

ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)
Monthly Conference Call
January 19, 2012
NOTES

Attending:

Mike Hoffman
Arlin Leholm
Mike Harrington
Lee Sommers
Dan Rossi
Eric Young
Abel Ponce de Leon
Hunt Shipman
Steve Pueppke

1. Communications and Marketing Meeting with Extension - Arlen Leholm

ESCOP and ECOP partnered for the first two years of the marketing and communications effort. Then, ECOP decided not to participate for a year. Now that ESCOP has switched firms to kglobal and switched strategies, ECOP has renewed interest in participating as a paying partner.

A meeting was held on Friday, January 13 2012 with members of the ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee, kglobal, Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone) and representatives from Extension to explore the possibility of Extension joining in the communications/marketing effort with ESCOP, using kglobal and Cornerstone. Kglobal gave a presentation on the current strategy. The goal (to influence key members of Congress and compliment what Cornerstone is doing) won't change if Extension comes on board.

Lee Sommers reported that ECOP has had positive discussions about joining this effort. They will be making a formal request for a joint proposal from kglobal. There will be a need for detailed operating procedures and a small coordinating group to be the main point of contact with kglobal. Kglobal will write a new proposal and submit that jointly to ECOP and ESCOP for approximately \$400,000 (\$200,000 each) for a new 3 year effort. Both ECOP and ESCOP would vote on the new proposal.

2. Budget Outlook – Hunt Shipman, Cornerstone

The President's budget will be coming out the first week in February. The Budget Advocacy Meeting (BAC) will meet the next day. This will be leading up to the AHS/CARET meeting taking place during the last week in February. Few details are out. The budget will be fairly austere; not expecting huge increases to be proposed, but also don't expect severe cuts.

Looking ahead to 2013, and what happens when the automatic sequestrations occur. Fairly soon, OMB will release the accounts that will be affected by this across the board sequestration that is occurring because the Congressional Super-Committee did not yield any

product last December. Numbers rumored now are approximately \$15 billion from USDA, but it is not clear how that will be applied. Certain programs, like food stamps, will likely be exempt, but there are other programs that the administration may decide to hit disproportionately. Also, Congress is expected to change the rules regarding the sequestration before they kick in in January 2013. Cornerstone will monitor this situation in addition to the regular appropriations process.

Hunt Shipman met with Senate Agriculture Committee staff today and talked about what they are hearing on the Farm Bill. There is no clear sense of how Sen. Stabenow will proceed. The House would like to see the Senate make the first move because they fear any bill they pass will languish there. No hearings are scheduled yet, but they are expected in February and March. The framework will likely bear a strong resemblance to that proposed by Sen. Stabenow to the Super Committee.

3. Update from the Budget and Legislative Committee/ESCOP Priorities for 2013 – Mike Harrington

Steve Slack met by phone with the ECOP BLC and the Directors of the Rural Development Centers. There was some discussion about the Rural Development Centers and where they are located in the budget. They are currently located in the integrated portion of the budget. Consensus in that call was that we should take steps to protect that line by moving it under the Extension umbrella. This will be discussed with the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Affairs Committee next week. Recommendations from the Budget and Legislative Affairs Committee and ESCOP will be taken to the BAC meeting, February 7-8, 2012.

At the BAC meeting in Washington DC, focus will be on the President's budget and reaffirming priorities for 2013. The BAC has moved away from seeking out programmatic priorities for AFRI. Have also talked about how to align the BAC with what Science and Technology are doing. Priority for 2013 is to preserve capacity funding with Hatch, Evans-Allen, and McIntire-Stennis and support AFRI. The survey on the Roadmap Priorities is complete (there were 53 respondents) and was reported on in Estes Park and will be reported on at the Budget and Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting next week.

Consolidation of lines is in keeping with discussions about the RDLs. Meryl Broussard and Kathy Wotecki previously identified this as a way to reduce administrative costs of running individual small programs. Hunt Shipman reported that there is pressure on the integrated lines came from consolidation on both the Extension and Research sides of the ledger. There is likely to be continued pressure to do this. If the Rural Development Center proposal goes forward, it would have been the last remaining program in the integrated line out on its own. Consolidation will be discussed by the BAC at their upcoming meeting.

4. Program Themes for the Joint COP's Session/ESS Meeting - Mike Hoffman, Dan Rossi

Its ESCOPs turn to develop the program for the summer joint meeting. Mike Hoffman was approached by APLU with the idea of doing a program on international education and incentivizing faculty to do more international work. Mike and Dan feel that this is too focused on the international realm.

