



# The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics 2012 Annual Report

Everyday Action on Behalf of Applied Economics



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## What is C-FARE?

C-FARE is a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC. C-FARE promotes the work of applied economists and serves as a catalyst for incorporating economic thinking into the analysis of food, agricultural and resource decisions. We serve as a conduit between the academic research community and Washington, DC policymakers and agency personnel, matching expertise to public needs. Incorporated in 1993, C-FARE's governing board includes applied economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests. The **Agricultural and Applied Economics Association** and the **National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators** each appoint three members to the board and the **Southern Agricultural Economics Association** appoints one member. These seven directors elect at least six at-large representatives. C-FARE is a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

## C-FARE's Mission

To enhance the effectiveness of the food, agricultural, resource, and related economic sectors through a stronger national presence of the economics profession in the processes of identifying key economic issues, setting priorities, and generating support for research, extension/outreach, and academic programs.

## C-FARE's Goals

### 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

C-FARE will work towards the provision of sufficient resources and capacity 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 Actions

C-FARE performs many actions to provide daily services to the applied economics professions.

### Facilitates Webinars, Seminars and Briefings on Timely Topics

C-FARE develops webinars, seminars, and briefings. These activities are designed to inform and/or train stakeholders on the application of economics relevant to current policy issues or legislative initiatives. C-FARE's activities highlight the strengths of economics analysis in multi-disciplinary research and education.

### Provides Information to Students and Young Professionals

C-FARE's intern briefings and informational updates help support the professional growth of the next generation of applied economists. At the briefings, speakers talk about their backgrounds, skills, and academic experience. Experts elaborate on experiences and skills they've found necessary to build a career in the private, public, or non-profit sectors in Washington, D.C.

### Develops Reports and White Papers on Timely Topics

C-FARE's Blue Ribbon Panels and partnerships result in the development of innovative ideas on how applied economics can help to overcome the 21<sup>st</sup> century grand challenges to food, agricultural and resource systems.

### Monitors Federal Policy-Making Activities

C-FARE monitors and reports on budgets, bills, legislation, rule-making, and initiatives under discussion in the federal policy-making arena. C-FARE also develops public comments that encourage federal policy-makers and program-managers to include applied economic analyses in program development, policy implementation, and requests for research.

### Engages Federal Stakeholders and Decision-makers

Members of the C-FARE Board of Directors regularly meet with decision-makers to provide information on the importance of economic research, extension, and education, and the value of many federal data collections. C-FARE also educates stakeholders and decision-makers about the importance of economic research and data through educational letters.

### Works for Enhanced Funding for Applied Economics

C-FARE's leadership regularly meet with key federal agencies to discuss the benefits associated with applied economics research and to examine new resources and opportunities for the profession.

### Submits Nominations for Members of the Profession

Advisory boards and panels offer opportunities for the profession to broaden its influence. C-FARE seeks to enhance the presence of food, agricultural and resource economists on key federal advisory boards.

## 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.

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### Activity Highlight: Cultivated and Maintained Blue Ribbon Panels

The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) Blue Ribbon Expert Panels provide short- and long-run insights about matters of interest to policy makers, stakeholders, media, and food, agricultural and resource economists. The Blue Ribbon Panels are divided into topic areas, covering: (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. Blue Ribbon Panels provide rapid expert economic guidance on national and international matters, responding to requests posed in the federal register, and by media and policy-makers. On an annual basis, the Panels develop action ideas for webinars, symposia, *Choices* themes, or white papers.

### Successes: Panels Serve As Rapid Response Teams

In 2012, the Blue Ribbon Panels responded to over 20 media requests, developed a *Choices* theme and webinar, participated in a congressional briefing and provided input for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program areas.

### Activity Highlight: Developed Series, "The Conservation Crossroads in Agriculture"

"The Conservation Crossroads in Agriculture" project convened leading economists to examine the current landscape of thinking about the economic implications of conservation policies. In July, 2012, C-FARE released the series, which included the following reports:

1. "Top 10 Design Elements to Achieve More Efficient Conservation Programs" by Dr. David Zilberman, University of California at Berkeley and Dr. Kathleen Segerson, University of Connecticut
2. "Economic and Environmental Effects of Agricultural Insurance Programs" by Dr. Daniel A. Sumner, University of California at Davis and Dr. Carl Zulauf, Ohio State University;
3. "Examining the Relationship of Conservation Compliance and Farm Program Incentives," by Dr. Otto Doering, Purdue University and Dr. Katherine Smith, American Farmland Trust
4. "Implications of a Reduced Conservation Reserve Program" by Dr. JunJie Wu and Dr. Bruce Weber of Oregon State University.

