



The Council on  
**Food, Agricultural and Resource  
Economics**

## ***2007 Annual Report***

### **WHAT IS C-FARE?**

The Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (**C-FARE**) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the application of economics to food, agricultural and resource issues at the national level. Incorporated in 1993, C-FARE's governing board includes prominent applied economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests.

The four primary goals C-FARE outlined to complement the agricultural, natural resource and applied economics profession include:

1. To identify key economic issues, establish priorities, and seek support for applied economics research, extension, and academic instruction;
2. To help applied economists contribute more effectively to public and private sector decisions;
3. To work with other professional organizations to foster support for food, agricultural, and resource research;
4. To publicize applied economics contributions to solving important societal issues.

**The Annual Report summarizes how C-FARE worked to accomplish these goals through events, associations, and actions during the past year.**

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#### ***In 2007 C-FARE:***

- ◆ ***Provided 33 Newsletters for the profession which were posted on the C-FARE website.***
- ◆ ***Conducted 34 Congressional visits to report on research results and thank members for their past support.***
- ◆ ***Assisted with over 20 educational seminars and forums for the profession.***
- ◆ ***Is a Member of Five Coalitions.***
- ◆ ***Reached over 190 agricultural and applied economics students with information on opportunities in our Nation's Capitol.***

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## IDENTIFYING KEY ECONOMIC ISSUES

### **A. Meetings with National Science Foundation (NSF)**

On September 17, 2007 Dr. Steven Kraft (Southern Illinois University), Dr. Alan Randall (The Ohio State University) and Tamara Wagester (C-FARE) met with Dr. Tom Baerwald (NSF) to provide input on the NSF request for proposals. The information developed for the Baerwald meeting was provided from input by Kraft, Randall, and Dr. Scott Swinton (Michigan State University) and Dr. Stephen Swallow (University of Rhode Island). We appreciate their contributions and time.

In addition, Tamara Wagester met with Nadine Lymn (Ecological Society of America) and Dr. Robert O'Connor (NSF) on October 22. They discussed the opportunities for collaboration with the economists and ecologists for NSF grants.

### **B. C-FARE Liaisons to the Profession**

Beginning in 2007 C-FARE Board Members volunteered to identify areas of necessary economic input within Federal Register notices, Congressional Hearings, Advisory Boards, and other opportunities for economists to contribute.

## CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR DECISIONS

### **A. Census of Agriculture Review**

In 2006 C-FARE responded to a request from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to assemble a panel of experts to conduct an "independent, comprehensive and objective review of the Census of Agriculture." With Dr. John E. Lee, Jr. (Mississippi State University) serving as review director, Dr. A. Gene Nelson (Texas A&M University) as the Review Chair, and Dr. Jerry Fletcher (West Virginia University) as the Vice-Chair, an expert panel of agricultural economists, statisticians, and sociologists developed a comprehensive report. To view the final report, which was published in 2007, please visit the C-FARE website at:

[http://www.cfare.org/publications/20070307cfare\\_census\\_review\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](http://www.cfare.org/publications/20070307cfare_census_review_Full_Report.pdf).

### **B. Agriculture, Biology, Conservation: The ABC's of How Agriculture Services the Nation**

On March 20, 2007 C-FARE participated in a multi-disciplinary briefing focusing on ecosystem services. Three scientists participated in the event and Dr. Steven Kraft (Southern Illinois University) spoke on behalf of C-FARE. Dr. John Havlin, (North Carolina State University) participated on behalf of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, the Soil Science Society of America (ASA/CSSA/SSSA), and Dr. Katherine Gross (Michigan State University) participated on behalf of the Ecological Society of America (ESA). Following the educational briefing, the scientists met with the staff in the offices of Congressman Fred Upton (MI-6), Congressman David Price's (NC-4), Senator Barack Obama's (IL), Senator Carl Levin (MI), and Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI). To view the multi-disciplinary informational summary please visit:

<http://www.cfare.org/publications/2007ABCNature.pdf>.



### **C. Congressional Testimony**

C-FARE and COSSA prepared written testimony for both the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. Providing testimony allows the professions' priorities in federal funding to be heard by all members of the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee.

