



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

## ***2006 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 2006 Annual Report summarizes how C-FARE worked to accomplish these goals through events, associations, and actions during the past year.**

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## IDENTIFYING KEY ECONOMIC ISSUES

### **A. Symposium on “Optimizing Policy Tools: Economics Data and Modeling”**

On September 15, 2007 C-FARE held a half day symposium on “Optimizing Policy Tools: Economics Data and Modeling.” The event was designed to educate organizations and individuals that have access to various databases on the numerous ways that the data are being used and to highlight successful research conducted using information contained in the federally funded databases.



Dr. Mary Bohman (Director, Resource and Rural Economics Division, USDA/ERS) and Dr. Helen Jensen (Professor of Economics and Head of CARD's Food and Nutrition Policy Division) served as moderators for the event. Speakers included: Dr. Ephraim Leibtag (USDA ERS Food Markets Branch), Dr. David Trechter (University of Wisconsin, River Falls), and Dr. Patrick Westhoff (University of Missouri at Columbia – FAPRI). Following the symposium, Dr. Jensen, Dr. Trechter, and Dr. Westhoff met with Congressional staff to thank the members for past support of federally funded databases and

to inform them of the kind of necessary research that resulted from their support. The Congressional offices they visited included: Senator Congressman Tom Latham (IA-4), Senator Herb Kohl (WI), Senator Jeff Talent (MO), and the staff from the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

C-FARE would like to thank ERS, AAEA, AAEA Foundation, and Farm Foundation for their assistance in funding the event. We would also like to thank the USDA Economist Group and the Office of the Chief Economist for their assistance in obtaining a room reservation and publicity. To view the summary document from the event, please visit the C-FARE website.

### **B. C-FARE/WSSA Briefing on “Researching Invasive Weeds”**

C-FARE and the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) partnered to hold both a stakeholder briefing and a Congressional briefing on May 5, 2006 addressing the Economics of Invasive Species. Two scientists spoke on the outcome of their federally funded research provided by the USDA ERS PREISM program. C-FARE was represented by Dr. Munisamy (Gopi) Gopinath at Oregon State University and WSSA was represented by Dr. Bruce Maxwell from Montana State University. Thirty-five individuals representing federal agencies, grower groups, and the academic sector attended the stakeholder briefing. Approximately a dozen staff from both the House and Senate attended the Congressional briefing.



## 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) as the Review Chair, and Dr. Jerald J. Fletcher (West Virginia University) as the Vice-Chair, an expert panel of agricultural economists, statisticians, and sociologists conducted a review and wrote a comprehensive report.

To view the final report, which was published in 2007, please visit the C-FARE website: [http://www.cfare.org/publications/20070307cfare\\_census\\_review\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](http://www.cfare.org/publications/20070307cfare_census_review_Full_Report.pdf).



### **B. House and Senate Testimony**

C-FARE and the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) prepared written testimony for both the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. Providing testimony allows the professions' priorities for federal funding to be heard by all members of the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee. C-FARE also signed onto the testimony from the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM) and the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR).

### **C. Briefing on "The Farmdoc Project; Still Your Father's Extension Program?"**

C-FARE and the USDA Economist group arranged a seminar for Dr. Scott Irwin (University of Illinois) entitled: "The Farmdoc Project; Still Your Father's Extension Program?" on November 15. Over 20 individuals from across USDA attended the two-part seminar.

Separate from the seminar, Irwin and Wagester met with Congressional staff to discuss how funds provided through CSREES HATCH funds and grants through the USDA Risk Management Agency have helped develop the website which now provides Illinois farmers with comprehensive and integrated risk management information and analysis. Congressional offices visited included the offices of Congressman Tim Johnson (IL-15), Senator Richard Durbin (IL), and Senator Barack Obama (IL).

