



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

***2003 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. Formed in 1987, 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 2003 annual report will summarize the activities of the past year, and how we worked to accomplish these goals through events, associations, and actions.

## IDENTIFYING KEY ECONOMIC ISSUES

### A. Grant Writing Preconference

For a second year, C-FARE and the NAAEA will hosted a Pre-Conference on federal grants at the 2003 AAEA Annual Meetings. Highlights of the program included speakers from USDA, NIH, and EPA. There was also be a question and answer session with past panel managers to provide insight and points of view on how to approach preparing a federal grant. The event was attended by about 30 participants. To view the PowerPoint presentations please visit:

<http://www.cfare.org/updates/AEABoard20030509.shtml>.

### B. Priorities

In November, 2003 C-FARE held a Priorities Workshop to position the profession to respond to the needs for economic research and education. During the workshop, five high priority areas were discussed; (1) Responding to Consumer Concerns about Food, Health and Safety, (2) Assessing Future Technologies and Infrastructure Investments (3) Improving Agriculture's Global Competitiveness and Profitability (4) Enhancing Economic Opportunities in Rural Areas and (5) Resolving Environmental and Natural Resource Issues. It is pertinent for professional disciplines to conduct such priority setting activities in order to increase funding opportunities through national grants, communicate to policy makers and stakeholders, and identify opportunities to

collaborate with other disciplines and professional societies. The results of this workshop will be published and distributed in 2004. For more information or to view the agenda and PowerPoint presentations please visit:  
<http://www.cfare.org/updates/20031106agenda.html>.

## CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR DECISIONS

### A. Legislative Input

#### *Testimony Provided to House Agriculture Appropriations Committee Concerning FY 2004 Appropriations Levels for Research.*

C-FARE jointly prepared testimony for the FY 2004 Appropriations Bill with COSSA. Providing testimony allows the professions' priorities in federal funding to be heard by all members of the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee. This year C-FARE and COSSA prioritized our requests for the House.

#### *Letters Sent to Members of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee*

In July 2003 C-FARE emailed a sample letter to department heads who have Senators on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture to request funding support for federal, peer-reviewed research programs. C-FARE continually hears from Congressional offices that grassroots efforts are essential if we are going to increase federally funded research.

#### *Meeting with Congressional Research Service*

Walt Armbruster arranged a meeting for Farm Foundation, C-FARE and CRS to discuss possible joint briefings and workshops during 2003. Workshop ideas and information were exchanged.

#### *Intellectual Property Rights Briefing*

In November C-FARE partnered with the Crop Science Society of America to arrange educational briefings on Intellectual Property Rights in the Plant Seed Industry. The information presented at the briefings were a reflection of the findings from a workshop organized by Bill Lesser (Cornell Department of Applied Economics & Management) and Martha Mutschler (Cornell Department of Plant Breeding) and sponsored by the Farm Foundation. The scientists met with staff from the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and with various USDA employees through a brown-bag luncheon arranged by the USDA Economists Group.



## B. Agency Input

### *Meeting with CSREES Administrator*

In May 2003 members of the C-FARE Board of Directors met with CSREES Administrator, Colien Hefferan to discuss areas of input for economists. C-FARE offered help in areas of staffing, and professional expertise to help with grant reviews.

### *Priorities Review for CSREES*

In July C-FARE's Chair, Dr. Gene Nelson (Texas A&M University) provided USDA's CSREES with an overview on the need for Priorities within the agricultural and applied economics profession. Dr. Nelson briefed a group of 12 from the Economic and Community Systems division of CSREES on how priorities impact all levels of the profession, from the student and faculty of a university setting, to the agencies that enforce rules and regulations, to the consumer.

### *Nomination Letters for Advisory Councils*

In 2003 C-FARE nominated four members of the agricultural economics profession to various agency advisory councils, including EPA's Environmental Economics' Advisory Committee, USDA's National Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Committee, and the Department of Interior's Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

## C. Media Relations

C-FARE will continue to expand our focus on media relations in the upcoming years. In 2003 CoFARM received press on Congressional Visits Day through the April 7, 2003 issue of "Federal Technology Watch." In August C-FARE had information on the visits with the Utah delegation posted in the on-line newspaper, Utah State Today. (Please see the article at: [http://www.ag.usu.edu/news/2003/07/ag\\_in\\_washington/](http://www.ag.usu.edu/news/2003/07/ag_in_washington/)). In addition, Tamara Wagester (C-FARE) and Karl Glasener (Agronomy, Crop, and Soil Science Societies) met with editors of SCIENCE Magazine to discuss funding of USDA's NRI program.