### **D. 2007 C-FARE Friend of Agricultural Economics Reception**



On September 18, 2007, C-FARE sponsored the second "Friend of Agricultural Economics" reception. The event was held in the House Committee on Administration hearing room on Capitol Hill. Those in attendance included four members of Congress, approximately 30 department heads from across the country who were in town as part of the NAAEA bi-annual meeting, more than a dozen Congressional staff, and 15 individuals from across the Washington, DC policy community who are members or supporters of the agricultural economics profession.

C-FARE recognized Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3), who serves as Chairwoman of the Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Subcommittee and as a member of the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education and Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Subcommittees, and Congressman Adam Putnam (FL-12) who serves on the Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee of the House Financial Services Committee. C-FARE was pleased to recognize both members for their outstanding leadership and efforts to apply economics to the policy-making process. The awards were presented to the Members of Congress by Dr. Tom Spreen (University of Florida) and Dr. Rigoberto Lopez (University of Connecticut). C-FARE also thanked the economists who help provide information and guidance to the policy process.

The other two Congressional Members in attendance were Congressman Scott Garrett (NJ-5, Committee Assignments are Budget and Financial Services), and Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23, Committee Assignments are Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs).

AAEA sent invitations for the reception to all AAEA members from the states that surround the Capitol Beltway area as well as those that work within the Beltway (DC, MD, VA, DE). We plan to have another "Friends of Agricultural Economics" reception in 2009.



### **E. Carbon Sequestration in Agricultural and Forest Soils**

C-FARE sponsored Dr. Brent Sohngen (The Ohio State University) for the Soil Science Society of America and Congressional Soils Caucus event held May 30, 2007. The briefing and Congressional visits highlighted opportunities for farmers in climate change mitigation. Dr. Sohngen also met with Congressional staff of Congresswoman Deborah Pryce (OH-15), Senator Sherrod Brown (OH), and Senator George Voinovich (OH) to provide background on his federally funded research projects. To view the summary visit: <https://www.soils.org/sciencepolicy/caucus/files/CarbonSeqinAgForSoils.pdf>.

## ***F. Nutrient Management: A Best Management Practice for Clean Water***

C-FARE participated in a multi-disciplinary briefing on nutrient management on September 26. Dr. Ray Massey (Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri-Columbia) represented C-FARE. The event was sponsored by the House Soils Caucus and approximately 25 Congressional staff and stakeholders attended the briefing held in the Cannon House Office Building. After the briefing, the team of scientists which included Massey, as well as Dr. Frank Coale (Department of Environmental Science and Technology, University of Maryland), Mr. Steve Cromley (MFA Incorporated), and Mr. Steven Oetting (Oetting Hog Farms, Inc.) met with the staff of Congressman Kenny Hulshof (MO-9), Congressman Ike Skelton (MO-4), Senator Kit Bond (MO), and Senator Claire McCaskill (MO). The team also met with Congressman Skelton. To view the one-page summary please visit: <https://www.soils.org/sciencepolicy/caucus/files/nutrient-management.pdf>.

## **COMMUNICATING WITHIN OUR PROFESSION**

### ***A. C-FARE Board Meetings and Visits***

The C-FARE Board of Directors meets twice a year to discuss business matters for the organization. The meetings last two to three days which include guest speakers and meetings with agency and Congressional officials to discuss opportunities for applied economists.

- *Spring Meeting*

Prior to the board meeting which was held May 17-18, 2007, C-FARE Board members met with staff from the offices of Senator Richard Durbin (IL) and Congressman Jerry Costello (IL-12). As part of the meetings with Congressional staff, C-FARE expressed their appreciation for past support of the research portfolio. The board members also met with individuals from the Administration, including Anna Palmisano (Deputy Administrator for Competitive Programs – USDA CSREES), Dr. Kitty Smith (USDA ERS Administrator), Paul Gibson (USDA ERS Associate Director, Information Services Division), and Research, Education and Economics (USDA REE) Undersecretary Gale Buchanan to discuss the positive impacts economics research can have across many multi-disciplinary competitive grant programs.

