

August 2007

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

Agriculture Legislation Update

Summer 2007 has been a very busy summer for the agricultural policy community, including the passage of the House of Representatives version of the 2007 Farm Bill, passage of the House version of the FY 2008 Agriculture Appropriations legislation, and passage from Committee of the Senate FY 2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

Farm Bill - The House version of the 2007 Farm Bill (HR 2419) was passed on July 27 by a vote of 231-191. For information on the House version we encourage you to visit their website at: <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html> which has done an excellent job of tracking their debate. The Senate is expected to write a Farm Bill that looks much different from the House version, with their mark-up likely in September (<http://agriculture.senate.gov/>).

Agriculture Appropriations - On February 5, 2007 President Bush sent Congress the administration's FY 2008 budget proposal. Congress has held hearings and developed their own appropriations bills in both the House (HR 3161 passed out of the Full Committee on July 19 and the Full House on August 2) and Senate (S 1859 passed out of Full Committee on July 19). We encourage you to view the summary of spending numbers either through the Library of Congress – Thomas website (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>) or the summary on the C-FARE website (www.cfare.org).

NSF Appropriations – The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) recently posted an update regarding the National Science Foundation appropriations spending (<http://www.cossa.org/volume26/26.15.pdf>). Specifically of interest to applied economists will be the section regarding Census and NSF Funding.

Statement Regarding Trade Promotion Authority to Agriculture

To view a statement by Secretary Johanns regarding the importance of trade promotion authority to agriculture 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/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM_contentid=2007%2F06%2F0186.xml&PC 7 2 5JM_parentnav=LATEST_RELEASE&PC 7 2 5JM_navid=NEWS_RELEASE.

Research and Grant Information

Opportunities for Social Scientists in CSREES Competitive Grants

USDA-CSREES is offering an internet based workshop entitled, "Opportunities for Social Scientists in CSREES Competitive Grants Programs" on September 18th between 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. This workshop is being held in conjunction with the NAAEA (Department Heads) meeting in Washington, DC on Sept 17-19, 2007. Because of technological constraints, participation in the internet workshop is limited to 22 new faculty members. We encourage Departments to have more than one faculty member per line. Contact Angela Holloman at aholloman@csrees.usda.gov by September 10, 2007 to register for this workshop.

The second annual internet based stakeholder workshop for all the social science programs is tentatively scheduled for November 27, 2007 and more information will be disseminated soon. The first workshop in November 2006 was attended by several senior faculty members and their input was used in developing the logic models and the Request for Applications.

EPA Climate Modeling Workshops and Study

The EPA Climate Modeling Workshop and Study is intended to advance the field of the economics of energy use and climate change through modeling workshops, comparisons, and specific studies. Application deadline is September 7, 2007. For more details please visit: http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html#0711.

2008 Challenge Cost Share

Funding is being provided through the 2008 Challenge Cost Share Program which will fund urban and community forest projects that have a national or widespread impact and application. Deadline is September 13, 2007. For more details please visit: <http://nucfac.urbanforestrysouth.org/grants/application.doc>.

NSF SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants

The National Science Foundation's Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES), and Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS) award grants to doctoral students to improve the quality of dissertation research. These grants provide funds for items not normally available through the student's university. Additionally, these grants allow doctoral students to undertake significant data-gathering projects and to conduct field research in settings away from their campus that would not otherwise be possible. Proposals are judged on the basis of their scientific merit, including the theoretical importance of the research question and the appropriateness of the proposed data and methodology to be used in addressing the question. Application deadline is October 15, 2007. For details visit: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf06605.

USDA Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives

Provides funds for a cooperative research agreement with a qualified academic institution to conduct research on the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives. Application deadline is September 7, 2007. For more details please visit: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm>.

NSF Biotechnology, Biochemical and Biomass Engineering

The Biotechnology (BTEC) program deals with problems involved in economic processing and manufacturing of products of economic importance by effectively utilizing renewable resources of biological origin and bioinformatics originating from genomic and proteomic information. The BTEC program supports research projects that are primarily interdisciplinary and involve multiple investigators consisting of closely collaborating engineers and biological scientists. The full proposal window is August 15, 2007 - September 15, 2007. For more details please visit: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=501029.

Fall 2008 EPA Fellowships For Graduate Environmental Study

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is offering Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Graduate Fellowships for masters and doctoral level students in environmental fields of study. The deadline for receipt of pre-applications is October 23, 2007. Application deadline is October 23, 2007. For more details please visit: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_gro_grad.html.

Managing Resources for Sustainable Development

The degradation of ecosystems is a significant barrier to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Over the past decade, the International Development Association has lent support investment in environment and natural resource management. This support has helped mitigate air pollution in urban and industrial areas; provide cleaner and more reliable supplies of water; make land management more sustainable; build environmental institutions; deal with climate change, and protect biodiversity. For more information please visit the World Bank website at: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/IDA/0,,contentMDK:21443082~pagePK:51236175~piPK:437394~theSitePK:73154,00.html>.

Dissertation Fellowship Program to Fund Education Research

The Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Program seeks to encourage new scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. Although the dissertation topic must concern education, graduate study may be in any academic discipline or professional field. Application deadline is November 2, 2007. For details please visit: <http://www.spencer.org/programs/fellows/dissertation.htm>.

Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship Program

The Council on Foreign Relations offers the International Affairs Fellowship Program to advance the professional development of outstanding young Americans. The fellowships seek to bridge the gap between analysis and action in foreign policy by supporting a variety of policy studies and active experiences in policy-making. Academic and other professionals from the private sector spend fellowship tenures in public service or in a policymaking setting, while government officials have the opportunity for systematic assessment of foreign policy issues in a research environment. Application deadline is September 19, 2007. For more details please visit: <http://www.cfr.org/about/fellowships/iaf.html>.

