



2009 Annual Report

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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 applied economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests.

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

Summary of Goals for C-FARE

GOAL 1: Nexus of New Ideas and Opportunities

C-FARE will be recognized as the nexus of new ideas and opportunities in the field of food, agricultural and resource economics.

GOAL 2: Resources and Capacity for Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Sufficient resources and capacity will be available to address meaningful economic analysis to societal issues

GOAL 3: Source of Economic Information and Interpretation

C-FARE will be the go-to organization that connects stakeholders (policy makers, federal agencies and industry organizations) with objective, timely, reliable and relevant economic information.

C-FARE Successes in 2009

- **Provided 12 newsletters on items of interest at the federal level.**
- **Reduced travel expenses and time for event participants by offering three webinars on various topics.**
- **We had a 20% increase in the number of total students attending one or more of the briefings.**
- **Completed successful strategic planning effort to guide our organization.**

This report summarizes the value and impact to the profession of selected projects for 2009, including contributing to public and private sector decisions, communicating within our profession, and working with other professional organizations.

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Contributing to Public and Private Sector Decisions

“Friend of C-FARE and Ag Econ Profession Reception”

On September 23, C-FARE sponsored The Friends of C-FARE and Agricultural Economics Reception. The reception is held every other year in conjunction with the bi-annual meeting of the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators (NAAEA). During the event, C-FARE shows appreciation to the economists who provide information and guidance to the policy process.



C-FARE recognized two Members of Congress for their appreciation of the application of economics to policy issues involving agriculture, natural resources, food and nutrition topics. This year, C-FARE opened nominations to departments of agricultural and applied economics, and the C-FARE Board voted on the nominations. Our “2009 Friends of C-FARE and Agricultural Economics” recipients were Congressman Chet Edwards (TX-17) nominated by Texas A&M, and Congressman Frank Lucas (OK-3) nominated by Oklahoma State University.

Left-to-right: Congressman Chet Edwards (TX-17) and Dr. John Nichols (Texas A&M University)

Left-to-right: Congressman Frank Lucas (OK-3) and Dr. Mike Woods (Oklahoma State University)

Present at the reception was an audience of 75, including academic administrators, agency economists, Capitol Hill staff, and other colleagues from our profession. We appreciate the hospitality of the US House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture for allowing us to hold the event in their hearing room.

NRCS Web Conference Invitation Entitled, “Environmental Markets – New Approaches for Natural Resources Management”

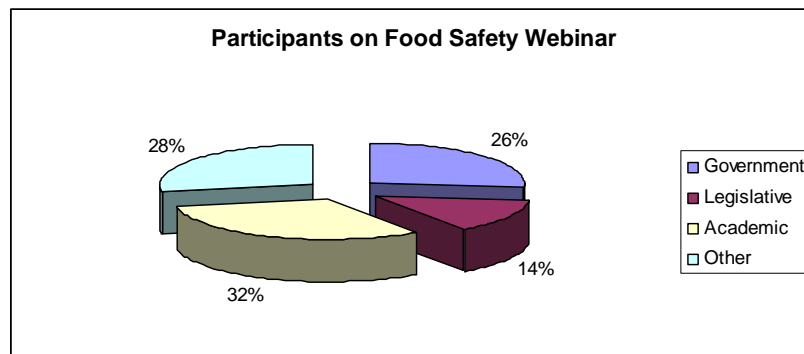
On February 23, NRCS Personnel participated in a web based seminar focusing on environmental service markets. This educational opportunity was provided to all NRCS personnel to develop a better understanding of environmental service markets and the potential role in their operation. The 2008 Farm Bill contained several issues related to environmental service markets specifically identifying the need for the Secretary to set guidelines pertaining to three key issues. These issues are: the need to measure environmental services benefits; a protocol to report environmental services benefits; and a registry to collect, record and maintain the benefits measured. Event speakers included: Dr. Steven Kraft (Southern Illinois University), Dr. Silvia Secchi (Southern Illinois University), Dr. Bruce McCarl (Texas A&M University), Dr. Brent Sohngen (The Ohio State University), Dr. Stephen Swallow (University of Rhode Island), Carl Lucero (NRCS and USDA Office of Ecosystem Services).