- *Fall Meeting*

C-FARE held its Fall board meeting on November 5-6, 2007. Members of the C-FARE Executive Committee met with Dr. Doug Lawrence (Director Resource Economics & Social Sciences Division, USDA NRCS), Dr. Kitty Smith and Dr. Paul Gibson from USDA's ERS. We also met with Dr. Henry "JH" Bahn (USDA CSREES National Program Leader, Economic and Community Systems) and Dr. Siva Sureshwaran (USDA CSREES National Program Leader, Competitive Programs) to discuss ways to increase synergy and cooperation between C-FARE and CSREES. C-FARE Board members also met with Congressional staff including those from the offices of Senator Richard Durbin (IL), Congressman Ray LaHood (IL-18), Congressman Tim Johnson (IL-15), Congressman Jerry Costello (IL-12), and Congressman Mark Kirk (IL-10).

### ***B. Intern Briefings***

During Summer 2007, C-FARE held two intern briefings for students interning in Washington, DC with an interest in agricultural and applied economics. The briefings reached about 40 students from across the country. The first briefing was held on June 14 at Bullfeathers and focused on Capitol Hill careers. Craig Jagger (US House Ag Committee), Stephanie Mercier (US Senate Ag Committee), Joe Schultz (Office of Senator Brown – OH), and Jasper Womach (Congressional Research Service) provided information. The second briefing was held on June 27 in the USDA Whitten Building Secretary's Dining Room and focused on Federal Agency Careers. Joy Harwood (USDA FSA), Carol House (USDA NASS), Antonio McLaren (USDA CSREES), Cindy Nickerson (USDA ERS), Warren Preston (USDA AMS), and Farah Hodan Wells (USDA ERS) spoke to the students.

### **C. 2007 C-FARE Interns**

C-FARE hired two interns who began in June 2007. Andrew Armstrong (Masters Student from



University of Arkansas) was with C-FARE from June-September and he worked on the grants database, the CNSF Hill Visits Day and Nutrient Management Briefing. Alison Rozema (Senior at the University of Illinois) was with C-FARE from June-August and worked on activities for interns and the Legislative Caller newsletter.



This year, the interns attended more briefings and educational seminars than the previous year. These included the USDA Economist Group briefings and the CNSF receptions. They also shadowed at ITC, Farm Bureau, and GIPSA.

### **D. Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) and Northeastern Agriculture and Resource Economics Association Meetings (NAREA)**

Dr. Steve Turner (Mississippi State University and C-FARE Chair) met with the Board of Directors of the SAEA on February 2, 2007 and provided an update on C-FARE activities. Tamara Wagester attended the Northeastern Agriculture and Resource Economics Association meeting held on June 10-12, 2007. She provided a report and update to their board of directors.

### **E. American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) Meeting**

C-FARE participated in several activities at the 2007 AAEA Meetings included:

- Report to AAEA Executive Board
- Report to Graduate Section
- Report to Undergraduate Section
- Report to NAAEA
- Meeting with NIH and NSF
- C-FARE Booth
- C-FARE participation in organized symposiums

### **F. Lunch with Founding C-FARE Board Members**

On October 19, C-FARE met with three founding members of the C-FARE Board of Directors, Dr. Walt Armbruster (Farm Foundation), Dr. J.B. Penn (Deere and Company), and Dr. Kitty Smith (USDA ERS). The original board members provided feedback regarding C-FARE activities over the past 12 years and insight on possible projects as we look ahead to 2008. Examples of projects included:

- C-FARE organizing or assisting in organizing educational seminars for Congressional staff every other year to provide background and insight on agricultural policy.
- Looking ahead to the next Farm Bill and developing a summary of the Farm Bill information which has been developed by agricultural economists.
- Hold a briefing on forestry and agriculture focusing on how it relates to climate change issues.

### **G. Council Caller Newsletters**

C-FARE continues to produce the three Council Caller newsletters a month and the recipient list continues to grow. We also began a new monthly newsletter highlighting legislative activities. C-FARE recently began a new weblog ([cfare.typepad.com](http://cfare.typepad.com)) for easier posting and distribution of important items.

### **H. Assistance with FAMPS Event**

C-FARE assisted with the March 22-23, 2007 Marketing Policy Conference entitled, "Bio-terrorism and Natural Disasters: Market and Policy Responses." The event was sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Marketing Policy Section of the AAEA (FAMPS), NC-1016, and The Farm Foundation. C-FARE assisted in arranging meeting space and distribution of information.

## **WORKING WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **A. Washington Ag Roundtable**

C-FARE is again active in attending the lunches for the Washington Ag Roundtable. Each month the group invites key decision makers, such as USDA Acting Secretary Chuck Conner, to discuss timely issues.

