

May-June, 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 an e-newsletter provided by C-FARE with informational updates for agricultural and applied economists.

## Research and Grant Information

### **SBE Request for Research Proposals Related to the Gulf Oil Spill**

The National Science Foundation Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences encourages scholars to consider how the Gulf oil spill and other disasters may provide an opportunity to "examine the ways in which people and organizations anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and emerge from disasters." Deadlines for the fall competition are in July or August. For details visit: <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=SBE>.

### **USDA NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Fellowships Grant**

The AFRI NIFA Fellowships Grant Program provides fellowships for predoctoral and postdoctoral students. Application deadline is October 5, 2010. For details visit: [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri\\_rfa.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri_rfa.html).

### **NIH Outstanding New Environmental Scientist Award (ONES) Grant**

The goal of the Outstanding New Environmental Scientist Award is to identify and attract outstanding new environmental health researchers. Application deadline is October 29, 2010. For details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-10-004.html>.

### **USDA NIFA Organic Transitions Program Grant**

The overall goal of the Organic Transitions Program (ORG) is to support the development and implementation of research, extension and higher education programs to improve the competitiveness of organic livestock and crop producers, as well as those who are adopting organic practices. Application deadline is July 1, 2010. For details visit: [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/organic\\_trans\\_icgp.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/organic_trans_icgp.html).

### **USAID Social Science Research in Population and Reproductive Health Modification 2**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking concept papers from qualified U.S and other non-profit non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) for a program titled "Social Science Research in Population and Reproductive Health" for funding of Cooperative Agreements. Application deadline for Round 2 is November 19, 2010. For details visit: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=53977>.

### **USDA NIFA Multicultural Scholars Program Grant**

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, 2010. For details visit: [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/multicultural\\_scholars.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/multicultural_scholars.html)

## **Publications and Papers**

### **Toward Sustainable Agricultural Systems in the 21st Century**

On June 29, the National Research Council released a report regarding agricultural sustainability and outlook for the future. The report is an update and enhancement of the NRC's 1989 report "Alternative Agriculture." Key recommendations emphasize the need for American agriculture to focus less on minimizing costs and maximizing production and embrace a more holistic, "systems" approach to farming, including socioeconomic and ecosystem analyses. The committee also suggests adopting a transformative approach in addition to the current approach of incremental changes. This report is available online in brief <http://dels.nas.edu/Materials/Report-In-Brief/4346-Systems-Agriculture> and full text versions [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12832#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12832#toc).

### **Economists Debate Development Strategies**

At a recent Stockholm conference, top economists challenged traditional approaches to development, and debated topics such as aid effectiveness, climate change, and post-crisis recovery. The event attracted more than 500 global experts and featured a debate that included three Nobel laureates. For details visit: [http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22606963~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html?cid=ISG\\_E\\_WBWeeklyUpdate\\_NL](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22606963~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html?cid=ISG_E_WBWeeklyUpdate_NL)

## **Workshops and Meetings**

### **FSIS, FDA, and CDC Measure Progress on Food Safety**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced two joint public meetings for the purpose of presenting methods of measuring the effectiveness of the U.S. food safety system. The meetings will be held in Chicago, IL, on July 21, and in Portland, OR, on October 20. Interested stakeholders are invited to present their opinions on the metrics the agencies plan to use or are using to evaluate the success of food safety regulations. The deadline for oral presentation requests during the Chicago meeting is July 6, 2010. For more information visit the FSIS webpage at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/).

## **Other News**

### **NIFA Partnership Awards**

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) invites all land-grant universities and cooperating institutions and organizations supported by NIFA to submit nominations for the 2010 NIFA Partnership Awards Program. All signed nomination forms must be submitted by July 12, 2010. For details visit: [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/partnership\\_awards.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/partnership_awards.html).

### **USDA-NASS Seeks Public Input on Future Energy Program**

The Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is soliciting public comments on a proposed annual survey program to collect and publish data about agriculture's production and use of renewable energy. The June 21 Federal Register includes a notice with details about this opportunity. Additional information and an online comment form are also available at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/energysurvey/>.

### **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](mailto: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 [info@cfare.org](mailto:info@cfare.org).

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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.