They are looking for ideas from ESCOP. Dan is organizing a conference call with all of the incoming COP chairs. also getting ideas from the ECOP chairs. Past programs have included:

- 2008: Launching the Systems Communication and Marketing Plan
- 2009: A New Era—Implementing the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008
- 2010: NIFAs Mission and Role in Global Food Security
- 2011: Innovative Resource, Sharing Strategies

Ideas proposed by the group included:

- Revisiting communications and marketing (since it has changed significantly). Could do this overlapping with Extension if they come on board. Maybe look at a different strategy that includes marketing to a broader audience? Might be a topic better suited to a joint ESCOP/ECOP session.
- State/federal research funding—strengthening public-private collaborations to support all of our missions, including strengthen the collaboration with ARS.
- 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act (a keystone to our advocacy efforts on funding for this year). What are the products of the last 150 years of the Act and what are the challenges/strategies/opportunities for the next 150 years. This is also a theme for a joint meeting of the North-Central and North-East regions joint meeting this summer, but doesn't overlap enough to preclude doing it. Partnerships could be wrapped into this topic, as one strategy for strengthening and growing the mission. Might be a good topic to both celebrate progress and look forward.

5. Ideas about the ESS meeting in September

Mike Hoffman presented a few ideas for the focus of the ESS meeting in September:

- How are we addressing the next generation of faculty? Already encountering a shift away from applied research (toward basic research). Is that a national trend?
- Return to 1-2 roadmap ideas and see what progress has been made, what else needs to be done.
- Food security is coming up over and over as a global issue and is a nexus of water, agriculture, and climate change. Could also emphasize food safety as a component of food security.

Intend to advance program development at each CAC call, get additional input as the program is developed. .

6. National C-FAR membership for 2012 - Lee Sommers, Nancy Cox

Nancy has been representing the BAA on the C-FAR. BAA is not a formal member of C-FAR and so she has asked to invite Tom Van Arsdale to join the ESCOP meeting in Washington DC at the end of February to provide an update on National C-FAR.

Several people indicated that National C-FAR is a good investment for increasing visibility on The Hill and providing stakeholder perspective.

The group was in favor of having Tom Van Arsdale included on the agenda.

Nancy has been representing the BAA to National C-FAR because the Policy Board asked her to. Nancy wants to suggest to ESCOP that some of the other sections might chip in. This will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming ESCOP meeting. However, if the other sections pay, they might want to rotate the representative, so it might be worth paying the entire amount in order to retain Nancy. The group was in favor of retaining their membership separately in order to retain Nancy for as long as she's willing. Membership renewal will be presented to the Executive Committee at the upcoming ESCOP meeting as an action item.

Mike Harrington sent around a letter regarding National C-FAR.

7. Upcoming ESCOP Meeting during CARET-AHS Meeting - Lee Sommers, Mike Harrington

Mike asked for input on the agenda. The meeting will be held on Monday, so people would need to come in on Sunday. Mike Harrington reviewed the overall agenda for Monday. The group discussed when to hold their meeting on Monday Elected to hold the ESCOP meeting from 8:00-11:30, with the possibility of going later if time is needed. *Mike Harrington will prepare a draft agenda and send that out.*

We have a commitment on a meeting room at the hotel.

Mike Harrington will send out information about the meeting location/hotel, etc. Registration for the whole AHS/CARET meeting will be \$500 but they typically have individual tickets available for the Sunday reception. Mike Harrington will send out information about registration/reception as well. Eddie would like advance notice about those wanting to attend the Sunday reception.

8. Other

NIFA. Lee reported on a meeting he, Mike Harrington and Sarah Lupis had with Meryl Broussard at NIFA last week in Washington DC. Discussed some of the issues that have come up about reporting and financial payments from NIFA. Meryl is aware of these issues and working on them. He encouraged everyone to make him aware when those kinds of issues come up.

ESCOP Representation on USDA Committee on Plant Issues. Last summer, ESCOP nominated Lee to be the representative from the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee to the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council on plant issues that USDA has reactivated—it was an old committee that had been inactive for a number of years. Lee was notified last week that he was not selected for that committee. The Coordinating Committee needs to follow up as to what role ESCOP would have in that USDA advisory committee. Appointments were made at the Secretary's level.