### **B. National Rural Network (NRN)**

In 2007 C-FARE attended several NRN events. The coalition membership is mostly from organizations with an interest in rural development topics and their meetings and activities increase with the Farm Bill cycle.

### **C. Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)**

September 18-19, 2007 marked the annual CNSF Congressional Visits Day (CVD) to call for increased federal investment for the National Science Foundation (NSF). More than 50 scientists, engineers, and business leaders from a variety of organizations representing multi-disciplinary backgrounds attended the event. They met in Washington, DC for briefings with Administration officials and Congressional leaders and staff. Dr. Stephen Swallow (University of Rhode Island) participated on behalf of C-FARE. He was part of a team of scientists from a variety of disciplines and universities who met with the Rhode Island delegation. Member offices visited included: Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Congressman Patrick Kennedy (RI-1), and Congressman James Langevin (RI-2). Dr. Swallow also participated in a reception held on September 18 by CNSF which included remarks by Congressman Vernon Ehlers (MI-3) and Congressman Patrick Kennedy (RI-1).

### **D. Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM)**

C-FARE remains active in CoFARM. The coalition continues to work across disciplines and with other Science and Technology groups.

- *Meeting with CSREES Competitive Grants Area* - C-FARE participated in the CoFARM meeting with individuals from the CSREES Competitive Grants Area on February 26, 2007. Participants discussed research issues in the upcoming Farm Bill.
- *Congressional Visits Day* - C-FARE took part in the successful Spring 2007 Congressional Visits Day (CVD) held April 18-19, 2007. We appreciate the participation of Dr. Steve Buccola (Oregon State University) and Dr. Mike Monson (University of Missouri – Columbia). The event consisted of informational briefings for the participants by AAAS, NSF, CSREES and the House Science Committee. Following the first day of events, the



participants attended a reception held in the US Capitol, honoring Senator Kit Bond (MO) and Senator Tom Harkin (IA) for their continued leadership to the agricultural and biology community. The second day of events began with a breakfast in the USDA Secretary's dining room. Participants heard budget updates from leadership at CSREES, ARS, ERS, and REE Deputy Under Secretary Merle Pierson. Following the breakfast participants broke into multi-disciplinary groups to meet with their congressional delegations. Overall, C-FARE participants visited sixteen Congressional offices. CVD emphasized the importance of science through meetings with congressional decision makers.

- CoFARM Correspondence With Congress - CoFARM sent letters on behalf of the coalition regarding the Research Title of the Farm Bill and the Appropriations process. C-FARE continues to monitor these correspondences.



### **E. The National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research (National C-FAR)**



National C-FAR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research community, serving as a forum in support of sustaining and increasing public investment in food and agricultural research, extension and education.

On March 13, 2007 they hosted a briefing focusing on "Cultivating Our Competitive Edge: Funding Trends for Research and Extension & the Future of U.S. Agriculture." Dr. Julian Alston (University of California, Davis), and Dr. Phil Pardey (University of Minnesota) discussed the issues with Congressional staff. Farm Foundation and C-FARE sponsored the speakers.

## **SUMMARY OF NEW IMPACTS**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Group or Outcome</b>	<b>Location &amp; Dates</b>	<b>Timing &amp; Significance</b>
Ecosystem Services Briefing	Key policy makers and stakeholders	March 20, 2007	The briefing was a truly multi-disciplinary event and the timing was extremely significant to help set research and policy priorities within federal agencies and Congress.
Carbon Sequestration Briefing	Key policy makers and stakeholders	May 30, 2007 in Washington, DC	This event was sponsored by the US House Soils Caucus and our participation was important for the profession to show how multi-disciplinary research can provide necessary outcomes.
2007 Friend of Agricultural Economics Reception	Congress and agricultural economics administrators	September 18, 2007	The event was held in conjunction with the NAAEA department heads meeting. We invited other agricultural economists from the area and Congressional staff.
Nutrient Management Briefing	Key policy makers and stakeholders	September 26, 2007 in Washington, DC	This event was sponsored by the US House Soils Caucus and our participation was important for the profession to show how multi-disciplinary research can provide necessary outcomes.
Meetings with NSF and NIH	Decision makers within NSF, NIH and other disciplines.	Various times throughout the year	New approaches were taken in 2007 to work across disciplines and with a wider variety of funding agencies.

