

May 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**

### **Congress Overrides Presidential Farm Bill Veto**

On May 22, 2008 Congress voted by 316-108 in the House and 82-13 in the Senate to override the Presidential veto of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. The bill has been enacted into law, with the exception of the bill's trade title.

## **Research and Grant Information**

### **Sophie Prize Invites Nominations**

Administered by the Oslo-based Sophie Foundation, the Sophie Prize is an international award presented annually in the field of environment and sustainable development. Application deadline is November 1, 2008. For information view the [http://www.sofieprisen.no/Nomination\\_Guidelines/index.html](http://www.sofieprisen.no/Nomination_Guidelines/index.html).

### **Budweiser Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation Research Prize**

Budweiser and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are accepting applications for the 2008 Budweiser Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation Research Prize. The prize will recognize and support a single innovative project that advances new technologies or practices that contribute to making renewable energy a practical energy alternative. Application deadline is August 15, 2008. For more details view [http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Browse\\_All\\_Programs&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=9503](http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Browse_All_Programs&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=9503).

### **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars program goal is to improve health by training scholars to: investigate the connections among biological, genetic, behavioral, environmental, economic, and social determinants of health; and develop, evaluate, and disseminate knowledge and interventions that integrate and act on these determinants to improve health. Application deadline is October 3, 2008. For details visit: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15012801/rwjfdn>.

### **Funding for Policy Programs to Address Energy Problems**

The Energy Foundation's primary role is as a grantmaker, providing resources to the institutions that most effectively leverage change. For more information view the <http://www.ef.org/home.cfm>.

### **Funding to Examine Effects of Public Reporting and Pay-for-Performance**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation seeks proposals for projects to examine the effects of public reporting and pay-for-performance on health care quality. Proposals should demonstrate the potential to produce high-quality, scientifically sound research. The foundation is interested in proposals including, but not limited to, demonstration projects, retrospective studies, case studies, and secondary data analyses. Application deadline is June 12, 2008. For details view the <http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20341>.

### **NIST Construction Funds**

The Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology is seeking grant proposals for the construction of science research buildings from institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations. Information can be found at: [http://www.nist.gov/public\\_affairs/techbeat/tbx2008\\_0520.htm](http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/techbeat/tbx2008_0520.htm).

### **NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings Available**

The National Institutes of Health has announced the availability of funding to support conferences and scientific meetings through its Research Conference Grant Program. For details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-149.html>.

### **Renewable Resources Extension Act**

The purpose of the grant program is to provide funds for projects that: (1) develop and implement eXtension Communities of Practice (CoP); (2) have national or regional relevancy; or (3) develop new and innovative projects that can be replicated at other institutions. Application deadline is July 28, 2008. For details visit: [http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/rrea\\_nff.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/rrea_nff.html).

### **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award**

The National Institutes of Health will award Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Short-Term Institutional Research Training Grants to eligible institutions to develop or enhance research training opportunities for individuals interested in careers in biomedical and behavioral research. For details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-05-117.html>.

### **CSREES Rangeland Research Program**

This program will contribute to the improvement of U.S. rangeland resources and the ecosystem services they provide by supporting the development of new and emerging rangeland science methodologies which specifically address the interrelationships between multiple disciplines. Application deadline is July 7, 2008. For more details visit: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/rangelands.html>.

### **Mentored Quantitative Research Development Award**

The goals of NIH-supported research training and career development programs are to help ensure that diverse pools of highly trained scientists are available in adequate numbers and in appropriate research areas to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. NIH mentored career development awards provide mentored research experiences to gain additional expertise in a new research area or in an area that will significantly enhance an investigator's research capabilities. It is expected that the mentored research and career development experience will lead to an independent and productive research career. For more details please visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-087.html>.

### **NSF Community-based Data Interoperability Networks**

Digital data are increasingly both the products of research and the starting point for new research and education activities. Support is provided for Data Interoperability Networks that will be responsible for consensus-building activities and for providing the expertise necessary to turn the consensus into technical standards with associated implementation tools and resources. Examples of the former are community workshops, web resources such as community interaction sites, and task groups. Application deadline is August 23, 2008. For more details view: [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf07565](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07565).

## **Publications and Papers**

### **Public Comments on Scientific Uncertainty In Climate Change Decisionmaking**

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has made available a draft report from the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment program entitled, "Best Practice Approaches for Characterizing, Communicating, and Incorporating, Scientific Uncertainty in Decision Making." Comments deadline is June 8, 2008. For more information visit: <http://climtaescience.gov/Library/sap/sap5-2/default.php>.

### **National Academies Releases Climate Change Primer**

On May 19, 2008 The National Academies released its 2008 edition of "Understanding and Responding to Climate Change," a free booklet designed to provide the public with a broad overview of the science and implications of global climate change. For information visit: <http://dels.nas.edu/basc/climate-change/index.shtml>.

### **Global Agricultural Supply and Demand**

World market prices for major food commodities such as grains and vegetable oils have risen sharply to historic highs of more than 60 percent above levels just 2 years ago. For details view the <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS0801/>.

### **State Fact Sheets**

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

## Workshops and Meetings

### **Transition to a Bioeconomy: Risks, Infrastructure and Industry Evolution**

A unique mix of industry leaders, senior-level government officials and academics doing cutting-edge research on risk and infrastructure issues of the bioeconomy will be featured at the June 24-25 conference, "Transition to a Bioeconomy: Risks, Infrastructure and Industry Evolution." The conference is a collaboration of Farm Foundation, USDA's Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, USDA's Economic Research Service, and the Energy Biosciences Institute. Conference program details are available at [www.farmfoundation.org](http://www.farmfoundation.org). The registration fee is \$225 if paid by June 9, after which it will be \$250.

### **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 [CFAREinfo@aol.com](mailto:CFAREinfo@aol.com).

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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.