



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

2005 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 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 2005 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. USDA CSREES NRI Outreach

In January 2005, C-FARE held a conference call with several members of other social science disciplines in order to develop language addressing priorities for the next RFA.

In March, Board Member Sally Thompson (Purdue University), and Executive Director, Tamara Wagester met with the Deputy Administrator for Competitive Programs, Anna Palmisano, to discuss social science priority language in the next RFA. At this time, we provided her with two economics success profiles from past grants.

A week later, C-FARE became aware that potentially dramatic changes may take place in the traditional social science program areas of the NRI. On April 18 2005, Steve Turner, Chair of C-FARE, and Tamara Wagester met with CSREES Administrator Colien Hefferan and provided her with feedback collected from members of the profession. The Administrator supported the idea of creating language for other program areas that included social science research.

C-FARE worked with AAEA President Laurian Unnevehr to establish a committee to develop language for the other program areas. The committee included Julie Caswell (University of Massachusetts), Dave Lambert (North Dakota State University), Alan Randall (Ohio State University), Kitty Smith (ERS), and Laurian Unnevehr.

B. Multi-Agency Grant Coordination

In April 2005, Steve Turner and Tamara Wagester met with Dan Newlon (NSF Program Director for Economic Decisions and Management Sciences) and Nancy Lutz (NSF Program Director) to identify the priorities for NSF regarding social science grants and to discuss the feasibility of developing a joint-agency program with CSREES.

CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR DECISIONS

A. Unnevehr Appointed to NAREEE Advisory Board

C-FARE prepared a letter of support for the nomination of Laurian Unnevehr as the appointee for the category of “National Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Organization” on the USDA Secretary’s National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board. The Board provides guidance to the Research, Education and Economics Mission Area within USDA.

B. Mock Congress

C-FARE participated in the final stage of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) Legislative Institute series. The annual event is an exercise in congressional procedure. C-FARE appreciated the opportunity to participate. While the event is geared toward Congressional Staff, it provided C-FARE with an opportunity to also learn more about congressional procedure.

C. House and Senate Testimony

C-FARE and COSSA prepared written testimony to both the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees responsible for the Department of Agriculture. Providing testimony is an important step in allowing the professions' priorities in federal funding to be heard by all members of the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee.

D. Letter Regarding Institute for Food and Agriculture Research

In early February 2005, C-FARE submitted a letter to Senator Kit Bond (MO) regarding the National Institute for Food and Agriculture Research. C-FARE's letter supported additional funding for the food and agriculture sciences but encouraged the Senator to adopt language more supportive of the social sciences in his bill.

COMMUNICATING WITHIN OUR PROFESSION

A. Attendance at Allied Social Science Association Meetings

On January 8, 2005, Tamara Wagester presented highlights of recent activities to the AAEA Foundation Board at the ASSA meetings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

B. Attendance at SAEA Meetings

On February 6, 2005, Tamara Wagester presented highlights of recent activities to the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Board. During the general meeting, attendees were provided with a brief legislative update. We appreciate their support.

C. Attendance and Activities at the AAEA Meetings

Tamara Wagester and Steve Turner presented an update on C-FARE activities and matters of legislative interest, and expressed gratitude for support of C-FARE to a joint AAEA Executive Board and Foundation Board luncheon. In addition, C-FARE also met with the Graduate Student Section and the Undergraduate Quiz Bowl participants to highlight the Intern Seminar Series and the 2006 C-FARE Internship.

D. Attendance at Western Meetings

In July, Tamara Wagester and David Lambert presented highlights of recent C-FARE activities to the Western Agricultural Economics Association Board.

E. Council Caller

C-FARE continues to produce the three Council Caller newsletters a month. In early 2005, AAEA sent the notice to the entire AAEA membership which resulted in an increase of over 100 subscribers.

The logo for 'The Council Caller' is a green rectangular box with a white border. The text 'The Council Caller' is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within the box.