## LEGEND FOR PICTURES

**Page 3** – (Pictured) Dr. Steven Kraft (Southern Illinois University), speaking in the US House Science Committee Hearing room.

**Page 4** – (Pictured left-to-right) Dr. Jon Brandt (NC State University), Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3) and Dr. Rigoberto Lopez (University of Connecticut).

**Page 4** - (Pictured left-to-right) Dr. Jon Brandt (NC State University), Congressman Adam Putnam (FL-12) and Dr. Tom Spreen (University of Florida).

**Page 6** – (Pictured left-to-right) C-FARE Intern Andrew Armstrong (MS student at University of Arkansas) and Dr. Bruce Ahrendsen (University of Arkansas) at a Congressional reception.

**Page 6** – C-FARE Intern Alison Rozema (Senior at the University of Illinois) in front of the US Capitol after meetings.

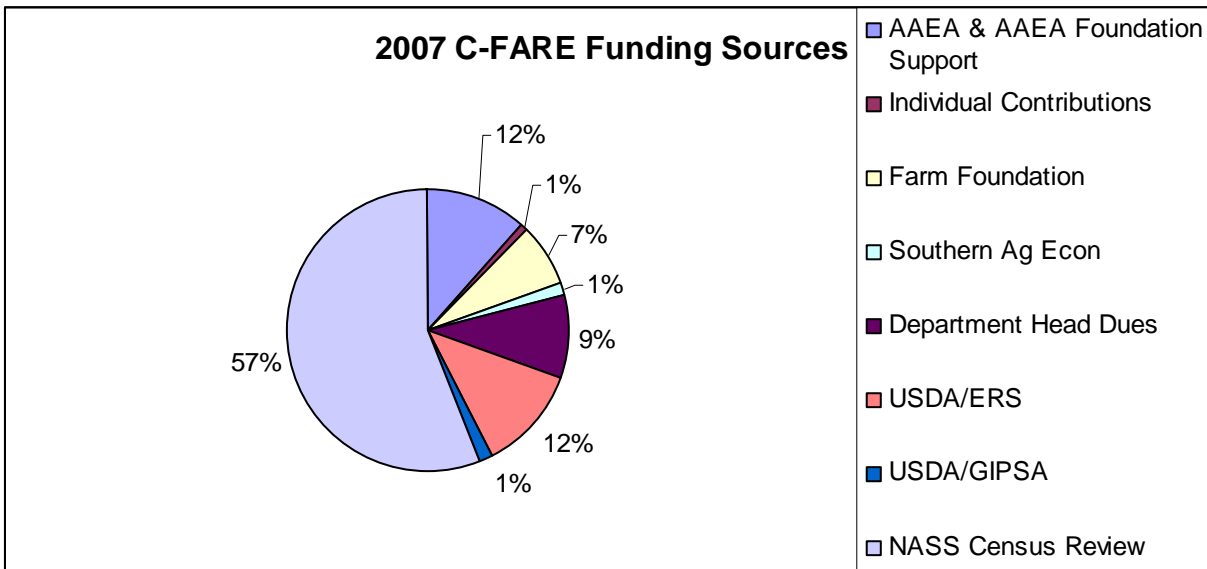
**Page 7** – (Pictured left-to-right) Dr. Steve Buccola (Oregon State University), Congressman Greg Walden (OR-2), Steven Petrie, Oregon State University, and Ed Boyer, Prescott College.

**Page 8** – (Pictured left-to-right) Senator Kit Bond (MO) receiving the CoFARM/BESC recognition for research from Dr. Mike Monson (University of Missouri – Columbia).

**Page 8** – (Pictured left-to-right) Dr. Phil Pardey (University of Minnesota), Tom Van Arsdall (National C-FAR), Dr. Kitty Smith (USDA ERS), Dr. Julian Alston (University of California, Davis), and Dr. Walt Armbruster (Farm Foundation).

## 2007 C-FARE FUNDING SOURCES

**C-FARE appreciates the support in 2007 of many individuals and organizations to help us succeed at our mission.**



### Agency Donors

- USDA Economic Research Service (ERS)
- USDA Grain Inspectors, Packers and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA)
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

### Corporate Donors

- American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA)
- American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) Foundation
- Farm Foundation
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA)
- Departments of Agricultural Economics Across the Country

