



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

2004 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 2004 Annual Report summarizes how C-FARE worked to accomplish these goals through events, associations, and actions during the past year

IDENTIFYING KEY ECONOMIC ISSUES

A. Fall 2004 Symposium – “Partnering for Enhanced Research”

On September 27, 2004 C-FARE held a day-long symposium in Washington, DC to discuss how the agricultural and natural resources communities could increase their partnering opportunities to enhance research. Panels addressed issues including: Case Studies of Successful Partnering Research, How to Communicate your Message as Partners, and Future Opportunities for Partnering. A summary document is posted on C-FARE's website.



B. ESCOP Social Science Meeting

The ESCOP Social Science Committee meets in February and September in Washington, DC. The committee consists of social scientists representing each region of the country and each discipline. C-FARE continues to serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. In addition, several C-FARE Board Members serve as regional representatives.

CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR DECISIONS

A. Meeting with OMB

On September 28, 2004 Gene Nelson (Texas A&M), Steve Turner (Mississippi State University), and Tamara Wagester (C-FARE) met with Noah Engelberg from the Office of Management and Budget to discuss research priorities for the agricultural economics profession and provide input for the FY 2006 budget process.

B. Meeting with CSREES Administrator

Members of the C-FARE Board of Directors meet twice with CSREES Administrator, Colien Hefferan to discuss areas of input for economists. These include feedback on research programs, offering assistance with professional expertise, and suggestions regarding areas of staffing.

C. Meetings and Communication with Congress



Members of the C-FARE Board of Directors frequently meet with Congressional staff to discuss the crucial need for a balanced federally funded research portfolio. A balanced portfolio includes increases in competitive peer-reviewed grants as well as formula funds to address broader public issues. Prior to the 2004 Spring Board meeting, C-FARE Board Members visited with the offices of Senator Cochran (MS), Senator Dorgan (ND), Senator Durbin (IL), Congressman Costello (IL-12), Congressman LaHood (IL-18), Congressman Pickering (MS-3), Congressman Pomeroy (ND-1), and Congressman Thompson (MS-2).

In addition, each year C-FARE jointly prepares letters and testimony with COSSA. Providing testimony allows the professions' priorities in federal funding to be heard by all members of the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittees. C-FARE also signs on to coalition letters as well as sending our own letters both in spring and fall.

COMMUNICATING WITHIN OUR PROFESSION

A. Intern Briefings

During Summer 2004, C-FARE held two intern briefings for agricultural and applied economics interns that are located in Washington, DC. About 20 students attended each event. C-FARE also met with the Graduate Student Section and Undergraduate Student Section during the AAEA Meetings in August to promote the intern briefings. C-FARE has explored several ways to work with departments to inform more students about the events.



B. Council Caller

In Spring 2004, C-FARE expanded our on-line newsletter to include a monthly update of current legislation and a monthly update of federal register notices. The *Council Caller's* circulation continues to grow and we have had extremely positive feedback. If you would like to view our newsletter, please visit our website at www.cfare.org.



C. CHOICES

Tamara Wagester, C-FARE Executive Director, has communicated with several key policy staff to discuss the positive attributes of CHOICES and how C-FARE can help AAEA better market this valuable product. In Fall 2004, C-FARE began mailing one-page summaries to House and Senate staff as well as to key USDA employees.

WORKING WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. CoFARM

C-FARE remains active with the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM). The coalition continues to work across disciplines and with other science and technology groups.

- *Congressional Visits Day (CVD) 2004*

In March 2004, Dr. Bruce Gardner (University of Maryland) represented C-FARE during the Science Engineering and Technology (SET) CVD. He met with staff from Senator Sarbanes (MD) and Senator



Mikulski offices (MD), as well as staff from Congressman Cardin (MD-3) and Congressman Hoyer's (MD-5) offices. In addition to visiting Congressional Member Offices, CoFARM and BESC presented the second annual award honoring a Member of Congress who supports agricultural research to Senator Herb Kohl (WI).



On September 28-29, 2004 C-FARE participated in a Fall Congressional Visits Day (CVD). This event was sponsored by The Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC), and CoFARM. Scientists from around the nation took part in the Fall CVD. Participating on behalf of C-FARE was Don Ethridge (Texas Tech University), Steve Turner (Mississippi State University and C-FARE Chair), and Laurian Unnevehr (University of Illinois). The trio met with a total of 12 Congressional Offices and discussed such issues as increased funding for USDA's NRI Program, funding for USDA's ERS

Consumer Data Initiative, and offered background and information on topics of interest to the individual Congressional Districts.

Participants were also briefed on current issues from a panel including; the House Science Committee, National Science Foundation, and USDA's Competitive Programs. In addition, a reception was held to honor Congressman David Price (NC-4) for his dedication to scientific research and education.

