

October 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

Congressional Updates

With the return of Congress from the August recess, the issues related to America's food, fiber, and fuel industry are continuing to increase in importance. The House and Senate have been busy as they prepare for the end of FY 2007 and the beginning of FY 2008. On September 27 the Senate sent to the White House a measure, which was passed by the House on September 26, to generally fund the government at 2007 levels through November 16, and also to temporarily extend programs such as trade adjustment assistance.

The agricultural policy community is waiting for the Senate to mark up their version of the Farm Bill. According to a September 28, 2007 Nation Journal CongressDaily alert, the Senate Agriculture Committee hopes to mark up the farm bill the first week of October.

Meanwhile, according to a September 28, 2007 CQ article, Senator Max Baucus (MT) Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, is working on a bill which would give producers the option for a tax credit instead of a federal payment. According to the article, no final decision has been made on the funding offsets. Baucus says he wants to mark up his bill during the week of Oct. 1 and attach it to the farm bill being written by the Agriculture Committee.

On September 26, 2007 the US House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review reauthorization of the Commodity Exchange Act. For information please visit: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/agriculture_dem/pr_092607_CEAreauth.html.

On September 27 the House Full Committee on Agriculture held a hearing to review HR 1011, the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2007. For information please visit: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/agriculture_dem/pr_092707_fc_hr1011.html.

Looking ahead to October, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture is planning a hearing to examine the joint performance of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security in protecting U.S. agriculture from foreign pests and diseases on October 3, 2007.

On October 4, the House Full Committee on Agriculture will hold a hearing to review the labor needs of American agriculture.

In other US House Committees activity, the House Science and Technology Committee, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing on September 25 regarding the contributions of the social sciences to the energy challenge. For details visit:

<http://science.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1965>.

Research and Grant Information

International Dissertation Research Fellowships

The Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship program supports distinguished graduate students in the humanities and social sciences conducting dissertation research outside the United States.

Application deadline is November 6, 2007. For more details please visit:

<http://programs.ssrc.org/idrf/>.

CSREES NRI Program

The NRI Request for Applications for FY 2008 was recently published. CSREES responded to requests from C-FARE and the social science community to make the opportunities for social scientists more visible in the RFA, and added a new paragraph on page 5. For more details please visit:

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/nationalresearchinitiative.cfm>.

Decision, Risk and Management Sciences

The Decision, Risk and Management Sciences program supports scientific research directed at increasing the understanding and effectiveness of decision making by individuals, groups, organizations, and society. Disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, doctoral dissertation research, and workshops are funded in the areas of judgment and decision making; decision analysis and decision aids; risk analysis, perception, and communication; societal and public policy decision making; management science and organizational design. The program also supports small grants for exploratory research of a time-critical or high-risk, potentially transformative nature. Application deadline is January 18, 2008. For more details please visit:

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5423.

National Science Foundation - Economics

The Economics program supports research designed to improve the understanding of the processes and institutions of the U.S. economy and of the world system of which it is a part. This program also strengthens both empirical and theoretical economic analysis as well as the methods for rigorous research on economic behavior. The Economics program welcomes proposals for individual or multi-investigator research projects, doctoral dissertation improvement awards, conferences, workshops, symposia, experimental research, data collection and dissemination, computer equipment and other instrumentation, and research experience for undergraduates. The program places a high priority on interdisciplinary research. Application deadline is January 18, 2007. For more details please visit: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5437.

NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowships in Marine Resource Economics

Graduate Fellows will work on thesis problems of public interest and relevance to NMFS under the guidance of NMFS mentors at participating NMFS Science Centers or Laboratories. Application deadline is February 22, 2007. For more details please visit: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=15345>.

EPA Fellowships For Undergraduate Environmental Study

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of its Greater Research Opportunities program is offering Greater Research Opportunities undergraduate fellowships for bachelor level students in environmental fields of study. The deadline for receipt of pre-applications is December 19, 2007. For more details please visit: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_gro_undergrad.html.

NSF Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Undergraduate Program

This program provides awards to enhance the quality of undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities as a means to broaden participation in the Nation's STEM workforce. Application deadline is December 12, 2007. For details visit: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07585.

Long Term Research in Environmental Biology

Through the LTREB program, the Division of Environmental Biology encourages the submission of proposals aimed at generating extended time series of biological and environmental data that address ecological and evolutionary processes aimed at resolving issues in environmental biology. Application deadline is January 9, 2008. Visit: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07588 for details.

NIH Research on the Economics of Diet, Activity, and Energy Balance

This FOA solicits projects that enhance the state-of-the-science on the causes of obesity and to inform Federal decision making on effective public health interventions for reducing the rate of obesity in the United States. For details visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-292.html>.

