

For Immediate Release

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NORTH CAROLINA SCIENTISTS VISIT NATION'S CAPITOL FOR CONGRESSIONAL VISITS

Improving Research Opportunities for our Nation's Future

WASHINGTON, DC – April 21-22, 2010 marked the fifth annual Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM) and Biological and Ecological Science Coalition (BESC) Congressional Visits Day Event (CVD). The event called for increased federal investment in research at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program. The event was attended by more than 30 scientists and leaders from a variety of organizations who met in our Nation's Capitol for briefings with Administration officials and Congressional leaders and staff.

Dr. Jon Brandt (Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at NC State and Chair of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics - C-FARE) and Brian Farkas (Professor of Food Engineering and Associate Department Head at NC State and member of the Institute of Food Technologists - IFT) participated in the event which stressed the need for Congress to increase and balance federal investment in research and development that is essential to U.S. global leadership.

Each office visit highlighted the role research fills in many voids including issues associated with our national security, food supply, and the nation's health. Participants emphasized that research is an investment for the future, not simply a current expense. Member offices visited included the following offices from the North Carolina delegation: Congressman David Price (NC-4th); Congressman Bob Etheridge (NC-2nd); Senator Richard Burr (NC); Senator Kay Hagan (NC); as well as the offices of Congressman J. Gresham Barrett (SC-3rd); Congressman John Tanner (TN-8th); Senator Lamar Alexander (TN); Senator Lindsey Graham (SC); Senator Bob Corker (TN); and Senator Jim DeMint (SC).

C-FARE is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the application of economics to food, agricultural and resource issues at the national level. IFT is a nonprofit scientific society whose long-range vision is to ensure a safe and abundant food supply contributing to healthier people everywhere. As members of CoFARM, both groups are one of 21 scientific societies committed to advancing and sustaining investment in our nation's fundamental and applied agricultural research.

(photos available)



(Picture from left to right) Ms. Kim Crews (Reelfoot Lake Research and Teaching Center and member OBFS), Dr. Mary Beck (Clemson University and member of the Poultry Science Association), Congressman David Price (NC-4), Dr. Jon Brandt (NC State University Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and member of The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics), Brian Farkas (NC State University Department of Food Science and member of Institute of Food Technologists)

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