- *Bio-Security Briefing*

In 2004, following the annual Spring CVD, CoFARM held a series of bio-security briefings with staff from both the House and Senate Committees that handle Homeland Security Issues. Dr. Bruce McCarl (Texas A&M) represented C-FARE as part of these educational meetings.



- *CoFARM Letter on ERS Funding*

The President's FY 2005 budget request included \$8.7 million for USDA's ERS for a Consumer Data and Information Initiative. C-FARE suggested and developed a letter that 10 CoFARM member societies co-signed indicating their support for the Initiative. In addition, several of the nutrition related groups also included language in their Appropriations request letters supporting the Initiative.

- **Meeting with Under Secretary Joseph Jen Regarding Research Funding**

In July 2004, delegates from CoFARM met with Dr. Joseph Jen (USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics at USDA), Colien Hefferan (CSREES Administrator) Anna Palmisano (USDA CSREES Deputy Administrator for Competitive Programs) to discuss increases in research funding for competitive programs at USDA.



B. Presentation to ESCOP/ACOP Leadership Workshop

Tamara Wagester (C-FARE) and Rob Hedberg (Weed Science Society of America) presented “The Role of Organizations in Policy Formation” to the ESCOP and ACOP Leadership Workshop in March. The goal of the presentation was to encourage all disciplines to work together to increase funds for research, extension and education.

C. 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. The research committee has been compiling one-page success stories to relate the benefits of publicly funded agricultural and food research to key policy makers. Future topics that include “Economic Impacts of Environmental Policies,” and “Economic Implications of Rural Hospital Closings.”

SUMMARY OF NEW ACTIVITIES

Activity	Target Group	Location & Dates	Timing & Significance
Fall CVD	Key Congressional Offices	Washington, DC September 28-29, 2004	The timing was scheduled for the end of the appropriations process. The goal was to thank staffers and remind them of programs in the appropriations bills.
Partnering Symposium	Broad Scope of Agricultural Organizations and Disciplines	Washington, DC September 27, 2004	The purpose of the event was to discuss how the agricultural and natural resources communities could increase their partnering opportunities to enhance research.
New Council Callers	The Agricultural and Applied Economics Profession	March-December, 2004	We post the articles on average once a month to update members on regulatory and legislative updates that may be of interest to agricultural and applied economists.

LEGEND FOR PICTURES

Page 2 – Some members of the C-FARE governing body during a semi-annual meeting.

Page 2 - (Left to Right) Dr. Mike Thomsen (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville), Dr. Bernie Tao (Purdue University), and Dr. Zhengxia Dou (University of Pennsylvania) were speakers from the Case Studies Panel which highlighted examples of successful partnering research. Our sponsors were: CSREES, ERS, GIPSA, NASS, Farm Foundation, SAEA, and AAEA Foundation.

Page 3 - (Left to Right) – Dr. Steve Turner (Mississippi State University), Dr. Gene Nelson (Texas A&M University), Dr. Steven Kraft (Southern Illinois University), and Dr. David Lambert (North Dakota State University) during their meetings with congressional staff.

Page 4 - (Pictured Below, from Left to Right) Andy Morton (Senate Agriculture Committee), Chip Conley (House Agriculture Committee), and Craig Jagger (House Agriculture Committee) offer advice to three students that participated in the June intern briefing. Other speakers that are not shown include Aleta Botts (Congressman Pomeroy’s Office), and James Monk (Congressional Research Service).

Page 4 - (Left to Right) Jim Wilkus (USDA FSIS), Joy Harwood (USDA ERS), and Clay Ogg (US EPA) met with students for the July briefing that focused on the careers of agency economists. Other speakers were Charles Lambert (USDA Deputy Under-Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs).

Page 4 - (Left to Right) Dr. Bernadene Magnuson (University of Maryland - Representing The Institute of Food Technologists) and Dr. Bruce Gardner (University of Maryland - Representing The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (CFARE)).

Page 5 - (Left to Right) Dr. Laurian Unnevehr (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Dr. Steve Turner (Mississippi State University).

Page 5 - (Left to Right) – Dr. Michael Doyle (University of Georgia - representing IFT), Dr. Bruce McCarl (Texas A&M – representing C-FARE), Dr. Bob Norton (Auburn University - representing FASS), Dr. John Sherwood (University of Georgia – representing APS).

Page 6 - (Pictured Left to Right – Back Row) Whitney Tull (American Society for Microbiology), Anna Palmisano (USDA CSREES Deputy Administrator for Competitive Programs), Karl Glasener (Agronomy, Crop, and Soil Science Society of America), Dr. Joseph Jen (USDA Under Secretary for REE), Bruno Quebedeaux (American Society for Horticultural Sciences), Steve Yaninek (Council of Entomology Department Administrators), Steve Johnson (Cornell University), Colien Hefferan (CSREES Administrator). *(Front Row)* Ted Cartwright (Institute of Food Technologists), Tamara Wagerster (Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics), and John Sherwood (American Phytopathological Society).