## COMMUNICATING WITHIN OUR PROFESSION

### A. Newsletters

#### *The Council Caller*

*The Council Caller's* circulation continues to grow and we have had extremely positive feedback. In May C-FARE implemented a temporary section focusing on the AAEA Annual Meeting. In December we began a new updated focused on legislative and regulatory matters. If you are not currently receiving *The Council Caller* and you would like to please send us an email to [CFAREinfo@aol.com](mailto:CFAREinfo@aol.com) with the subject "subscribe."

#### *The Exchange*

C-FARE continues to contribute to the AAEA newsletter *The Exchange*. In each addition, we intend to highlight an item of legislative interest and an item to inform the members of AAEA more about C-FARE.

### *C-FARE Web Site*

C-FARE has added two new additions to the web site. The first addition is a photo gallery recognizing individuals for their work with C-FARE. The second addition is under the “Occasional Updates” section where we have added the agendas from our past briefings along with the PowerPoint presentations. Please visit our website at [www.cfare.org](http://www.cfare.org).

## **B. Intern Briefings**

Two years ago C-FARE began hosting briefings for agricultural and applied economics interns. These briefings allow the participants to meet students with similar interests from other universities, while hearing a panel of agricultural economists discuss career options in Washington, DC. The briefings have been well attended with an average of 25 students at each event representing a wide range of universities. Our goal is to have one briefing each semester. If your department has students interning in Washington, DC please contact C-FARE at 202-408-8522 with their names and information so we can invite them to a briefing.



## **C. Organized Symposium on Data**

At the 2003 AAEA Annual Meetings, C-FARE sponsored an organized symposium entitled, “Public Information and the Food and Agriculture System” that focused on data quality and needs. The program featured presentations by Kitty Smith (ERS), Richard Just (University of Maryland) and Ted Schroeder (Kansas State University).

## **WORKING WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **A. CoFARM**

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

#### *Congressional Visits Day (CVD)*



C-FARE’s Executive Director, Tamara Wagester, spear-headed the agricultural disciplines involvement with CVD, and co-organized the multi-disciplinary agro-security briefing. Dr. Bill Herndon (Mississippi State University), Dr. Alan Randall (The Ohio State University) and Dr. David Schweikhardt (Michigan State University) attended on behalf of C-FARE. The goal of this event was to convey to Congress the need for an increased and balanced federal investment in research and development. Member offices

visited included: John Boehner (OH), Thad Cochran (MS) Marcy Kaptur (OH), Chip Pickering (MS), Pat Roberts (KS), Bennie Thompson (MS), Mike DeWine (OH), Roger Wicker (MS).

In addition, CoFARM and the Biological and Ecological Science Coalition (BESC) presented an award honoring Congressman Nick Smith for his efforts to boost federal funding for science. Congressman Smith chairs the Science Subcommittee on Research and is a strong supporter of agriculture. The award received recognition in the April 7, 2003 issue of "Federal Technology Watch." (See page 5 of this report for more information on C-FARE and Media Relations).



### *Briefings on Agro-Security*

Through CoFARM's coalition efforts, David Schweikhardt participated representing C-FARE in meetings on agricultural security that were held with the Office of Homeland Security, Office of Management and Budget, the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, and the US Army at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

### *Meeting with Chairman Bennett and other Members of Utah Delegation*

In July 2003 DeeVon Bailey (Utah State University) represented the agricultural economics profession as C-FARE participated with other agricultural scientific societies to meet with members of the Utah Congressional Delegation to discuss the need for increased funding for agricultural research. The scientists met with staff from the offices of Congressman Bishop (UT-1) and Congressman Matheson (UT-2). In addition they were able to meet with Senator Bennett moments before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture marked up the FY 2004 spending bill. The meetings received attention in the Utah State University press. (See page 5 of this report for more information on C-FARE and Media Relations).



## **B. National C-FAR**

The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR) is a broad-based stakeholder coalition of food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource organizations. The main goal of the coalition is to seek support for public food and agriculture research. C-FARE's Executive Director, Tamara Wagester, currently serves as the new Chairperson for the Research subcommittee of the National C-FAR. The research committee has been compiling one-page success stories to relate the benefits of public ally funded agricultural and food research to key policy makers. To learn more about National C-FAR please visit their website at [www.ncfar.org](http://www.ncfar.org).

## C. Multi-Disciplinary Nutrition Briefing

On April 28, 2003 Helen Jensen (Iowa State University) represented C-FARE at a multi-disciplinary science briefing on the Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Bill held for the House and Senate. Co-sponsors of the briefings were; The American Dietetic Association, The American Society for Clinical Nutrition, The American Society for Nutritional Sciences, C-FARE, and The Institute of Food Technologists. The events were very well attended with approximately 70 staff attended total.