Support for Social Change and Environmental Stewardship

The Wolcott Family Foundation focuses its funding in the areas of social change and environmental stewardship, with emphasis on supporting grassroots organizations for which a small grant can make a real contribution. Priority is given to organizations that empower individuals and communities to organize for social change; seek to strengthen civil liberties and civil rights issues; build community development that seeks to break the cycle of poverty, create economic opportunity, and build effective leadership in distressed communities; and demonstrate linkages and interdependence of ecosystems and economics with win-win solutions and collaborative approaches. Application deadline is September 7, 2007. For more details please visit: <http://www.wolffoundation.org/>.

Rapid Response Grant Program for Global Engagement Projects

The Connect US Fund's Rapid Response Grant Program is aimed at enabling organizations to act on unique, time-sensitive, and unforeseen opportunities for policy change. The Rapid Response Program will complement the Connect US Global Security and Cooperation Initiative, a two-year program of grantmaking and operations designed to promote a broad vision of responsible U.S. global engagement among the 2008 presidential candidates and the public. The Global Security and Cooperation Initiative is focused, in particular, on climate change and energy policy, nuclear proliferation, human rights, and international trade and development. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis starting September 16, 2007. For more details please visit: <http://www.connect.us/index.php?id=58>.

USDA Announces Colony Collapse Disorder Research Action Plan

On July 13, 2007 USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics Gale Buchanan announced that USDA researchers have finalized an action plan for dealing with colony collapse disorder (CCD) of honey bees. The plan can be read at www.ars.usda.gov/is/br/ccd/ccd_actionplan.pdf.

Publications and Papers

Livestock Gross Margin and Risk Protection Insurance

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln launched a website for educational programs/materials on Livestock Gross Margin Insurance (LGM) and Livestock Risk Protection Insurance (LRP). Several resources and links that may be of interest to livestock producers, insurance agents, and educators are included. The URL is <http://livestockinsurance.unl.edu>.

Bank Partners with Google to Transform Data into Map

To find out how easy or hard it is to do business around the world, policy makers and investors now, with a click of their computer mouse, can see “the big picture” – Bank-produced Google map on doing business in 175 countries. The new Doing Business Map complements the Bank Group’s flagship annual report on Doing Business by visualizing key information on ease of doing business. The map helps to communicate the key messages. For more details please visit: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21420866~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

“Under Lock and Key”

To view Farm Journal’s article highlighted their experience inside USDA’s NASS “lockup” visit: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/2007/UnderLockKey_reprint.pdf.

Workshops and Meetings

RIDGE Program Conference

The Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) Program encourages research on food assistance and nutrition issues and broadens the participation of social science scholars in this research area. The annual conference is a forum for grant recipients and attendees to discuss results of recent grants on food assistance programs, food security, and nutrition. This year’s Conference will be held on October 11-12, 2007, at USDA’s ERS. A preliminary agenda is available. Attendance is free but registration is required. For more information please visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/FANRP/FANRPOctober07/>.

“Lessons from NAFTA: Building a New Fair Trade Agenda”

On October 22-23, 2007 in Minneapolis the conference “Lessons from NAFTA: Building a New Fair Trade Agenda” will bring together key groups from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada to review NAFTA’s intentions, to share their experiences with the NAFTA model, and to identify the overall impact of NAFTA with respect to food and agriculture, the environment, energy, immigration, and labor; and discuss alternatives placing trade within a broader context of development. Visit <http://events.iatp.org/index.php?q=node/4> for registration information.

Entrepreneurship Conference

The U. S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration invites you to its Development Symposium with a theme of Entrepreneurship in Kansas City, MO on September 26, 2007. Attendance to the symposia is complimentary, but requires registration. More details on the agenda and registration process are available at http://www.iedconline.org/EDASymposia/Kansas_City.html.

Other News

2007 Census of Agriculture Release Approaching

On July 30, 2007 USDA’s NASS released a press release stating they will begin distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture later this year. For information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, call (800) 727-9540 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Importance of Attribution

Recently Dr. Henry "JH" Bahn (USDA CSREES NPL for Economic & Community Systems) provided a reminder to the profession regarding the importance including an attribution for funding sources when publishing articles and when conducting presentations. You are encouraged to read Dr. Bahn’s note and refresh yourself with the suggested rules for attribution. You can access the note on the C-FARE website at: http://www.cfare.org/updates/07CSREES_update_summer.pdf.

Mark Bailey Retires from USDA's CSREES

Mark R. Bailey, CSREES national program leader for the Farm Management, Risk Management Education, and Trade Adjustment Assistance Programs for farmers and fishermen in the Economic and Community Systems Unit retired July 31. He started with USDA's Economic Research Service in July 1975 and in 1986 moved to the USDA Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences, serving first as report staff leader and then as executive secretary. In 1992, he was the program director for the Small Business Innovation Research Program, and then moved to the National Research Initiative in 1996, where he served as the national program leader for the Markets and Trade and the Rural Development Programs, and as co-director for the Community Food Projects Program. In 2000, he played a critical role in the implementation of the Initiative for the Future of Agriculture and Food Systems. Janie Hipp is the new NPL. C-FARE would like to extend our best wishes to Mark on his retirement, it was a pleasure working with him over the years. For details please visit: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/newsletters/update07/080807.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.