## COMMUNICATING WITHIN OUR PROFESSION

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

The C-FARE Board of Directors meet 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 4-5, 2006, C-FARE Board members met with USDA Risk Management Administrator Eldon Gould. They also met with the Congressional offices of: Senator Hillary Clinton (NY), Senator Thad Cochran (MS), Senator Barack Obama (IL), Congressman Chip Pickering (MS-3), Congressman Roger Wicker (MS-1), Congressman Mollohan (WV-1), Congressman Rahall (WV-3), Congressman Ernest Istook (OK-5), Congressman Hinchey (NY-22), Congressman LaHood (IL-18), Congressman Jerry Costello (IL-12). As part of the meetings with Congressional staff, C-FARE members expressed their appreciation for past support of the research portfolio which funds the work of agricultural economists and highlighted the need for continued support, for the USDA CSREES NRI and base funding programs, as well as establishing the Agricultural and Rural Development Information System (ARDIS) through the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS).



During the C-FARE Spring 2006 Board Business Meeting members discussed operational matters and had several guest speakers including Dr. Randy Schnepf (Congressional Research Service) who discussed Congressional Input on the Farm Bill debate, a panel from CSREES which included Dr. S. (Suresh) Sureshwaran who provided an update on CSREES Budget areas and a review of NRI and other program areas, Rob Hedberg who reviewed CSREES proposed budget for 2007, and Dr. Frank Boteler who provided an update on CSREES Positions and Review of the Economic and Community System (ECS) program area.

- *Fall Meeting*

C-Fare held its Fall board meeting on October 23-24, 2006. Dr. Karl M. Glasener (Director of Science Policy for the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America) and Dr. Lee VanWychen (Director of Science Policy for the Weed Science Society of America) provided updates from their respective organizations. The board also hosted an open seminar which invited economists from across the Washington DC region for “Agribusiness Management Programs: Focus or Falter?” by presented by Dr. Michael Boland (Kansas State University) and Dr. Jay Akridge (Purdue).

Members of the C-FARE Executive Committee met with Dr. Doug Lawrence and Dr. Phil Spinelli from USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Dr. Kitty Smith and Dr. Paul Gibson from USDA’s ERS, and Noah Engelberg from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to discuss priorities for the profession for FY 2007 and 2008. They also met with economists from Capitol Hill and the private sector to discuss outreach for the profession. Members also met with staff from Senator Richard Durbin’s (IL) office and Senator Thad Cochran’s (MS) office.

### **B. Attendance at Allied Social Science Association Meetings**

On January 7, 2006 Tamara Wagester presented highlights of recent activities to the AAEA Foundation Board at the ASSA meetings in Boston, Massachusetts.

### **C. Attendance at Western Meetings**

In June Tamara Wagester presented highlights of recent activities to the Western Agricultural Economics Association Board.

### **D. Attendance and Activities at the AAEA Meetings**

- *Update to Executive Board*

At the July AAEA Annual Meeting, C-FARE provided a written report on recent activities to the AAEA Executive Board and Foundation Board. The report included an update on C-FARE activities, a brief review of legislative matters of interest.

- *Student Section Activities*

C-FARE also met with the Graduate Student Section and the Undergraduate Quiz Bowl participants to highlight the Summer Intern Seminar Series and the C-FARE Internship.

- *C-FARE Booth*

C-FARE had a booth at the AAEA Annual Meetings which highlighted activities from the past year and provided background information for applied economists.

### **E. Intern Briefings**

During Summer 2006, C-FARE held two intern briefings for agricultural and applied economics interns located in Washington, DC. C-FARE also met with the Graduate Student Section and Undergraduate Student Section during the AAEA Meetings to advertise the intern briefings.



### **F. C-FARE Interns for 2006**

C-FARE hired two interns in 2006. Sarah Thomas, a second year Masters student of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University, interned with C-FARE for the summer semester.

Mikael Pyrtel, a first semester Masters of Public Policy student from George Mason University and a graduate of the University of Illinois Agricultural and Consumer Economics Department interned with C-FARE for the fall semester.

### **G. Multi-Agency Grant Coordination**

On February 8, 2006, C-FARE held a conference call regarding social science grants and to discuss the feasibility of developing a joint-agency program with CSREES and NIH.