Panel on Strengthening the Partnership, National Admin Officers Meeting, Morgantown WV. The organizing committee has requested that the research EDs serve on a panel discussion about strengthening the partnership between USDA-NIFA and ESCOP. Mike Harrington was asked to take the lead in helping to put together this panel. Mike explained that he is not comfortable with this approach. He feels a director or two should be

included. Mike also learned that Meryl Broussard (NIFA), Chavonda Jacobs-Young (NIFA) and he were assigned by Kathy Wotecki to address the principals of an effective partnership between USDA-NIFA and ESCOP. *The other EDs were asked to give this some thought. Mike Harrington will arrange a conference call to discuss this further for early next week.*

ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)
Monthly Conference Call
February 16, 2012
NOTES

Attending:

Jerry Arkin
Lee Sommers
Sarah Lupis
Abel Ponce de Leon
Jim Richards
Arlen Leholm
Dan Rossi
Hunt Shipman
Eric Young

1. President's Budget Proposal - Jim Richards

The President's FY2013 Budget includes a net increase of \$21 million for the NIFA line. Special Research Grants were zeroed out as were Capacity Building Grants and the Policy Research Program.

The budget includes a new Crop Protection line which rolls all the IPM programs from research, extension, and integrated activities into a new much larger Crop Protection line. NIFA is looking to work with ESCOP and stakeholders to make updates and changes to the IPM program to take a more holistic approach.

Future discussions could include moving the Food and Ag Defense Initiative and Organic Transition into appropriate respective extension accounts. Water Quality program was zeroed out so our goal will be to get them restored and located in a different account outside of integrated activities.

There was a call this afternoon with the IR4 group; Mike talked to them this morning because there is some concern with the proposal. Jim shared some of the budgetary realities with the BAC group this morning and emphasized the danger of not working together on priorities. He also described how program administration might change with having one consolidated line. Programs on individual lines are not protected from cuts or changes in managed—nothing in the funding mechanism protects them; however there seems to be a perception that they were protected when they stand alone. Mike, Steve, Tim, Robin Shepard and Rick Clooney are working together to have internal discussions with the regional pest management centers about how to move forward on the proposal.

The National UVB Monitoring was funded last year as part of the Special Research Grant line and this year it is zeroed out. Elimination of this and two other earmarks contributed to the AFRI increase.

Mike and Steve are working on information requirements for marketing documents/talking points. The entire BAA advocacy package will go out by COB tomorrow. The House Appropriations Committee deadline for all the subcommittee members to submit their priorities is March 20th. Even before CARET/AHS meets, we will start asking members to support our programmatic priorities.

2. Upcoming ESCOP Meeting – EDs

The group indicated that the draft agenda seems very inclusive and well defined for Monday, February 27th.

Mike Hoffman wants to initiate discussion about the ESS meeting and the Joint COPS meeting agendas.

Arlen explained the agenda item related to the Growing the Bioeconomy Conference: Ian Maw is leading a group that is putting on a Bioenergy Conference that deals with a wide range of issues. This year, that conference is being held at Banff in Alberta, Canada. Each country is putting up some money for student scholarships. ESCOP will be approached about making a relatively small contribution to that effort so that more graduate students can attend. Arlen indicated that this is a very good conference and encouraged all of the ESCOP leadership to attend.

Cornerstone is down for a 10:10 am update. At 10:20 am Cornerstone is on the CARET/AHS meeting agenda. Hunt requested to present earlier—perhaps to switch spots with Meryl. *Lee will follow up with Meryl to see if that fits his schedule. Meryl agreed to present his update at 10:10am.*

Eric will update a handout for CARET that explains ESS and ESCOP and will send it out for review.

3. Communication and Marketing Committee Update—Jerry Arkin

Jerry gave an update of the ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee. Kglobal has submitted a new proposal for joint ESCOP-ECOP work. The new proposal generally expands the existing effort and includes a new web site. The Committee is meeting on Sunday, February 26th to discuss the new proposal and make plans for how a joint-effort might be implemented. There will hopefully be a formal vote to proceed with this partnership at the ESCOP meeting.

ESCOPE Chairs Advisory Committee (CAC)

Monthly Conference Call, 03/15/12

NOTES

Participants:

Mike Hoffman
Dan Rossi
H. M. Harrington
Gerald Arkin
Arlen Leholm
Abel Ponce de Leon
Steve Pepke
Lee Sommers
Carolyn Brooks
Bill Ravlin

Mike Harrington spoke to Jim Richards earlier today. He was asked to remind the group that deadlines are March 20th for the House and March 30th for the Senate and to get requests in.