Webinars for Quarterly Choices

C-FARE worked with the AAEA Outreach Committee to sponsor webinars for the Quarterly Choices issues, with two webinars in 2009. The webinars targeted students, policy makers, other scientific organizations and members of the professional society.

The webinar for the first event provided on April 21, 2009 was entitled, “Agriculture in a Turbulent Economy.” The web seminar highlighted articles from the AAEA peer-reviewed policy journal *Choices* and addressed the complexity of understanding future economic conditions in the agricultural sector, and addresses alternative policy institutions. Speakers for this event included: Dr. David Schweikhardt (Michigan State University), Dr. Darrel Good (University of Illinois), Dr. Mitch Morehart (USDA-ERS), Dr. Barry Barnett (Mississippi State University).

The second webinar, “Food Safety Risk Ranking and Cost Analysis Along the Domestic and International Supply Chains” was held on July 28, 2009. Speakers for this event included: Julie Caswell (University of Massachusetts), Sandra Hoffman (Resources for the Future), Neal Hooker (The Ohio State University), Mary Muth (Food & Ag Policy Research Program – RTI), William Nganje (Arizona State University). The event was held live and in conjunction with the AAEA Meetings. Excluding the live audience, we had 65 registrants. The chart below demonstrates that the event was very effective at hitting the intended broad audience, with 28% of the audience from non-government organizations (think tanks, other societies, policy organizations); 26% from government agencies (primarily within USDA and state level governments), 14% staff from Capitol Hill, and the remaining 32% academics. This diverse audience background shows that we were able to reach audiences outside of our own profession on an important policy topic, some of whom may not have obtained economics information otherwise.



C-FARE’s work with the AAEA Outreach Committee on this project has helped bring increased visibility to *Choices* and served as a reminder of the relevance of *Choices*.

Input to CSREES on NIFA Program

Offered comments on the establishment of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at USDA. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 called for CSREES to become the National Institute of Food and Agriculture by October 1, 2009. All current authorities administered by CSREES will be transferred to the new institute, which will be led by a presidentially-appointed director.

Input to USDA on Roadmap

C-FARE offered comments to USDA for the Roadmap and the establishment of the Research, Extension and Education Office (REEO). The 2008 Farm Bill established the REEO to identify, address, and prioritize the needs within the Research, Education and Economics structure.

NASS Prices Review

C-FARE conducted an independent and comprehensive review the NASS Agricultural Prices publications, including procedures, methods and outputs. The publications contain prices received by farmers for principal crops, livestock and livestock products, indexes of prices received by farmers, feed price ratios, indexes of prices paid by farmers, and parity prices. In July 2009 the review document was finalized and posted for the public in August. The Panel's recommendations will be used in the design of future prices publications. The purpose of the review was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the price statistics and to make recommendations to improve their usefulness, quality and transparency. We are grateful for the panel members and Review Director, John Lee, who committed their time and knowledge to this project.

Meetings with Federal Agencies

On May 20 Steven Kraft and Tamara Wagester met with USDA NRCS, USDA Rural Development and US EPA. They provided an update from the C-FARE Board Meeting and had discussions on possible areas of future collaboration. On September 22 Jon Brandt and Tamara Wagester met with USDA FSA to provide an update on the NASS Review. Steve Turner also presented a summary of the review to the USDA Economists Group.

Communicating Within Our Profession

Student Outreach Activities

C-FARE's focus on informing students through a variety of strategies benefits future generations of agricultural and applied economists. Most programs are attended by agricultural or economics students, but also provide the opportunity to reach out to other audiences. The level of involvement and communications has increased steadily over seven years. Other professional organizations and various universities ask to include their students, and sometimes recent graduates, in these programs because they see the value in the information provided. These stakeholders indicate that we are the only discipline oriented group working closely with students in Washington, DC.

