

April 2008

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

Farm Bill Information

In early April the House Farm Bill conferees were named. To view the names visit: http://agriculture.house.gov/list/press/agriculture_dem/pr_040908_conferees.html. The Senate conferees were announced on February 5, 2008. To view the names please visit the Chairman's press releases at: <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>.

On Friday, April 25 the president signed a bill to temporarily extend farm programs through May 2, 2008. Information on the Farm Bill can be read at the Committee websites of www.house.gov/agriculture or <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>.

House and Senate Appropriations Hearings for Agriculture

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture held several hearings in April, 2008 to review the USDA budget. Hearing topics and dates included:

- April 10 - Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services
- April 9 - Marketing and Regulatory Programs
- April 3 - Natural Resources Conservation Service Budget
- April 2 - Food and Drug Administration
- April 1 – Rural Development

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture also held hearings in April to review the USDA budget. Hearing topics and dates included:

- April 15 – Hearing on the FY09 FDA Budget
- April 8 – Hearing on the FY09 USDA Budget

US-Columbia Trade Promotion Agreement

To view information released from USDA regarding the US-Columbia Trade Promotion Agreement please visit:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?contentonly=true&content id=colombia_fta_projects.html. Information on this page includes fact sheets and other materials.

Chile Approves Imports of U.S. Poultry

On April 10, 2008 Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced that Chile's Livestock and Agricultural Service approved the U.S. inspection, control and certification systems for poultry, allowing these products to enter the Chilean market effective immediately. To view the release please visit:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6 2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.d/2/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2008%2F04%2F0101.xml&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS RELEASE#7 2 5JM>.

Research and Grant Information

EPA 2008 Healthy Communities Grant Program Synopsis

The Healthy Communities Grant Program is seeking projects that: (a) Target resources to benefit communities at risk and sensitive populations, (b) Assess, understand, and reduce environmental and human health risks, (c) Increase collaboration through community-based projects, (d) Build institutional and community capacity to understand and solve environment and human health problems, (e) Achieve measurable environmental and human health benefits. Application closing date is May 12, 2008. To view the announcement visit:

http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/grants_2008hc.html.

Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants

Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants and USDA is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2008 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agriculture producers and rural small businesses in eligible rural areas. Application deadline is June 16, 2008. For more details please visit: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/nofa08energy.pdf>.

EPA Agency Announcement for Conferences, Workshops, and/or Meetings

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing this broad agency announcement soliciting applications from eligible applicants for supporting scientific and technical research conferences that address the following program areas: (1) human health; (2) ecosystems; water and security; (3) economics and sustainability; (4) air and global climate change; and (5) technology. The deadline is June 5, 2008; and December 9, 2008 depending upon the cycle. For more details visit:

http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_baa.html.

National Institutes of Health Academic Career Award

The purpose of the NIH Academic Career Award is to provide support to increase the pool of individuals with academic and research expertise to become academic researchers and to enhance the educational or research capacity at the grantee sponsoring grantee institution. The Academic Career Award supports Development awards for more junior level candidates and Leadership awards for more senior individuals with acknowledged scientific expertise and leadership skills. For details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-152.html>.

National Research Initiative - Human Nutrition and Obesity

This crosscutting program addresses the complex problem of obesity prevention. Projects funded by this program are intended to lead to a better understanding of the behavioral and environmental factors that influence obesity and to the development and evaluation of effective interventions to prevent obesity. Application deadline is June 5, 2008. For details view: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/nri_rfa.html.

Agricultural Prosperity for Small and Medium-Sized Farms

The purpose of this program is to foster interdisciplinary studies to improve our understanding of the interactions between the economic and environmental components important to the long-term viability, competitiveness and efficiency of small and medium-sized farms. Application deadline is June 5, 2008. For details visit: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/nri_rfa.html.

National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship Grants Program

This program awards grants to train students for master's and/or doctoral degrees and provide additional postdoctoral training for Fellows who have completed their doctoral degrees that have demonstrable teaching and research competencies in the food and agricultural sciences. Application deadline is May 8, 2008. For details visit: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/national_needs.html.

Publications and Papers

Choices Publication

AAEA announced the first quarter issue of Choices is now available online. To view the articles visit: www.choicesmagazine.org. This thematic package in Choices celebrates the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) work, its Nobel prize and the significant contributions of agricultural and resources economists to the IPCC process and reports.

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. To view the most recent edition please visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/April08/>.

DatelinERS Newsletter

The DatelinERS newsletter offers concise summaries of ERS reports and events with links to areas within the website. The April edition can be located at: See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/News/DatelinERSNewsletter.htm>.

Impact of Farm Bill Restorations On Food Stamp Use By Legal Immigrants

This study used 1999-2004 Current Population Survey data in conjunction with the Urban Institute's Transfer Income Model (TRIM3) to quantify the impact of the 2002 Farm Bill's eligibility restorations. To view the study please visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CCR40/>.

Top Climate Scientist Tapped for 2010 World Bank Climate Report

The World Bank announced that Rosina M. Bierbaum, currently professor and Dean at the University of Michigan and Marianne Fay, Lead Economist at the Bank, have been chosen to co-lead the 2010 World Development Report on climate change and developing countries. The 2010 WDR is a collaborative effort of the Bank's Development Economics Vice Presidency and the Sustainable Development Network (SDN). For more information visit:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21735122~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

Other News

Oregon State University Interim Dean Named

Bill Boggess, executive associate dean of Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences, has been named interim dean of the college and interim director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station.

National Academy of Science President Delivers Speech on Energy

On April 28, in his annual address to members of the Academy, NAS President Ralph Cicerone said "we must change the trajectories of our energy usage and energy sources." Calling energy a pervasive issue, Cicerone added, "a great deal of innovative and determined work is needed by scientists and engineers in the years ahead" to meet energy challenges. For details visit:

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/morenews/20080428b.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.