### SUMMARY OF 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Activity	Target Group	Location & Dates	Timing & Significance
1.) CVD	Key Members of the Profession and Key Congressional Staff	April 2-3, 2003  Washington, DC	Timing was perfect to provide input on the Appropriations process and agrosecurity issues.  Significance (as mentioned earlier) is vital to the continuation of funding for our profession.  C-FARE was one of two groups to bring in two scientists
2.) Nutrition Briefing	Invited House Staffers to attend – ended up reaching about 70 staffers	April 28, 2003  Washington, DC	Opportunity to work with other disciplines and puts us on good terms with Rural Members that may not usually focus on such issues.
3.) Meeting with Utah Delegation	Staff and Members of the Agriculture and Appropriations Committees from the Utah Delegation	July 15, 2003  Washington, DC	Timing was excellent – just prior to the mark-up of the FY 2004 spending bill.
4.) Intern Briefings	Graduate and undergraduate economics students	June 9, 2003 June 30, 2003	We tried to organize events in the middle of the summer semester to fit the schedules of as many students as possible.
5.) Priorities Workshop	Stakeholders and members of the agricultural economics profession	November 6, 2003  San Antonio, Texas	It is pertinent for professional disciplines to conduct such priority setting activities in order to increase funding opportunities through national grants, communicate to policy makers and stakeholders, and identify opportunities to collaborate with other disciplines and professional societies.

## LEGEND FOR PICTURES

**Page 3** – “Intellectual Property Rights Briefing” – (*Left to Right*) Martha Mutschler (Cornell Department of Plant Breeding) and Bill Lesser (Cornell Department of Applied Economics & Management).

**Page 5** – “Intern Briefings” – (*standing*) – Jim Jacobs (USDA Rural Business Services) presenting to a group of interns on the activities of the USDA Economist Group.

**Page 5** – “CVD” (*Left to Right*) Bill Herndon (Mississippi State University) and Alan Randall (The Ohio State University) standing in front of the Capitol Building.

**Page 6** - “CVD” (*Left to Right*) Dave Lineback (University of Maryland representing Institute of Food Technologist), **Bill Herndon** (Mississippi State University representing C-FARE), **Alan Randall** (The Ohio State University representing C-FARE), John Shroyer (Kansas State University representing Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Societies), Congressman Nick Smith (R-MI), John Sherwood (University of Georgia representing American Phytopathological Society), Anne Vidaver (University of Nebraska representing American Society of Microbiology), Dale Bauman (Cornell University representing American Society for Nutritional Sciences). Not pictured are Bob Norton (Auburn University), Lou Armentano (University of Wisconsin), and Joan Eisemann (North Carolina State University) representing Federation of Animal Science Societies

**Page 6** – “Meeting with Chairman Bennett and other Members of Utah Delegation” (third picture) – (*Left to Right*) Steve Dewey (Department of Plants, Soils and Biometeorology at Utah State University representing the Weed Science Society of America), Ken Olson (Department of Animal Science at Utah State University representing the Federation of Animal Science Societies), Senator Bennett (R-UT), and **DeeVon Bailey** (Department of Economics at Utah State University representing C-FARE).

**Page 7** – “Multi-Disciplinary Nutrition Briefing” – (*Left to Right*) **Helen Jensen** (Iowa State University Representing C-FARE), Alice J. Lenihan, (Nutrition Services Branch, State of North Carolina representing American Dietetic Association), and Dennis M. Bier (Baylor College of Medicine representing The American Society for Nutritional Sciences, The American Society for Clinical Nutrition, and The Institute of Food Technologists).

### 2002 C-FARE Board of Directors

Charles Abdalla - Penn State University	Walter Armbruster - Farm Foundation
Peter Barry - University of Illinois	Jon Brandt - North Carolina State
Don Ethridge – Texas Tech University	John Lee – Retired Mississippi State University
Gene Nelson - Texas A&M University	George Norton – Virginia Tech
Emilio Pagoulatos – University of Connecticut	Mike Phillips - Biotech Industry Organization
David Schweikhardt - Michigan State	Jerry Skees - University of Kentucky
James Trapp - Oklahoma State University	Steve Turner – Mississippi State University
David Zilberman - University of California – Berkley	

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C-FARE is a non-profit, non-partisan association actively working to represent the agricultural economics profession in matters of science policy, priority setting, and budget determination at the federal level, and to collaborate with other agricultural science groups and government agencies in these activities.

For more information about C-FARE or to provide feed back, please feel free to contact us at:

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