

December 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

USDA Statement on Senate Passed Farm Bill

To view the statement by Acting Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner on the Senate-Passed Farm Bill please visit:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2007/12/0375.xml>.

USDA Statement on Peru Trade Promotion Agreement

To view the statement by Acting Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner on the signing of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement 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/1/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?PC 7 2 5JM_contentid=2007%2F12%2F0374.xml&PC 7 2 5JM_parentnav=LATEST_R ELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM_navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7 2 5JM

Legislative Updates

On November 7, 2007 the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation - Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee held a hearing on carbon sequestration technologies, focusing on research and development efforts to safely and efficiently sequester carbon dioxide.

On December 6, 2007 the US House of Representatives passed an energy bill to strengthen and expand the growing market for ethanol and biodiesel. "The Energy Independence and Security Act" passed by a vote of 231-181.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission Reauthorization was approved by the Full House Agriculture Committee on December 12, 2007 for Action in the House.

The Senate passed their version of the Farm Bill on December 14. To view the bill and supporting documentation please visit: <http://agriculture.senate.gov>.

Research and Grant Information

Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics

The Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program is an interdisciplinary program that supports the development of innovative methods and models for the social and behavioral sciences. Deadline is January 16, 2007. For details visit: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf04504.

Interdisciplinary Training for Undergraduates

The goal of the Undergraduate Biology and Mathematics activity is to enhance undergraduate education and training at the intersection of the biological and mathematical sciences. Application deadline is February 21, 2008. For more details visit: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf08510.

Market-Based Approaches for Increasing Water Efficiency

EPA is soliciting applications for a project that will help transform the market for water efficient products or services. Applications must address water efficiency through activities that will increase purchases of water-efficient products and services or improve water management practices in the residential and/or commercial/institutional market sectors. Application deadline January 25, 2008. For more details please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/wastewatergrants/>.

EPA Announcement for Conferences, Workshops, or Meetings Grant

EPA is issuing a broad agency announcement soliciting applications from eligible applicants for the planning, arranging, administering and/or conducting of conferences, workshops, and/or meetings that focus on research to protect human health and safeguard the environment. Application deadline is January 7, 2008. For more details visit: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_baa.html.

CSREES Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program

USDA CSREES is requesting letters of intent by January 10, 2008 for the Community Food Projects. Visit: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/community_food.html.

NSF Science of Science and Innovation Policy

The Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at NSF aims to cultivate a new Science of Science and Innovation Policy. Deadline is March 18, 2008. Visit: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf08520.

Publications and Papers

CSREES Recommendations for Ecosystem Services Funding Portfolio

The CSREES Ecosystem Services Working Group issued a discussion paper, "Consequences of Ecosystem Change for Human Well-being," on recommendations for a funding portfolio structure linking competitive, formula and special grants that related to ecosystem services. For more details please visit: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/nre/in_focus/ecosystems_if_wrkgp.html.

WDR 2008 Calls for Agricultural Renewal to Reduce Rural Poverty

The World Bank's latest World Development Report (WDR) for 2008 says greater investment in agriculture in transforming economies is vital to the welfare of rural poor people living in those countries. For more details visit:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21517550~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

Catalyzing Private Investment for a Low-Carbon Economy

"Catalyzing Private Investment for a Low-Carbon Economy: World Bank Group Progress on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Fiscal 2007" is a publication jointly produced by the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank provides a detailed look at how these organizations are fostering increased private sector investment in clean energy technologies and services. For details visit:

http://www.miga.org/documents/renewable_energy_12_4_07SCREEN.pdf.

Workshops and Meetings

USDA Announces 2008 Agricultural Outlook Forum Speakers

USDA announced the plenary speakers for USDA's 84th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum, "Energizing Rural America in the Global Marketplace," February 21-22, 2008, in Arlington, Virginia. The Secretary of Agriculture will deliver the keynote address, Mark Keenum, Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, will address international agricultural trade, and Thomas Dorr, Under Secretary for Rural Development, will speak on "Promoting a Rural Renaissance." Stephen Johnson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, is the distinguished guest speaker. For details please visit: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/index.htm>.

Domestic and Trade Impacts of U.S. Farm Policy

The presentations from the November, 2007 conference, "Domestic and Trade Impacts of U.S. Farm Policy: Future Directions and Challenges" can be viewed at: <http://cnas.tamu.edu/DC%20Conf%20Program%20Final%20Nov%202007.htm>.

International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium

The annual meeting of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC) will be held on January 7-9, 2008 at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, DC. The full program agenda is available online at:

http://www.iatrcweb.org/meetings/annual/annual_meeting_07.htm.

Other News

USDA Chief Economist Collins to Retire

On November 27, 2007 Acting Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner announced the January 3, 2008 retirement of USDA Chief Economist Dr. Keith Collins and the appointment of Deputy Chief Economist Dr. Joseph Glauber as Acting Chief Economist.

Opening – Mid Career Recruitment (IFC)

The International Finance Corporation hires mid-career professionals with specialized regional or industry expertise. For more details visit:

<http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/careers.nsf/3e9bdcd6b9de8edaca25692100069835/61a297de269fb5d385256ec30077e267?OpenDocument>.

Opportunities for Undergraduate Students

The Student Section of the AAEA (SS-AAEA) consists of undergraduate students who compete in various competitions at the AAEA Annual Meetings. Please visit: <http://www.aaea.org/sections/studentsection/news/Fall07Newsletter.pdf> to view the Fall SS-AAEA Newsletter. Advisors considering entering their students in the quiz bowl or paper competition are encouraged to read the newsletter, and to forward the link to the newsletter to undergraduate students who may be interested in the SS-AAEA activities.

Opening – 2008 Summer Internship Program

The goal of this World Bank Internship Program is to offer successful candidates an opportunity to improve their skills as well as the experience of working in an international environment. To be eligible for the Program, candidates must possess an undergraduate degree and already be enrolled in a full-time graduate study program, pursuing a Master's degree or PhD with plans to return to school in a full-time capacity. Generally, successful candidates have completed their first year of graduate studies or are already into their PhD programs. Applications for the Summer Internship Program are now accepted until January 31, 2008. For more details visit: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTHRJOBS/0,,contentMDK:20515785~menuPK:1477648~pagePK:64262408~piPK:64262191~theSitePK:1058433,00.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.