

NIFA Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

The purpose of this program is to fund projects that will enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. Priority concerns include biological, physical, and social sciences, including economics. The OREI is particularly interested in projects that emphasize research and outreach that assist farmers and ranchers with whole farm planning and ecosystem integration. Projects should plan to deliver applied production information to producers. Fieldwork must be done on certified organic land or on land in transition to organic certification, as appropriate to project goals and objectives. Application deadline is February 10, 2010. For more information visit: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/OREI.html>.

NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings

The Research Conference Grant Program supports high quality meetings that are relevant to the scientific mission of the NIH and to the public health. Application deadline is January 7, 2013. For more details visit:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-071.html>.

Basic Behavioral and Social Science Short-term Mentored Career

This NIH funding announcement invites applications for short-term mentored career development awards in the basic behavioral and social sciences research.

Application deadline is February 18, 2010. For more details visit the

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-10-003.html>.

NIFA Plans to Release AFRI RFA in February

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) expects to release its request for applications for the 2010 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) no later than mid-February 2010 and will commit up to \$800 million in funding for new grants, contingent on annual appropriations in following years. AFRI will support work in the following priority areas: plant health and production and plant products; animal health and production and animal products; food safety, nutrition, and health; renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; agriculture systems and technology; and agriculture economics and rural communities. Programs focused on these areas will use a disciplinary-based approach to building a foundation of knowledge critical for solving current and future problems. Within these priority areas, AFRI will support interdisciplinary, multi-functional projects in five "societal challenge" areas to achieve significant and measurable outcomes and achieving goals. The five goals include: (1) Keep American agriculture competitive while ending world hunger; (2) Improve nutrition and end child obesity (3) Radically improve food safety for all Americans; (4) Secure America's energy future through renewable biofuels; (5) Mitigate and adapt agriculture to variations in climate. All RFAs will be available on NIFA's Web site and on Grants.gov. Review the full press release at: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2010news/01062_afri.html. For more information about the AFRI funding opportunity, visit the NIFA Web site at <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html>.

Research on Integrity in Collaborative Research

The grant announcement encourages applications that propose to study research integrity as it relates to collaborative interactions and/or activities. Proposals must have clear relevance to biomedical, behavioral health sciences, or health services research. Applicants are encouraged to take into consideration problems or issues that have relevance to the specific interests of ORI or NIH Institutes and Centers. For details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RR-10-001.html>.

NIFA Specialty Crop Research Initiative

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative was established to solve critical industry issues through research and extension activities. Application deadline is January 14, 2010. For details visit: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/specialty_crop.html.

NIH Funding on Diet Composition and Energy Balance

This funding opportunity encourages applications investigating the role of diet composition in energy balance, including studies in both animals and humans. The closing date for applications is May 7, 2010 but multiple receipt dates listed. For more details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-218.html>.

NIFA National Integrated Food Safety Initiative

The purpose of the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative is to support food safety projects that demonstrate an integrated approach to solving problems in applied food safety research, education, or extension. Application deadline is January 19, 2010. For more details visit: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/foodsafetyicgp.cfm>.

Excellence in University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences

NIFA is seeking nominations for the 2010 USDA National Awards Program for Excellence in University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. This awards program honors innovation and excellence in teaching and is open to faculty in all the food and agricultural sciences disciplines. For complete award program description, nomination guidelines, and nomination forms visit the NIFA website at: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/other_links/serdteachaward.html. Nominations must be received at NIFA no later than March 15, 2010.

Publications and Papers

USDA ERS DatelineERS Newsletter

The DatelineERS newsletter offers summaries of ERS reports and events with links to areas in their website: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/News/DatelineERSNewsletter.htm>.

Workshops and Meetings

NABE Economic Policy Conference

The 2010 NABE Economic Policy Conference will be held March 7-9, 2010 at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel in Arlington, VA. For details visit: <http://www.nabe.com/pc10/index.html>.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

If you have any feedback for C-FARE or would like to inform us of a research area you have been working on, please contact Tamara Wagester, Executive Director at 202-408-8522 or by e-mail tamarawagester@cfare.org. If you are not currently getting our monthly e-newsletter directly from C-FARE, and would like to subscribe to "The Council Caller", please send an E-mail directly to CFAREinfo@aol.com.

C-FARE is a non-profit, non-partisan association actively working to represent agricultural and applied economists in matters of science policy, priority setting, and budget determination at the federal level, and to collaborate with other scientific organizations and government agencies in these activities.