



2011 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 2011

- In 2011 C-FARE successfully nominated Dawn Thilmany to the USDA National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB).
- C-FARE conducted 14 Congressional visits. These visits allow the member of the profession to have a better connect with their federal policy makers.
- We had a consistent presence of students attending one or more of the intern briefings, and an increased number attend the career fair.

This report summarizes the value and impact to the profession of selected projects for 2011, including contributing to public and private sector decisions, communicating within our profession, and working with other professional organizations.

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Working With Other Professional Organizations

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 worked with the National CFAR to hold a briefing in the House of Representatives focusing on timely topics. On May 2, we sponsored Jayson Lusk for a briefing entitled, “Eating Out and Overeating: Effects of ‘Fat Tax’ and Calorie Information on Restaurant Food Choices.” There were 80 audience members and we conducted three Congressional visits with the offices of Frank Lucas, Tom Cole and Senator Inhofe.

“Bringing Urban Agriculture to Life”

On May 9, 2011 C-FARE co-hosted two briefings, one in the Senate (about 10 Congressional staff and stakeholders attended) and another in the House (about 40 Congressional staff and stakeholders attended) on “Bringing Urban Agriculture to Life.” The American Society for Nutrition (ASN), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) co-hosted the event. C-FARE hosted Dr. Jim Hanson (University of Maryland) as the economist.

“The Low-Down on Local Foods”

On April 11, 2011 the International Food Information Council Foundation and C-FARE hosted a webinar discussing the definition of “local” foods; the nutritional, economic and social tradeoffs of local versus other foods; and consumer insights regarding local foods. The webinar complemented the First Quarter 2010 issue of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) peer-reviewed science magazine Choices. There were over 500 participants, including academics, policymakers, nutrition specialists and other key audiences. The speakers and topics included:

- “What Does Local Mean?” - Larry Lev, Ph.D. – Oregon State University Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- “Can Local Go Mainstream?” - Robert P. King, Ph.D. –University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics
- “Nutritional Differences and Consumer Insights on Local Foods” - Mary Lee Chin, MS, RD – Registered Dietitian and President, Nutrition Edge Communications

To view information from the webinar, please visit: http://www.cfare.org/media_events/webinar_local_foods.php.

“Changing Behaviors, Changing Waistlines: Understanding Consumers’ Mindset to Achieve a Healthy Weight”

On July 13, 2011 the IFIC Foundation and C-FARE held a webinar to better understand behavioral research and strategies that encourage consumers to make healthful food choices and achieve a healthy weight. The webinar complements the Third Quarter 2010 issue of the AAEA peer-reviewed science magazine Choices –

<http://www.choicesmagazine.org/magazine/issue.php?issue=22>. We were pleased to have over 1000 registrants, with over 500 individual lines signed-on for the event.

The speakers and topics included:

- Moderator: Wendy Reinhardt Kapsak, MS, RD, Senior Director, Health and Wellness, International Food Information Council Foundation
- “The Application of Behavioral Economics to Consumers’ Food Decisions” - Christiane Schroeter, PhD, Agribusiness Department, and Research Faculty at STRIDE (Science through Translational Research in Diet and Exercise), California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California
- “Breaking the Behavior Barrier: Strategies to Achieving and Sustaining a Healthy Weight” - Molly Gee, MEd, RD, LD, Director, Behavioral Medicine Research Center, Baylor College of Medicine

“Agricultural Cooperatives: Economics, Opportunities and Structure in a New Era of Food, Fiber and Fuel”

C-FARE began the project, “Agricultural Cooperatives: Economics, Opportunities and Structure in a New Era of Food, Fiber and Fuel” in January 2011 after receiving initial seed money from CHS Foundation. On August 4, 2011 we held a panel meeting of academic and USDA experts, cooperative managers and members and other leaders in the cooperative community. The meeting’s proceedings contributed to the third quarter Choices theme and webinar in partnership with eXtension on October 26. The webinar reached 76 people, with most of the participants from industry. Project members also held a meeting in November at a national cooperatives conference that reached 80 participants. Participants provided insight and suggestions for future research needs, and developed a series of articles for Choices magazine - <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/critical-issues-for-agricultural-cooperatives>.