### Successes: Facilitated Policy Discussions and Education

C-FARE invited authors and experts to Washington, D.C. to meet individually with key congressional offices to discuss the reports. By deliberately focusing on individuals serving on the committees authorizing agricultural legislation, we discussed the economic implications of conservation policy with key leadership at a pinnacle point for decision-making. C-FARE visited:

- Dan Benishek (MI-1)
- Jim Costa (CA-16)
- Joe Courtney (CT-2)
- Rodney Davis (IL-13)
- Jeff Denham (CA-19)
- William Enyart (IL-12)
- Marcia Fudge (OH-11)
- Bob Gibbs (OH-7)
- Bob Goodlatte (VA-6)
- Randy Hultgren (IL-14)
- Kurt Schrader (OR-05)
- Marlin Stutzman (IN-3)
- Glenn Thompson (PA-5)
- Ted S. Yoho, DVM (FL-03)

In addition, C-FARE hosted an informational luncheon meeting where new audiences would be exposed to the ideas presented in the reports and the authors. Participating organizations included:

- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)
- Resources for the Future (RFF)
- National Association of Counties (NACo)
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- American Farmland Trust (AFT)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

### Activity Highlight: Released Study on “Future Patterns of U.S. Grains, Biofuels, and Livestock and Poultry Feeding”

The study, released on July 17, 2012, was financed by the Institute for Feed Education & Research (IFEEDER) on behalf of the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) and The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE). To read the full study, please visit: <http://www.cfare.org/future/>. According to the report, the main factors impacting feed availability and cost are biofuels, global demand, specific exports and annual crop yields. Dr. Robert Wisner (PI) of Iowa State University; Dr. David Anderson of Texas A&M University; Dr. Ronald Plain of the University of Missouri-Columbia; Mr. Don Hofstrand of Iowa State University Extension; and Dr. Daniel O’Brien of Kansas State University authored the study. Reviewers included: Dr. John Michael Riley of Mississippi State University; Dr. Derrell Peel of Oklahoma State University; and Dr. James Robb of the Livestock Marketing Information Center.

### Successes: Partnership across Disciplines

A special symposium was held at the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS). The lead author of the report, Dr. Robert Wisner and Mr. Joel G. Newman, President and CEO of the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) presented the findings of the annual report at FASS’ Annual Meeting. The project serves as an example of how policy studies can help bridge disciplinary gaps and create new partnerships.

## **GOAL 2: Resources and Capacity for Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics**

**C-FARE will work towards the provision of sufficient resources and capacity to address meaningful economic analysis to societal issues.**

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### Activity Highlight: Submitted Comments

On February 22, 2012, C-FARE held a conference call with members of the profession when National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) requested input on the AFRI program. The conference call convened applied economics experts to prioritize comments on behalf of the professions in time for the listening session that NIFA hosted that spring. Before the listening session, C-FARE sent an email to an estimated 2,000 email addresses, encouraging individual participation. C-FARE submitted oral and written comments on behalf of the profession during the session.

### Activity Highlight: Encouraged Inclusion of Economics Research in Federal Policy-making Activities

Working with other stakeholder organizations and members and staff of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, C-FARE leveraged its partnerships to ensure language friendly to the economic and social sciences were included in the “The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research.” The bill, introduced by Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI.)

Chairwoman of the Committee, was introduced on March 28, 2012. As a result of the collective efforts of C-FARE and partners in the DC community, the bill language included opportunities for applied economists.

### [Activity Highlight: Facilitated Meetings with Federal Stakeholders and Decision-makers](#)

As part of the C-FARE Board of Directors meetings, C-FARE coordinates informational meetings with key decision-makers and stakeholders in federal agencies, congressional offices, and other non-profit organizations. During the meetings, which occurred on May 16-18, 2012 and October 16-17, 2012, the C-FARE leaders discussed the importance of data and research programs with 12 congressional offices (listed below).

1. House Committee on Agriculture
2. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
3. Congressman Rodney Alexander (LA-5)
4. Congressman Bobby Schilling (IL-17)
5. Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. (IL-2)
6. Congressman William Cassidy (LA-6)
7. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)
8. Congressman Randy Hultgren (IL-14)
9. Congressman John Sullivan (OK-1)
10. Congressman Alan Nunelee (MS-01)
11. Congressman Steven Rothman (NJ-9)

During these visits, C-FARE also met with five stakeholder organizations.

- Resources for the Future
- The GIC Group
- National Association of Counties
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
- Union of Concerned Scientists

### [Successes: Non-profit Partnerships and Opportunities for Enhanced Outreach](#)

C-FARE provided NASDA with testimonials on how the profession uses federal data. NASDA used these examples to highlight the importance of NASS data to State Secretaries/Commissioners of Agriculture, for use on their website, and with their 3,500 employees.