EPA Strategic Agricultural Initiative: FY08 Request for Proposals

EPA Region 2 is soliciting proposals to help implement the Food Quality Protection Act and to support efforts by the agricultural community to “transition” away from high risk pesticides to the use of less and reduced risk pesticides, alternative methods of agricultural pest control, and sustainable practices in food production. The program supports grants for education, extension, demonstration, and studies for FQPA transition and reduced risk practices for pest management in agriculture. Deadline is November 9, 2007. For details visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region02/grants/2008rfp.pdf>.

Strategic Agricultural Initiative: FY07 Request for Proposals

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits application packages to help support efforts by the agricultural community to transition to lower risk pesticides and pest management practices in agricultural production, resulting in a sustainable food system. The emphasis is on food crops, however other agricultural commodities (including ornamentals) will be considered, especially where there are significant demonstrable environmental concerns. Application deadline is October 31, 2007. For details please visit: http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/local/region4/ag/2007_rfp.pdf.

Center for Research at the Interface of the Math and Biological Sciences

This solicitation requests proposals to establish a Center to stimulate research and education at the interface of the mathematical and biological sciences. Preliminary Proposal Due Date is December 24, 2007. For more details please visit: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07597.

NSF Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems

The Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems competition promotes quantitative, interdisciplinary analyses of relevant human and natural system processes and complex interactions among human and natural systems at diverse scales. Application deadline is January 08, 2008. For more details please visit: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07598.

Publications and Papers

Amber Waves, September 2007

Amber Waves is issued five times a year and 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. For details please visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September07/>.

State Fact Sheets

The ERS State Fact Sheets contain data for each state and for the total United States on population, per-capita income, earnings per job, poverty rates, employment, unemployment, farm and farm-related jobs, farm characteristics, farm financial characteristics, top agricultural commodities, top export commodities, and the top counties in agricultural sales. For details visit: <http://www.ers.usdagov/StateFacts/>.

CGIAR Virtual Library

The Virtual Library of the World Bank-based Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is a website from which a user can search the online libraries of agricultural research centers sponsored by CGIAR. This website, which was funded primarily by the Bank, also offers access to other leading databases used by development professionals. These include those of the Bank and IMF, the London School of Economics, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Library of Congress, as well as 4,000 online journals. For more details please visit: <http://vlibrary.cgiar.org/V?RN=352541418>.

Rural Definitions

The ERS Rural Definition data product allows users to make comparisons among nine representative rural definitions, for the U.S. as a whole and for individual States. Three display options are available: national and state indicator tables; state-level maps; and an interactive mapping utility. For more details visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/RuralDefinitions/>.

Economic Returns to Public Agricultural Research

Over the last several decades, the U.S. agricultural sector has sustained impressive productivity growth. The Nation's agricultural research system, including Federal-State public research as well as private-sector research, has been a key driver of this growth. Economic analysis finds strong and consistent evidence that investment in agricultural research has yielded high returns per dollar spent. These returns include benefits not only to the farm sector but also to the food industry and consumers in the form of more abundant commodities at lower prices. See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EB10/>.

Workshops and Meetings

CSREES Grantsmanship Workshop

The CSREES Grantsmanship workshops focus on competitive funding opportunities. There are two types of workshops offered every year: one covers all the competitive funding opportunities and the other covers the Integrated Research, Education and Extension funding opportunities. The upcoming workshops will be held on October 2, 2007 in Denver, CO and October 9, 2007 in Washington, DC. For details please visit: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/training/cpworkshops.html>.

2007 PREISM Workshop

ERS's Program of Research on the Economics of Invasive Species Management (PREISM), an annual competitive grant and cooperative agreement program that focuses on national decisionmaking concerning agricultural invasive species, will hold its 2007 workshop on October 18-19 (Thursday and Friday), at ERS. The workshop is free and open to all, but please register to attend. For more details please visit: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/InvasiveSpecies/>.

FY 2008 Food Assistance Research Conference

The annual Food Assistance Research Conference identifies emerging research issues related to domestic food assistance and nutrition programs administered by USDA. Recently completed research will also be discussed. This year's conference—Recent Findings and Emerging Issues—will be held on December 6, 2007, in the Frederick Waugh Auditorium at the Economic Research Service, 1800 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Attendance is free but registration is required due to limited space. Save the date. For details visit:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/ConferenceMaterials/>.

Domestic and Trade Impacts Of U.S. Farm Policy

On November 15-16, 2007 the conference “Domestic and Trade Impacts of U.S. Farm Policy: Future Directions and Challenges” will be held in Washington, DC. The conference will examine the impacts of domestic agricultural policy on producers, suppliers and retailers, and international trade. The conference is targeted to policy makers, industry and government leaders, and academics. Registration is \$300 if paid by October 31. For more details please visit:

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/projects/0823TradeandFarmPolicy.htm>.

Other News

Job Opening - Junior Professional Officers Program

The Junior Professional Officers Program is a donor funded program that provides professionals from World Bank donor countries an opportunity to gain experience in an international organization. The age eligibility is 32 years old or younger, with Masters Degree and two years' experience in related field. For details visit:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTHRJOBS/0,,contentMDK:20518967~menuPK:64262360~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.