F. CHOICES

Tamara Wagester discussed with several key policy staff the positive attribute of CHOICES and how C-FARE could help AAEA better market this valuable product. C-FARE also continues to mail a summary of articles to Congressional staff, key agency officials, and stakeholders.

G. Intern Briefings

During Summer 2005, C-FARE again sponsored intern briefings for agricultural and applied economics interns located in Washington, DC. We were pleased to reach over 30 graduate and undergraduate students. Each event was designed to help students meet others with similar interests and hear from successful economists.

On June 10, C-FARE sponsored an intern briefing focusing on Capitol Hill Careers. Students were treated to breakfast in a US Senate Hearing Room, which was reserved by one of the speakers Stephanie Mercier. We also appreciate the time of the other speakers: Craig Jagger, Andy Morton, and Jasper Womach.

On June 24, C-FARE sponsored an intern briefing focusing on Agency Careers. Students heard from outstanding speakers while having breakfast in the USDA Secretary's Dinning Room. We would like to thank our speakers: Mary Bohman, Ken Clayton, Jim Maetzold, and Gary McBryde.

On July 15, C-FARE sponsored the final summer intern briefing focusing on Private Sector Careers. Students were treated to lunch, courtesy of the American Farm Bureau Federation. We thank Farm Bureau for the use of their facility and providing meals. C-FARE would also like to thank our speakers, Mike Phillips and Bob Young.

H. C-FARE Participation in Bi-Annual NAAEA Meeting

The NAAEA Fall 2005 meeting was held in Washington, DC in October. C-FARE helped with the planning of the conference which included highlights from government agencies focusing on opportunities for agricultural economists. During the event C-FARE also sponsored a reception in a Senate Hearing room to recognize Washington, DC agricultural economists for their dedication to economic principles. During the reception, an award was presented to Senator Thad Cochran (MS) for his understanding and appreciation of economics.



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.

- Spring CVD

C-FARE again participated in the annual Congressional Visits Day (CVD) which occurred on May 10-11, 2005. Dr. Thomas Ilvento from University of Delaware



represented C-FARE. CoFARM began the two day event by honoring Deputy Under Secretary Rodney Brown for his leadership to agricultural research, extension, and education. Fourteen CoFARM scientists joined Dr. Brown, and Administrator Hefferan at a breakfast in the USDA Secretary's Dinning Room. Following the breakfast, the group was briefed by NSF, USDA CSREES, White House Office of Management and Budget, and Deputy Chief of Staff to the Research

Subcommittee of the House Science Committee. Participants were also invited to a lunch with a House Science Committee Staff member before participating in the overall CVD events.

- **CNSF CVD**

On September 13-14, C-FARE participated in the first annual Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) Congressional Visits Day (CVD) to call for increased federal investment for the National Science Foundation (NSF). C-FARE continues to expand the number of organizations we partner with in order to best identify research opportunities for agricultural, natural resources and applied economists. Through these efforts we recently joined the CNSF group which has played a major role in increasing the federal budget for NSF.



More than 70 scientists, engineers, and business leaders from 30 organizations attended the event. They met in our Nation's Capitol for briefings with Administration officials and Congressional leaders and staff. C-FARE was represented by Dana Hoag (Colorado State University) and Frank Lupi (Michigan State University). They met with Congressional offices in order to emphasize that research yields future benefits and is not simply a current expense. Member offices visited included Members of the Colorado delegation: Marilyn Musgrave (CO-4), Mark



Udall (CO-3), Wayne Allard (D-CO), and Ken Salazar (D-CO). From the Michigan Delegation: Vernon Ehlers (MI-3), John Dingell (MI-15), Mike Rogers (MI-8), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

CNSF held a reception on September 13 which included remarks by Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (NY-24), Congressman Rush Holt (NJ-12), and Congressman Vernon Ehlers (MI-3). In addition, the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM) delegation along with the Biological and Ecological Science Coalition (BESC) sponsored a luncheon highlighting the NSF program areas related to

agricultural, biological, and natural resource research. On September 14, the CoFARM delegation sponsored a breakfast with USDA CSREES Administrator Hefferan to discuss funding for USDA in the upcoming budget cycle.