### [Activity Highlight: Sponsored Webinar--Coffee with your Colleagues: Reviewing the Potential Role of Economics in NIFA Programs](#)

On May 17, 2012, C-FARE hosted a webinar for NIFA involving speakers: Drs. Dawn Thilmany of Colorado State University, Wally Tyner of Purdue University, and Sean Cash of Tufts University. The three speakers provided information to NIFA about the value added to research when agricultural economists are involved in multi-disciplinary sciences. Research programs across the government continue to expand the role of economics and social sciences in science agendas. Yet, success stories highlighting accomplishments are not well-known. We invited NIFA Staff to learn more about economic analysis through this webinar and related discussion with select Blue Ribbon Panel Chairs. We reached 25 NIFA personnel through their attendance in-person and virtually. NIFA staff requested a follow-up webinar, entitled "Showcasing the Value of Applied Economics".

On October 11, 2012 C-FARE partnered with American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America to offer the follow-up webinar on, "Lessons from Multidisciplinary Projects—Combining the Biological, Physical and Social Sciences in Research." This webinar provided the opportunity for NIFA staff to learn about where disciplines have successfully integrated together on projects. Presentations provided an overview of "lessons learned" to help craft future RFA's and about 20 NIFA personnel participated.

### [Activity Highlight: Supporting the Future Workforce—Student Outreach and Engagement](#)

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

#### [Conference Calls Highlighting Opportunities](#)

In January 2012, C-FARE held a conference call highlight information and opportunities for applied economics graduate and undergraduate students. The guest speakers included Laurian Unnevehr (Director of the Food Economics Division at USDA ERS), and Stefphanie Gambrell (AAIC). The call included more than 25 participants from 14 universities around the country.

Similarly, in October 2012, C-FARE held a conference call for undergraduate and graduate advisors, department heads and students, highlighting opportunities for students to participate in the USDA Diversity Program and Agricultural Outlook Forum. C-FARE reached students at eleven universities with the information.

#### [Summer Intern Briefing Series and Career Fair](#)

On June 12, June 22, July 12, and July 27, 2012 C-FARE organized and conducted intern briefings. C-FARE's intern briefing series offers students an opportunity to hear from economists in federal agencies, private sector, and non-profit organizations. Briefings provide students and young professionals' insight on the skills, information, and experience needed to be successful. These activities support cultivation of the next generation of applied economists. In addition, we also worked with the USDA Economist Group to hold a career fair. We reached over 50 students at the summer events.

### [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.**

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### [Activity Highlight: Advanced Education and Outreach of Economic Analysis on Key Issues](#)

In 2012, C-FARE offered numerous educational opportunities for stakeholders and policy-makers.

#### [Farm Policy: History and Proposals for 2012](#)

##### **March 30, 2012, co-sponsored by USDA Econ Group**

C-FARE and the USDA Economist Group sponsored a seminar to inform federal agency, private-sector, and non-governmental decision-makers about the history and political context of the 2012 Farm Bill. Drs. Joy Harwood, Director of Economic and Policy Analysis Staff at USDA Farm Service Agency; Stephanie Mercier, Agricultural Policy Consultant and Former Senate Ag Committee Economist; Randy Schnepf, Specialist in Agricultural Policy at the Congressional Research Service spoke at the event. The seminar reached 45 participants across USDA and the private sector.

#### [Agricultural Cooperatives: Economics, Opportunities and Structure in a New Era of Food, Fiber and Fuel](#)

##### **April 23, 2012, co-sponsored by NCFAR**

C-FARE worked with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) to hold a briefing in the US Senate and House of Representatives focusing on research associated with the economics of cooperatives. C-FARE sponsored Dr. Phil Kenkel of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University



discussed research resulting from the 2011 C-FARE Project entitled, “Agricultural Cooperatives: Economics, Opportunities and Structure in a New Era of Food, Fiber and Fuel.” The briefing topic was the *Choices* Theme for the third quarter of 2011.

#### [Nutrient Management & the Chesapeake Bay Experience: Economic and Environmental Considerations](#)

**May 30, 2012, co-sponsored by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA**

C-FARE partnered with the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) to provide an educational briefing. Dr. Josh McGrath, a soil scientist from the University of Maryland; Luke Brubaker, a Pennsylvania farmer; Eric Rosenbaum, a Certified Crop Adviser; and, Dr. James S. Shortle, a Professor of Agricultural and Environmental Economics at Penn State University spoke at the briefing. The briefing topic was the *Choices* Theme for the third quarter of 2011. More than 70 staff and stakeholders attended, and the speakers visited with three congressional offices. For more information, including handouts from the briefing, visit: [http://www.cfare.org/media\\_events/may2012.php](http://www.cfare.org/media_events/may2012.php).