### **H. Council Caller Newsletters**

C-FARE continues to produce the three Council Caller newsletters a month and the recipient list continues to grow. In 2006 we also produced on-line updates on federal budget issues of interest to the profession and key legislative issues of interest to the profession.

### ***I. Contributions to Professional Societies Newsletters***

C-FARE continues to provide feedback to the profession on our activities through contributions in the AAEA Exchange and the SAEA Newsletter.

### ***J. 2005 Annual Report Distribution***

C-FARE's 2005 Annual Report was mailed out to all the academic departments, and will be mailed to the leadership of the AAEA Executive Board, Foundation Board, AAEA Section leaders, Regional Societies Leadership, and to the C-FARE Board of Directors.

## **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.

- *Meeting with House Agriculture Committee*

C-FARE participated in the CoFARM meeting with staff from the House Agriculture Committee on January 10. We discussed issues in the upcoming Farm Bill.

- *CVD*



C-FARE took part in the successful Spring 2006 Congressional Visits Day (CVD) held March 14-15. We appreciate the participation of Dr. Stanley Fletcher (University of Georgia), Dr. Darren Hudson (Mississippi State University) and Dr. Dawn Thilmany (University of Colorado). The event consisted of informational briefings for the participants by AAAS, NSF, CSREES, OSTP, and the House Science Committee. Following the first day of events the participants attended a reception held in the House Agriculture Committee Hearing Room, honoring Representatives Ehlers (MI-3) & Holt (NJ-12) for their continued leadership to the science community. The second day of events began with a breakfast in the USDA Secretary's

dinning room. Participants heard budget updates from leadership at CSREES, ARS, ERS, and 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 ten Congressional offices. CVD emphasized the importance of agricultural and biological sciences through meetings with congressional decision makers.

- *Meeting with Policy Makers*

C-FARE participated in a coalition meeting with REE Under Secretary Gale Buchanan. The goal of the meeting was to share the objectives of CoFARM with Dr. Buchanan as he begins his responsibilities with the department. C-FARE also participated in a meeting at the National Science Foundation (NSF) to discuss priorities for the Biology Directorate (BIO).

### ***B. ESCOP Social Science Meeting***

The ESCOP Social Science Subcommittee meets semi-annually. C-FARE's Executive Director, Tamara Wagester, continues to attend the meetings as an ex-officio member. Economics members

on the committee include: Dr. Walt Armbruster (Farm Foundation), Dr. Stephan J. Goetz (Penn State University), Dr. Richard Perrin (University of Nebraska – Lincoln), Dr. Jon Brandt (North Carolina State University), Dr. C. Richard Shumway (Washington State University), Dr. Fisseha Tegegne (TSU), and Dr. Bruce Weber (Oregon State University).

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

- *Annual Meeting*

The National C-FAR held their Annual Meeting on April 11. Tamara Wagester briefed the group on the recent developments in the one-page research profiles.

- *“Lunch-n-Learn”*



Dr. David Blandford served as the main speaker at a National C-FAR “Lunch-n-Learn” event held on September 11, 2006. There were six total seminars in 2006. Blandford’s seminar, “Agriculture Trade Policy: Responding to a Moving Target” was the final in a series of six briefings. The event was held in the US House Agriculture Committee Hearing Room and had over 75 in attendance. An event was also scheduled at USDA with the Economist Group that had 50 in attendance. Following the briefings Blandford, Wagester, and National C-FAR Executive Director Tom Van Arsdall met with staff from the office of Congressman John Peterson (PA-5) Senator Arlen Specter (PA), and Senator Rick Santorum (PA) to

express our appreciation to the members for their support of research, extension and education and to highlight Blandford’s research which was funded as a result of their support.