Communicating Within Our Profession

C-FARE Blue Ribbon Panel and Rapid Response

As a result of our Strategic Planning Efforts, C-FARE has developed “Blue Ribbon Expert Panels” to provide short- and long-run guidance about national and international matters of mutual interest to policy makers and food, agricultural and resource economists. Information based on the panels’ expertise flows two ways. The panels assist C-FARE with answers to questions from policy makers and provide C-FARE with advice about policy needs and concerns from the profession.

Initial panels are focusing on:

- (1) Energy,
- (2) Global Competitiveness and Profitability of Agriculture,
- (3) Economic Opportunities in Rural Communities,
- (4) Natural Resources and Environmental Issues,
- (5) Consumer Concerns about Food, Health and Safety,
- (6) Climate Change, and
- (7) Development.

2011 AAEA Meeting

C-FARE participated in the 2011 AAEA Annual Meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We had a booth and sponsored an inaugural meeting for the Blue Ribbon Panels.

Student Outreach Activities

C-FARE's focus on informing students about internships and other educational opportunities through a variety of strategies benefits future generations of applied economists.

1. USDA Ag Outlook Forum - In February, C-FARE met with the Forum scholarship recipients and provided information and materials about future internship and career opportunities in Washington, DC for applied economics students. About 25 students from land grant institutions were encouraged to continue their interests in applied economics through graduate school and/or into the workforce.

2. Call for Student Outlook Diversity Forum

C-FARE sponsored a conference call for undergraduate advisors, department heads and students on September 27, highlighting opportunities for students to attend the 2012 Agricultural Outlook Forum in Washington, DC.

3. Intern Briefings. For the ninth 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 capital. 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. In summer 2011, C-FARE also partnered with the USDA Economist Group to hold an additional briefing focusing on non-USDA agencies and a career fair. In 2011, we reached over 80 students.

"Updated Climate Change Impact Assessment "

On February 17 C-FARE and the USDA Economists Group co-sponsored a seminar focusing on "Updated Climate Change Impact Assessments." There were 60 in attendance from USDA and NGO groups. The speakers included:

Moderator: Dr. Jan Lewandrowski – Economist, Climate Change Program Office, USDA Office of the Chief Economist

Dr. Charles Griffiths – Economist, US EPA National Center for Environmental Economics

Dr. Gerald Nelson – IFPRI Senior Research Fellow

"Whither Doha? Surveying the Present, Pondering the Future"

On July 15 C-FARE and the USDA Economists Group held a seminar to provide a forum for agricultural economists in the Washington, DC area to meet and discuss openly issues of interest and concern. We were pleased to welcome an outstanding panel of speakers to address the Doha trade discussions to an audience of 43. Speakers provided an assessment of where the negotiations stand and considered future policy implications of possible outcomes. The speakers included:

Ms. Charlotte Hebebrand - Chief Executive of the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC).

Dr. Joseph Glauber – USDA Chief Economist

Moderator - Dr. J.B. Penn – Chief Economist, Deere and Company

Contributing to Public and Private Sector Decisions

C-FARE Board Members Meet with Agencies and Congressional Staff

The C-FARE Board of Directors held their bi-annual board meeting in Washington, DC on September 8, 2011. As part of the meeting, board members discuss ways to educate decision makers about the value of economics research and data, how to best market publications such as Choices, and how to work with other disciplines and students. C-FARE Board members invited a representative from the Department of Energy to provide an update on available research and resource opportunities at DOE. To view the presentation, please visit the C-FARE website at: http://www.cfare.org/media_events/agency_info_interest/. C-FARE Board members also met with representatives from several federal agencies to discuss needs of the profession with respect to data collection, research and outreach plus met with Congressional staff to discuss education needs and opportunities for collaboration.

C-FARE and NAAEA Honor "Friends of Agricultural Economics"

On September 8, 2011 the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) and the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators (NAAEA) recognized Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) as the "2011 Friends of C-FARE and Agricultural Economics" for their appreciation of the application of economics to policy issues involving agriculture, natural resources, food and nutrition topics.