#### [Feeding a 9 Billion World: Implications for Conservation](#)

**June 7, 2012, co-sponsored by USDA Econ Group and SWCS' National Chapter**

C-FARE partnered with the USDA Economists Group and the Soil and Water Conservation Society's National Capitol Chapter to present the seminar. Dr. Theo Dillaha, Professor of Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech University, Dr. Sara Scherr, President and CEO of EcoAgriculture Partners, and Dr. Neil Conklin, President of the Farm Foundation gave presentations at the briefing. C-FARE and co-sponsors hosted an audience of about 50 individuals.

#### [Using Figures to State the Facts: How the Agriculture Industry Uses Data](#)

**June 29, 2012, co-sponsored by the Farm Foundation and NASDA, with Montana State University**

The webinar discussed how the agriculture industry uses data and agricultural statistics. Speakers reviewed how the nature of data collection and use is changing with federal budget cuts. The Farm Foundation, President Dr. Neil Conklin moderated the panel. Speakers included: Dr. Joseph J. Prusacki, Director, Statistics Division of USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service; Mr. Paul Hughes of Nestle Purina PetCare; Mr. Jim Robb of the Livestock Marketing Information Center; and Mr. Mark Seetin of the U.S. Apple Association. Nearly 200 individuals registered for the webinar, ranging in background from agricultural industry members, media, state government employees, federal government employees, congressional staff, and academia.

#### [Future Feed Patterns for U.S. Livestock and Poultry](#)

**December 14, 2012, co-sponsored by USDA Econ. Group and AFIA**

C-FARE and the USDA Economist Group sponsored a seminar which addressed developments in the biofuels and crops sectors which are linked to recent changes in patterns of livestock and poultry production, and potential future directions for the animal agriculture and feed industries. Speakers included: Dr. Dan O'Brien - Associate Professor, Kansas State University; Mr. Joel G. Newman, American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) President and CEO; Dr. Harry Baumes, Director of the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, USDA Office of the Chief Economist; and Dr. Jennifer K. Bond, Research Economist, Crops Branch, Markets and Trade Economics Division, USDA Economic Research Service.

*The C-FARE Business Office continues to work with partners from other disciplines in a variety of ways to best represent the applied economics profession in matters of federal science policy and budget determination.*

## 2012 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 and we appreciate their leadership and support on behalf of the profession.

### 2012 Board Members

*(for more information on our board members, please click on their affiliation)*

Damona Doye

*Chair*

[Oklahoma State University](#)

Roger Coupal

*Vice-Chair*

[University of Wyoming](#)

Steven Kraft

*Secretary-Treasurer*

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[Mississippi State University](#)

Parke Wilde

[Tufts University](#)

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## C-FARE's 2012 Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors for supporting C-FARE's operations and programs.



The **Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Trust** (Trust) is the non-profit fundraising arm of AAEA. The Trust supports the work of agricultural and applied economists by funding programs and initiatives designed to advance the profession. <http://www.aaea.org/trust>



**CHS Foundation** is the major giving entity of CHS, an energy, grains and foods company. [www.chsfoundation.org](http://www.chsfoundation.org)



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>



**IFEEDER** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to sustaining the future of food and feed production through education and research. IFEEDER broadly represents the feed industry, including representation from academia, and experts in science and technology. [www.ifeeder.org](http://www.ifeeder.org)



The USDA **National Agricultural Statistics Service** provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics and information in service to U.S. agriculture. [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



The purposes and objectives of the **Southern Agricultural Economics Association** shall be to foster the study and understanding of agricultural economics and its applications to problems in the Southern United States; to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with those problems; to promote improvement in the professional competence and standards of members; to cooperate with other organizations and institutions engaged in similar or related activities; and to increase the contribution of agricultural economics to human welfare. [www.saea.org](http://www.saea.org)

## Departments of Agricultural Economics

Arkansas State University  
California Polytechnic State University  
Colorado State University  
Cornell University  
Iowa State University  
Kansas State University  
Michigan State University  
Mississippi State University  
New Mexico State University  
North Carolina State University  
North Dakota State University  
Oklahoma State University  
Purdue University  
Rutgers University  
South Dakota State University  
Southern Arkansas University  
Southern Illinois University  
Tarleton State University  
Texas A&M University

Texas Tech University  
The Ohio State University  
University California-Berkeley  
University of Arkansas  
University of Connecticut  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Idaho  
University of Illinois  
University of Kentucky  
University of Maine  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
University of Wyoming  
Utah State University  
Virginia Tech

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