In 2009, student activities included:

- 1. February – USDA Ag Outlook Forum Talk.** The Forum provided scholarships to several individuals to attend the February event. C-FARE met with the scholarship recipients and provided information and materials about future internship and career opportunities in Washington, DC for applied economics students. About 20 students from land grant institutions were encouraged to continue their interests in applied economics through graduate school and/or into the workforce. About 50% were applied economics or agribusiness majors. Applied economics was the only discipline to present them with information on their future careers at this event.
- 2. Partnership with Student Sections.** C-FARE provided information for intern breakfasts and other events to the student sections, reaching about 25 graduate students and 75 undergraduate students. A conference call was held in September for advisors and interested students regarding the 2010 USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Diversity Program. Six universities participated.
- 3. Student Intern.** C-FARE's Summer 2009 Science Policy Intern was Anh Vo. Anh received her undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University and her M.A. from Oklahoma State University. She also served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Graduate Student Section of the AAEA and as Vice President of the Ag Econ Graduate Student Association at Oklahoma State University. She worked on a project with SARE using the NASS Census of Agriculture Data. She is now a full time employee for USDA NASS.

4. Intern Briefings. For the sixth year, C-FARE offered intern briefings for students based in Washington, DC with an interest in Agricultural and Applied economics. The Intern Briefing Series is held during the summer to provide students with an interest in either agriculture or economics information on possible career options in our nation's capitol. We focus on the three main employment sources in Washington, DC: 1) Capitol Hill, 2) Government agencies and 3) non-government organizations, including both industry and non-profits. Economists at different career levels speak to the students and provide information on how they obtained their position and advice for classes. Students report that it can be overwhelming to move to a new state for the summer and these briefings offer a valuable networking opportunity. Some non-agricultural economics students express an interest in changing their major after hearing about the career opportunities in the applied economics profession.

Facts about the 2009 Student Intern Briefing Events:

- We had a total of 65 students attend one or more of the briefings. That is approximately a 20% increase in the number of total students reached.
- Approximately 12 students from 1890's Land Grant Institutions, a 160% increase over previous years.
- The students stayed in touch with each other throughout the summer and arranged their own events outside of our organized briefings, confirming the value of the initial networking opportunity for the students.

Evaluations after each event improve the plans for the next year. Some quotes from the evaluations:

- "It is so nice of you all to head up briefings for interns interested in this career field because it gives us a chance to see what types of careers are available for us and helps us learn from the people already in them."
- "It was a great opportunity to hear hands-on experience of the various speakers."
- "The variety of speakers was good and having three sessions allowed for more people to attend at least once. It also allowed for the discussions to be retained by repeat attendees since the seven talks were not all in one day or even in one week."

We would like to thank the speakers who met with the students:

Capitol Hill Briefing

Craig Jagger - US House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture

Stephanie Mercier - US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

Jim Monke - Congressional Research Service

Joeseph Schultz - Office of Senator Sherrod Brown

Industry Briefing

Roger Cryan - National Milk Producers Federation

Allison Specht - American Farm Bureau Federation

Agency Briefing

Erik O'Donoqhue - USDA Economic Research Service

Joy Harwood - USDA Farm Service Agency, Economic & Policy Analysis Staff

William V. Janis - USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Trade Programs

Antonio McLaren - USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, Economic and Community Systems

Eight years ago, C-FARE developed a monthly on-line newsletter, “The Council Caller” to provide the profession with information on recent legislation, federal regulations, and grant opportunities. Each month the distribution list for the newsletter grows. Recently C-FARE also added a supplementary blog for timely postings between newsletter issues. (<http://cfare.typepad.com/blog/>) Individuals can subscribe to the blog. Both of these resources are primarily for the applied economics profession to help keep them informed of activities in Washington, DC. These sources provide updates on grant opportunities, conferences and other information.

Grant Information Website

The C-FARE Board of Directors developed a comprehensive website that provides tips, links and deadlines of interest to applied economists who are planning to apply for a federal grant. The new website will allow members to search by topic area or by deadline date. The benefit to the profession is that members can increase their productivity with grant applications, do not have to spend as much time searching for grants, and can search for opportunities they were not familiar with prior to utilizing the website. C-FARE participated in the AAEA Grants Center to share the new resource with members of the profession. We will also be sending a targeted list of tips to various departments of agricultural and applied economics.

Strategic Planning

In November 2008 C-FARE initiated the development of a new vision and strategic plan. We hired Tecker Consultants to do a summary of phone interviews with key stakeholders in March 2009. In May a retreat was held with the C-FARE Board and stakeholders. In September the C-FARE Board met for one day in Washington, DC to make the plan “bolder.” The plan was adopted by the C-FARE Board in 2009.

