

June 2009

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

House Agriculture Committee Publishes Stakeholder Climate Change Input

Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson announced the publication of responses to the Committee's climate change survey. The Committee received more than 200 responses to the questionnaire. To view responses visit:

<http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/publications.html>.

Research and Grant Information

CSREES Multicultural Scholars Grants Program

The purpose of this competitive undergraduate scholarship grant program is to increase the multicultural diversity of the food and agricultural scientific and professional workforce, and advance the educational achievement of all Americans by providing competitive grants to colleges and universities. Application deadline is July 28, 2009. For details visit:

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/multicultural_selg.html.

Environmental Finance Center Grant Program

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities for Environmental Finance Centers (EFCs) that provide multi-media environmental finance expertise and outreach to the regulated communities to help them meet environmental requirements. Application deadline is July 15, 2009. For details visit: <http://www.epa.gov/efinpage/efcgrants/index.htm>.

FY 09 Multi-Media Grant Program Solicitation Notice

This grant aims to strengthen their ability to address environmental and public health threats, while furthering the art and science of environmental compliance. Application deadline is July 13, 2009. For details visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/state/grants/stag/index.html>.

CHS Foundation Offers Mini-Grants to College Agriculture Clubs

The CHS Foundation has launched the CHS Foundation College Club Mini-Grants program to strengthen learning experiences and professional development opportunities for agriculture-related college clubs. Through the program, the CHS Foundation will provide grants of up to \$1,000 each to innovative leadership and professional development programs with an agriculture focus. Grants will be awarded on an ongoing basis. For details visit:

<http://www.chsfoundation.org/scholarshipprog.html#minigrants>

Watershed, Conservation Effects Assessment, ICGP

FY 2009 Program Priorities include: (1) Developing case studies at intensively monitored watersheds suitable for investigating the effectiveness of multiple conservation practices in solving watershed health problems related to grazing land use at the watershed scale. (2) Applying an appropriate range of quantitative interpretive techniques and geographically-based methods, including physical, statistical, and landscape modeling methods to the analysis of the effects of grazing land conservation practices. (3) Expanding knowledge on the watershed health of grazing land watersheds to better inform decision-making for and management of grazing land watersheds. Application deadline is July 1, 2009. For details visit:

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/watershedconservationeffectsassessmenticgp.cfm>

National Integrated Water Quality

The goal of the program is to improve the quality of our Nation's surface water and groundwater resources through research, education, and extension activities. Projects funded through this program will facilitate achieving this goal by advancing and disseminating the knowledge base available to agricultural and rural communities. Funded projects should lead to science-based decision-making and management practices that improve the quality of the Nation's surface water and groundwater resources in agricultural and rural watersheds. Application deadline is July 15, 2009. For details visit: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/waterqualityicgp.cfm>

Integrated Organic and Water Quality Program, ICGP

CSREES is interested in funding comparisons between certified organic farms and conventional farms of sediment delivery, nutrient use and transport, and overall water availability at the farm or field scale. Additionally, CSREES is interested in projects that solve water resource issues at the field or farm scale using research, education, and extension activities. Application deadline is July 24, 2009. For more details view:

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/integratedorganicandwaterqualityprogramicgp.cfm>.

Publications and Papers

Agricultural Research Funding in the Public and Private Sectors

USDA ERS released data for public and private funding of agricultural research and development for the years 1970-2007 (public) and 1970-98 (private). For details visit:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/AgResearchFunding/>

State Fact Sheets

The ERS State Fact Sheets contain frequently requested data for each State and for the total United States. For details visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/>

Farm Business and Household Survey Data

Use this interactive tool to create tailored reports on agricultural production technology, farm business and farm household viability, and the structure of U.S. agriculture from the latest ARMS data. For details visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/ARMS/>

June 2009 Amber Waves

Amber Waves presents the broad scope of ERS's research and analysis. The magazine covers the economics of agriculture, food and nutrition, the food industry, trade, rural America, and farm-related environmental topics. For details visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June09/>

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Beginning farmers often face obstacles getting started, including high startup costs and limited availability of land. USDA—through the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service—provides loans and conservation assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers. This report draws on data from annual surveys and the Census of Agriculture to provide policymakers with a better understanding of beginning farmers and ranchers, including how they contribute to U.S. agricultural production. For more information visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB53/>.

DatelinERS Newsletter

The DatelinERS newsletter offers concise summaries of ERS reports and events with links to areas within our website. You can find it in our newsroom at www.ers.usda.gov/News/.

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.