### **D. CNSF Coalition**

On September 12-13 C-FARE participated in the second annual Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) Congressional Visits Day (CVD) to call for increased federal investment for the 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. Dr. Scott Swinton (Michigan State University) and Dr. Alan Randall (The Ohio State University) represented C-FARE. They met with Congressional offices in order to emphasize that research yields future benefits and is not simply a current expense. Offices they met with include: Congressman Sherrod Brown (OH-13), Congressman Vernon Ehlers (MI-3), Congressman Dave Hobson (OH-7), Congresswoman Deborah Pryce (OH-15), Congressman Ralph



Regula (OH-16), Congressman Mike Rogers (MI-8), Congressman Pat Tiberi (OH-12), Senator Mike DeWine (MI), Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI), Senator George Voinovich (OH).



### **E. NCAC-24 Agricultural Education Research Committee**

On January 19 Tamara Wagester provided an update on C-FARE’s activities for the NCAC-24 group of Agricultural Education professionals. The update included a summary of C-FARE activities and background on legislation that related to the interests of the group.

## **SUMMARY OF NEW IMPACTS**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Group or Outcome</b>	<b>Location &amp; Dates</b>	<b>Timing &amp; Significance</b>
Briefing on “Researching Invasive Weeds”	Stakeholders in the Washington, DC area and policy makers	Washington, DC May 5, 2006	The timing was important as several research funding organizations began outlining their priorities for funding. The event was also significant as a tool to work across disciplines.
Review of Census of Agriculture	Producers, economists, statisticians, rural sociologists and others who use census data	Washington, DC May, 2006-March, 2007	The review timing was exceptional as the report was released in time for the 2007 Census Collection. Recommendations will be applied to the 2012 Collection.
C-FARE Interns	Students of Agricultural Economics	Washington, DC June-December, 2006	Training of the next generation of agricultural economists regarding the career potential in Washington, DC is an on-going and important project.
Optimizing Policy Tools Symposium	Focus on the Ag Econ Profession and Policy Makers	Washington, DC September 15, 2006	The purpose of the event was to educate on access to databases and how the data are being used to highlight successful research.
Briefing on “Farmdoc” Project	Potential users of the data.	Washington, DC November 15, 2006	The event primarily focused on the benefits obtained from a balanced funding portfolio for research. The significance was important to also provide Members of Congress with data on risk management for their constituents.

## **LEGEND FOR PICTURES**

**Page 3** – (Pictured left to-right) Dr. Patrick Westhoff (University of Missouri at Columbia – FAPRI), Dr. Helen Jensen (Iowa State University Professor of Economics and Head of CARD's Food and Nutrition Policy Division), Dr. Mary Bohman (Director, Resource and Rural Economics Division, USDA/ERS), Dr. David Trechter (University of Wisconsin, River Falls), and Mark Denbaly Deputy Director for Data and Web Communication, USDA/ERS).

**Page 3** – (Pictured left-to-right) Bruce Maxwell (WSSA, Montana State University) and Munisamy Gopinath (C-FARE, Oregon State University).

**Page 4** – Gene Nelson leading the Census of Agriculture Review Committee during a meeting

**Page 5** – (Pictured left-to-right) Harry Kaiser (Cornell University), Damona Doye (Oklahoma State University), Steve Turner (Mississippi State University), Steve Kraft (Southern Illinois University).

**Page 6** - (Pictured left-to-right) James Monke (Congressional Research Service), Mark Keenum (Office of Senator Thad Cochran), Stephanie Mercier (Senate Agriculture Committee), and Craig Jagger (House Agriculture Committee) (Not pictured, Andy Morton, Senate Agriculture Committee).