Industry Economists Luncheon

In 2009, C-FARE held a series of lunches for industry economists. Speakers and topics include:

- July 9 C-FARE held a round table discussion on the Climate Change bill at the American Farm Bureau Federation. John Horowitz (USDA ERS) moderated the discussion. 14 individuals attended the meeting.
- December 4, Mark Tobey (US DOJ)discussed the market and credit situation for agriculture. The event was held at the American Farm Bureau Federation. 15 individuals attended.

Working With Other Professional Organizations



Dr. Dawn Thilmany (Colorado State University)

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 and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education.

C-FARE sponsored the “Break-and-a-Briefing” speaker for June 25 in the House of Representatives focusing on local foods. The “Break-and-a-Briefing” speaker for June 25 was Dawn Thilmany

(Colorado State University). The talk reached 35 Congressional staff and stakeholders. C-FARE also arranged a meeting with staff from Senator Michael Bennet's (D-CO) office. The topic is a priority for the USDA Secretary and was held in conjunction with the Farm Foundation/ERS Summer conference on the same topic. C-FARE's partnership with NCFAR on the issue helped bring the topic to Congressional staff and highlighted the research of applied economists.

2009 C-FARE Board of Directors

C-FARE's governing board includes applied economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests. We appreciate their time and expertise. These members also provide their own travel expenses to our board meetings.

Soji Adelaja
Michigan State University

Helen Jensen
Iowa State University

Walter Armbruster
Farm Foundation

Steven Kraft (Secretary/Treasurer)
Southern Illinois University

Jon Brandt (Chair)
North Carolina State University

Gene Nelson
Texas A&M University

Duncan Chembezi
Alabama A&M University

Jim Novak
Auburn University

Gail Cramer
Louisiana State University

J.B. Penn
John Deere Corporation

Damona Doye
Oklahoma State University

Alan Randall
The Ohio State University

Jerry Fletcher
West Virginia University

Steve Turner
Mississippi State University

Arne Hallam
Iowa State University

Bob Yonkers (Vice Chair)
International Dairy Foods Association

Dana Hoag
Colorado State University

Bob Young
American Farm Bureau Federation

2009 C-FARE Volunteers

In addition to our Board of Directors, C-FARE's active year and successes can be attributed to the many volunteers who participated in various projects.

Volunteer Name	Organization	Activity	Date
Dr. Barry Barnett	Mississippi State University	"Agriculture in a Turbulent Economy"	April 21
Dr. Jon Brandt	North Carolina State University	Meeting with Government Agencies	September 22
Dr. Julie Caswell	University of Massachusetts	"Food Safety Risk Ranking and Cost Analysis Along the Domestic and International Supply Chains"	July 28
Mr. Roger Cryan	National Milk Producers Federation	Intern Breakfast for Private Sector	July 10
Dr. Darrel Good	University of Illinois	"Agriculture in a Turbulent Economy"	April 21
Dr. Joy Harwood	USDA Farm Service Agency	Intern Breakfast – Agency	July 16
Dr. Sandra Hoffman	Resources for the Future	"Food Safety Risk Ranking and Cost Analysis Along the Domestic and International Supply Chains"	July 28
Dr. Neal Hooker	The Ohio State University	"Food Safety Risk Ranking and Cost Analysis Along the Domestic and International Supply Chains"	July 28
Dr. John Horowitz	USDA Economic Research Service	Industry Luncheon Moderator - Climate Change	July 9
Dr. Craig Jagger	US House Ag Committee	Intern Breakfast for Hill	June 18
Dr. William V. Janis	USDA Foreign Agricultural Service	Intern Breakfast – Agency	July 16
Dr. Steven Kraft	Southern Illinois University	"Environmental Markets – New Approaches for Natural Resources Management"	February 23
Dr. Steven Kraft	Southern Illinois University	Meeting with Government Agencies	May 20
Dr. John Lee	Mississippi State University (retired)	NASS Prices Review Director	July 2009
Mr. Carl Lucero	NRCS and USDA Office of Ecosystem Services	"Environmental Markets – New Approaches for Natural Resources Management"	February 23
Dr. Bruce McCarl	Texas A&M University	"Environmental Markets – New Approaches for Natural Resources Management"	February 23
Mr. Antonio McLaren	USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension	Intern Breakfast - Agency	July 16
Dr. Stephanie Mercier	US Senate Ag Committee	Intern Breakfast for Hill	June 18
Dr. Jim Monke	Congressional Research Service	Intern Breakfast for Hill	June 18
Dr. Mitch Morehart	USDA-ERS	"Agriculture in a Turbulent Economy"	April 21
Dr. Mary Muth	Food & Ag Policy Research Program – RTI	"Food Safety Risk Ranking and Cost Analysis Along the Domestic and International Supply Chains"	July 28