- **Presentation to ESCOP/ACOP Leadership Workshop**

Tamara Wagester (C-FARE) and Karl Glasener (Agronomy, Crop, and Soil Science Society) presented “The Role of Organizations in Policy Formation” to the ESCOP and ACOP Leadership Workshop in March. The presentation strongly encouraged all disciplines to work together to increase funds for research, extension and education.

B. ESCOP Social Science Meeting

The ESCOP Social Science Subcommittee meets semi-annually. Tamara Wagester continues to attend the meetings. At the Fall meeting, she provided an update on C-FARE, recent legislation, and how to better communicate social science research to a policy audience. The Committee continues to seek additional input and participation from economists.

C. National C-FAR

The National C-FAR held their Annual Meeting in April 2005. Tamara Wagester briefed the group on the recent developments and presented one-page research profiles.

The National C-FAR invited Laurian Unnevehr to present “Mad Cows and Bt Potatoes” as a Congressional briefing in the US Capitol on October 18, 2005. There were about 45 participants at the event and a sack lunch was provided.



SUMMARY OF NEW ACTIVITIES

| Activity | Target Group | Location & Dates | Timing & Significance |
|---|--|---|--|
| CNSF Fall CVD | Key Congressional Offices and NSF Grant Recipients | Washington, DC September 13-14, 2005 | In 2005 C-FARE joined the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). We participated in their first Fall CVD. 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. Participants were partnered with other disciplines. |
| Attendance at regional meetings | Members of Regional Societies | Various | In 2005 C-FARE began a practice of attending the regional society meetings in order to improve communications with the profession and to convey C-FARE's role in representing them in Washington, DC. |
| Reception to honor Washington, DC Ag Economists | Congressional Staff and Washington, DC Ag Economists | October 27, 2005 | The reception was held during the NAAEA meeting in Washington, DC. C-FARE appreciates the work and dedication of all Washington, DC agricultural economists and held this reception to thank them for their efforts. We also honored Senator Thad Cochran (MS) for his acknowledging the importance of economics theory in policy. |

LEGEND FOR PICTURES

Page 4 – (*Pictured Left-to-Right: Mark Keenum and Steve Turner*) Steve Turner (C-FARE Chair and Department Head of Ag Economics at Mississippi State University) presents the “2005 Friend of Agricultural Economics Award” to Senator Cochran’s Chief of Staff Mark Keenum, who accepted on behalf of Senator Cochran.

Page 5 - CoFARM Scientists at CSREES (*Pictured Left-to-Right*) Dana Hoag (Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics), Daniel Richter (ASA/CSSA/SSSA), Paul Takhistov (Institute of Food Technologists), Frank Lupi (Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics), Colien Hefferan (Administrator, USDA-Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service), Gene Kelly (ASA/CSSA/SSSA), Elizabeth Gantt (American Society of Plant Biologists), Peter Groffman (ASA/CSSA/SSSA), and Rob Hedberg (Science Policy and Legislative Affairs Advisor, USDA-CSREES).

Page 5 - Dana Hoag (*pictured left*) (President of the Western Agricultural Economics Association and Graduate Coordinator and Professor Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University) and Frank Lupi (*pictured right*) (Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics – Michigan State University) participated in the Fall 2005 CNSF CVD on behalf of The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE).

Page 6 - (*Pictured Left-to-Right: Jerry Baker; FASS, Laurian Unnevehr; University of Illinois, Congressman Tim Johnson; IL-15*) Following her NCFAR presentation, Laurian met with her Congressman, Time Johnson to thank him for sponsoring the briefing.