**Page 7** – Participants from CoFARM/BESC Spring 2006 Congressional Visits Day

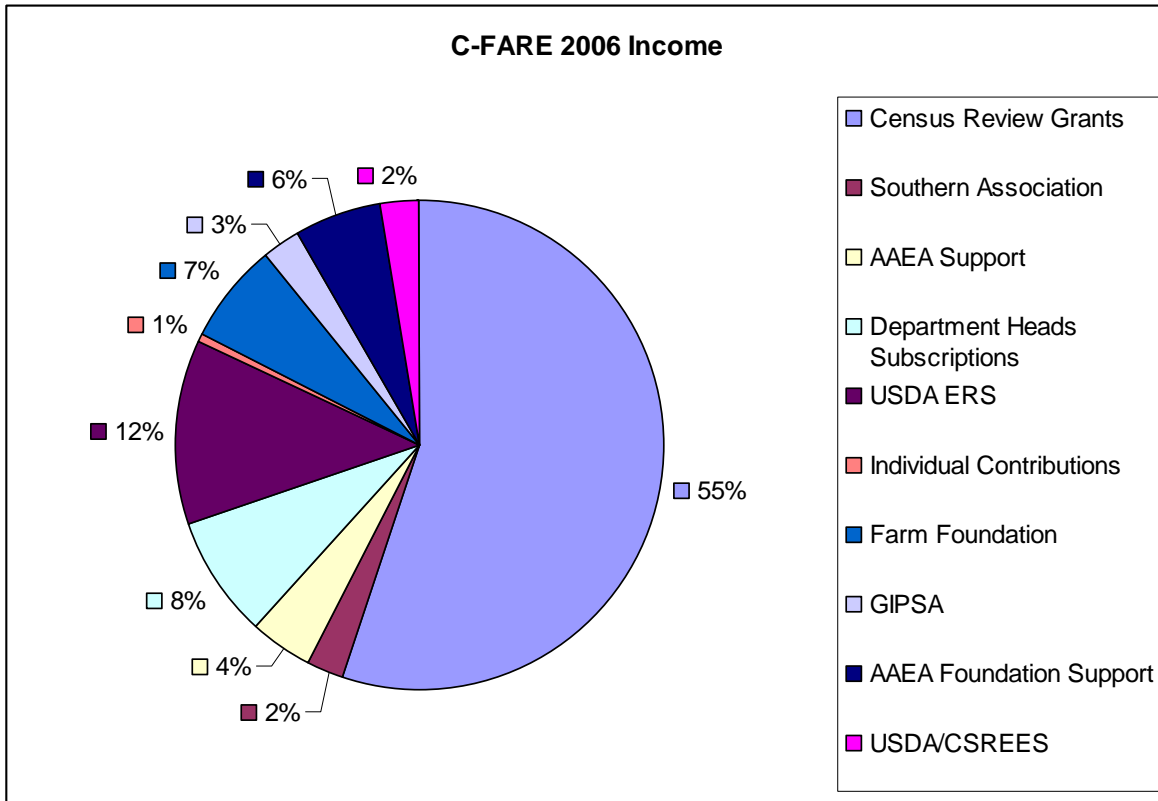
**Page 8** – David Blandford presenting in the House Agriculture Committee Hearing Room.

**Page 8** – (Pictured left-to-right) Congressman Mike Rogers (MI-8) and Dr. Scott Swinton

**Page 8** – (Pictured left-to-right) Alan Randall (far left) with other members of The Ohio State University delegation.

## 2006 C-FARE CONTRIBUTIONS

**C-FARE appreciates the support in 2006 of many individuals and organizations to help us succeed at our mission.**



### Agency Donors

- USDA Cooperative State Research Extension and Education Service (CSREES)
- 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
- International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) matching funds

**2006 Individual Donations**

James Novak  
 Katherine Smith  
 Bob Yonkers  
 A. Gene Nelson  
 John Nichols  
 Steven Turner  
 Eric Wailes  
 Oral Capps  
 Phillip Eberle  
 Harold Harris  
 Cary "Bill" Herndon  
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 Thomas Stafford  
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 Darla Weiser  
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**Level**

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**We also appreciate the continued in-kind services and support of many who have assisted us over the past year.**

**Companies**

AAEA  
 Mississippi State University  
 West Virginia University

**Individuals**

Walter Armbruster  
 David Blandford  
 Jon Brandt  
 Patrick Cantwell  
 Gail Cramer  
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 Stanley Fletcher  
 Arne Hallam  
 Dawn Haines  
 Scott Irwin  
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 NC State University  
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 Louisiana State University  
 Oklahoma State University  
 University of Georgia  
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