Dr. William Nganje	Arizona State University	"Food Safety Risk Ranking and Cost Analysis Along the Domestic and International Supply Chains"	July 28
Dr. Erik O'Donoohue	USDA Economic Research Service	Intern Breakfast - Agency	July 16
Mr. Joe Schultz	Office of Senator Brown – OH	Intern Breakfast for Hill	June 18
Dr. David Schweikhardt	Michigan State University	"Agriculture in a Turbulent Economy"	April 21
Dr. Silvia Secchi	Southern Illinois University	"Environmental Markets – New Approaches for Natural Resources Management"	February 23
Dr. Brent Sohngen	The Ohio State University	"Environmental Markets – New Approaches for Natural Resources Management"	February 23
Ms. Allison Specht	American Farm Bureau Federation	Intern Breakfast for Private Sector	July 10
Dr. Stephen Swallow	University of Rhode Island	"Environmental Markets – New Approaches for Natural Resources Management"	February 23
Dr. Dawn Thilmany	Colorado State University	Local Foods "Break-and-a-Briefing" Speaker	June 25
Mr. Mark Tobey	US Department of Justice	Industry Luncheon Speaker- Market and Credit Situation	December 4
Dr. Steven Turner	Mississippi State University	Meeting with Government Agencies	September 22

C-FARE's 2009 Financial Summary

C-FARE appreciates the support in 2009 of many individuals and organizations to help us succeed at our mission.

Government Agency Funding Sources

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

Non-Government Funding Sources

- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Foundation
- CHS Foundation
- Farm Foundation
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA)
- Departments of Agricultural Economics Across the Country
- American Farm Bureau Federation for providing meals for several C-FARE lunches.

2009 Individual Contributions

Name		Affiliation	Contribution Level
Michael	Hudson	Texas Tech University	Bronze
Oral	Capps, Jr.	Texas A&M University	Bronze
Scott	Fausti	South Dakota State University	Bronze
Scott	Templeton	Clemson University	Bronze
Ryan	Sirolli	Cargill	Bronze
Theodore	Feitshans	North Carolina State University	Bronze
Michael	Monson	University of Missouri - Columbia	Bronze
William	Edwards	Iowa State University	Bronze
Peyton	Ferrier	USDA ERS	Bronze
Michael	Monson	University of Missouri - Columbia	Bronze
Phillip	Eberle	Southern Illinois University	Bronze
Chatura	Ariyaratne	Kansas State University	Bronze
Scott	Fausti	South Dakota State University	Bronze
Barry	Krissoff	USDA ERS	Bronze
Keith	Knapp	University of California - Riverside	Silver
Steven	Kraft	Southern Illinois University	Silver
Katherine	Smith	USDA ERS	Silver
Donald	McFeeters		Silver
James	Novak	Auburn University	Silver
Carson K.H.	Wu	Chinese Culture University	Silver
Harry	Kaiser	Cornell University	Gold
Scott	Swinton	Michigan State University	Gold
Otto	Doering, III	Purdue University	Gold
Duncan	Chembezi	Alabama A&M University	Gold
Jon	Brandt	NC State University	Gold
Parke	Wilde	Tufts University	Gold
Gail	Cramer	Louisiana State University	Gold
Otto	Doering, III	Purdue University	Gold
Steven	Turner	Mississippi State University	Gold
Eric	Wailles	University of Arkansas	Gold

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