Senator Stabenow was nominated by the Michigan State University Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics. She is Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and a member of the Senate Energy, Finance, and Budget Committees. Dr. Steve Hanson, Michigan State University, presented the honor to Senator Stabenow. Senator Blunt was nominated by the University of Missouri Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Senate Rules Committee. Dr. Mike Monson from the University of Missouri presented the honor to Senator Blunt.

Input to NIFA on Economics in Program

"Regional Perspectives on Economic Forces Shaping Land Asset Values"

C-FARE is co-sponsoring a webinar to be held jointly with the AAEA Extension Section on December 13 to highlight Land Values. We have marketed the webinar to Congressional staff, Farm Credit system and the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. The webinar will complement the second quarter, 2011 Choices theme and the work of the Ag in Uncertain Times team.

Successful NAREEE Nomination

In 2011 C-FARE successfully nominated Dawn Thilmany (Colorado State University) to represent Category Y for National Social Science Association on the USDA National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEE). The congressionally established Board provides advice to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, land-grant colleges and universities on priorities and policies for food and agriculture research, education, extension.

Congressional Education About Social Science Research

On June 16 the US House of Representatives debated their version of the FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill, H.R. 2112. Two amendments were introduced to this bill that would cut funding to USDA ERS and NASS. Congressman Jason Chaffetz (UT-3) introduced H. AMDT. 428 to "reduce funding for the Economic Research Service by \$43 million; reduce funding for the National Agricultural Statistics Service by \$85 million; reduce funding for salaries and expenses of the Agricultural Research Service by \$650 million; reduce funding for Food For Peace Title II Grants by \$1,040,198,000 and to apply \$1,818,198,000 to the savings reduction account." Congressman Paul Broun (GA-10) introduced H. AMDT. 429 to "reduce funding for the Economic Research Service by \$7 million and to increase the spending reduction account by a similar amount." Both amendments were defeated by vote. C-FARE responded quickly by sending information and

notices to various members of the profession. We also partnered with other key social science organizations to send letters to members of the House highlighting the value of these agencies.

C-FARE continues to work with other organizations to highlight the value of social science research. We also sent a joint letter with COSSA to all members of the Senate Agricultural Appropriations Committee, are working on visits and a joint letter with the American Statistical Association.

2011 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

Paul Gottlieb
Rutgers University

John Anderson
American Farm Bureau Federation

Steven Kraft
Southern Illinois University

Walter Armbruster
Farm Foundation

Michael J. Monson
University of Missouri - Columbia

Jon Brandt
North Carolina State University

Gene Nelson
Texas A&M University

Duncan M. Chembezi
Alabama A&M University

J.B. Penn
John Deere Corporation

Roger H. Coupal
University of Wyoming

Steve Turner
Mississippi State University

Gail Cramer
Louisiana State University

Parke Wilde
Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Damona Doye
Oklahoma State University

Bob Yonkers
International Dairy Foods Association

Jerry Fletcher
West Virginia University

Hector Zapata
Louisiana State University

C-FARE's 2011 Financial Summary

C-FARE appreciates the support in 2011 of many individuals and organizations to help us succeed at our mission.

Government Agency Funding Sources

- USDA Economic Research Service (ERS)
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Non-Government Funding Sources

- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Trust
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA)
- Departments of Agricultural Economics From Across the Country
- American Farm Bureau Federation

Funding for Project – “Agricultural Cooperatives: Economics, Opportunities and Structure in a New Era of Food, Fiber and Fuel”

CHS Foundation - the major giving entity of CHS, an energy, grains and foods company.
(<http://www.chsfoundation.org/>)

Farm Credit - The Farm Credit System is a nationwide network of borrower-owned lending institutions and specialized service organizations. The Farm Credit mission is to provide a reliable source of credit for American agriculture by making loans to qualified borrowers at competitive rates and providing insurance and related services.
(<http://www.farmcreditnetwork.com/>)

USDA ERS - The Economic Research Service is a primary source of economic information and research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ERS conducts a research program to inform public and private decision making on economic and policy issues involving food, farming, natural resources, and rural development. (<http://www.ers.usda.gov>)

USDA NASS - The National Agricultural Statistics Service provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. (<http://www.nass.usda.gov/>)

USDA NIFA - NIFA's mission is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education, and extension program in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations. The most important tools for accomplishing this mission are various sources of funding and program leadership. (<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/>)

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