Mike Harrington walked the group through the Crop Protection white paper. The President's budget proposed to consolidate budget lines and create a new Crop Protection Program at \$29 million. Over \$8.5 million have been lost from important crop protection-related programs. Meryl has suggested that this is an opportunity to build a program from the ground up.

The issue is that there are some stakeholders/groups/people who don't see themselves in this new program.

ESCOPE has supported the notion of consolidation but with the caveat that program integrity would be maintained.

Take home messages:

- Planning needs to be done with stakeholders and others. A working group is proposed to do this. Proposed that these programs be implemented in 2013 in the same manner as they are in 2012 to allow for more thoughtful planning to occur.
- All of the stakeholders have heard different stories. IR4 heard they'd have to charge indirect costs for their programs. Now, their stakeholder group has mounted a mass-campaign to contact representatives and senators to set the IR4 program aside from the Crop Protection Program. www.saveir4.org. Steve Slack and Mike Harrington tried at length to stop this independent effort, to no avail.

Dan Rossi reported that the IR4 folks met last week with NIFA for 1.5 hours. The problem is that NIFA had no explanation other than this is how to save our programs, there were no assurances from NIFA.

Dan doesn't think the meeting helped the situation. The commodity people were not convinced to buy into the consolidation. IR4 is not willing to lose \$3-4 million in indirect costs. They are willing to talk to ESCOP, but are not willing to gamble until they have something more concrete. They have a strong case in that there are no assurances that IR4 will be protected and they feel that it is a critical program for their commodities. They feel they are being asked to sacrifice to protect IPM, a program they don't find as valuable. They have and will continue to argue for a separate line. They have a lot of people signing on in support on their web site. A lot of the commodity organizations and others as well.

IR4, Extension IPM, the IPM Pipe, and the Regional IPM Grants Programs have been very effective and are all listed as things that should be continued into the future in the White Paper. In a recent meeting with USDA IPM folks, it seems that they are more interested in writing RFAs and that as a result, they couldn't collaborate on developing the new Crop Protection Program. Mike feels there is still room for a joint work-group on this. Meryl seems receptive to this idea. The USDA-IPM folks felt that some of the regional multistate programs need to be better connected. Jim and Hunt (Cornerstone) suspect that IR4 funds will probably be cut if they go off on their own line; it doesn't necessarily matter how strong your stakeholder group is in this budget environment.

The White Paper was reviewed by the Budget and Legislative Committee. Some Extension Directors are upset at a change from formula funds to a grant situation. In one state, they had lost 40% of the IPM funds for extension. There may be other states that gained funds.

Next Steps:

- The White Paper has gone to the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee asking that it will be considered "adopted" by Monday. There were no comments from the ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee.
- Candidates to serve on the workgroup need to be identified. The group will identify a single-line program and funding level. It is not clear how the committee will be formed, exactly. Mike has a list of people who could and would be willing to serve on the committee. Extension will also be recommending some people. The IR4 commodity folks have expressed some concern about IR4 representation on the committee. Would prefer to keep committee membership to roughly 20 people—the pros to a smaller group are that they can more effectively get things done, but a smaller group may not be as trusted as a larger, more representative one. NIFA people would be encouraged to participate.
 - Frank and Meryl need to provide some leadership for the formation of this work group to ensure that the outcomes will be taken seriously by NIFA and that members feel empowered.
 - IR4 is not likely to stop the efforts of their commodity stakeholders. Their participation on the group is unclear. They will still be invited to participate.
 - Mike distributed a list of possible names via email during the call. The EDs will review this list and share a final one with ESCOP CAC for review and comment.
- Resource needs for the programs need to be identified.

- There will be several Listening Sessions in the next couple of weeks, but they are not likely to cover any broad-scale discussions. Mike Harrington may attend the one in Memphis.
- Mike sent an agenda brief to all of the EDs for use at spring meetings.
- Mike will contact Frank and let the group know what he's thinking.

Contingency Plan for the remaining programs if IR4 separates? Extension has proposed "Integrated Crop Protection" as a name.

Roadmap Survey

The survey was completed. The top two priorities could be used as input for the AFRI program. Water is embedded in a lot of what was written about and it was also separated out as a set objective. Because of that, it got diluted. Water is one of several things that transcends the priorities. Water and some others may be written in as "cross-cutting" themes.

ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)
Monthly Conference Call
April 19, 2012
NOTES

Participants:

Jerry Arkin
Sarah Lupis
Mike Harrington
Eric Young
Dan Rossi
Jim Richards
Lee Sommers
Bill Ravlin
Steve Slack
Steve Pueppke

Summary of Actions/Follow-Up

- Lee Sommers will follow-up with Doug Steele and the EDs to develop an agenda for the afternoon section meeting to take place during the Joint COPS meeting in July, including discussion of the CAST funding request.
- Lee Sommers will follow up with Doug Steele and Jane Schuhardt to develop a communications overview session during the Joint COPS meeting.
- Ian will share the CAST budget with the group.
- The EDs will work on putting together a session on BMPs for sharing for animal agriculture research.
- Steve Slack and Barbara Allen-Diaz were recommended to the Executive Committee for approval as ESCOP representatives to the PDB—approval to be handled electronically; Mike Harrington and Lee Sommers will facilitate this.

Agenda:

1. Update on planning for the Joint COPS Summer Meeting, Savannah, GA. July 25-26 Marriott Riverfront Savannah GA - Dan Rossi

- The theme for the meeting is “Moving the Morrell Act into the Future”
- Session 1—renewing partnership with USDA. Kathy Woteki has been asked to speak about the committee that is working on the LGU-NIFA partnership. There will be a response panel made up of COPS leadership, followed by Q&A.
- Session 2—strengthening private-public collaborations. Panel that includes representatives from Monsanto, the Environmental Defense Fund, and 1-2 other groups. Again there will be a response panel (not sure who this will be) and Q&A.
- Response Panels: Have discussed having current leadership for one panel and incoming leadership for another. Welcome to suggestions about who should serve on response panels.
- Allowed time after the joint session for Cornerstone update, policy board update, NIFA update. Section meetings would happen in the afternoon—there will be about 2 hours allotted for this. Lee will follow-up with Doug Steele and the EDs to develop an agenda.

a. AHS request for joint session topic at the Joint COPS meeting: Overview of the various marketing/communications efforts that exist now and determine if there is, or should be, any coordination and alignment of their goals and outputs - Eric Young

- This will be discussed during the joint ESCOP/ECOP session. Other COPS might be interested—AHS is. AHS would like to have a conversation about all the various efforts out there to market and promote the Land-Grant system (e.g., N-CFAR, CAST, North-Central project). They don't see any duplication of effort, but want to explore possibilities for coordination to ensure that everyone is on the same path and also to make sure there aren't any rouge groups. AHS doesn't want to take over any marketing efforts.
- No effort has been made yet to arrange for representatives from the various groups to present during this session.
- Arlen, Dan, and Eric discussed the idea of having only the COPS and AHS members in the room in order to have an honest and transparent discussion.
- CAST request was part of what precipitated this idea.
- Lee, Doug, and Jane will take the lead on this section. Lee will follow up with Doug and determine how best to move forward.

2. Farm Bill update – Cornerstone

- The speed has picked up on Farm Bill action. Senate recommendations will be released tomorrow. By Monday, amendments are due back to the committee. Mark-up will follow.
- Our CLP proposals are being treated fairly well. Process is looking good. Everything we are hoping to get is being incorporated.
- Recently announced another series of Farm Bill hearings, in Washington DC, to be held in April and May. There is no specific hearing on research. Members want to hear from constituents, not higher education.
- Still expect that there will be some form of restoration for specialty crops and organics. No details yet on how much.

3. FY2013 Budget Status – Cornerstone

- The Budget process began this week in both houses.
- Ag received a fairly generous allocation in the Senate. Ag will be marked up in the next couple of weeks by the Senate.
- Ag is not scheduled in the House until early June. They are going about a different process—less money to spend so allocations are tighter, but not likely to be treated disproportionately. A number of request letters from members have come in and this is helpful.

4. Update on Crop Protection Program - Mike Harrington

- IR-4 budget will stand alone. That leaves \$29 minus \$11.2 for the rest of crop protection. We are working towards an integrated plan, and IR-4 is included in that effort. If Special Research Grant authority is used, there will be a question of overhead costs for IR-4.
- Action needed? Important for the working group to continue to work with NIFA about what a consolidated program will look like. Neither house is likely to do what the President's budget requested. If other consolidation occurs, it is likely to be along the lines of what we've already proposed.

- The White Paper shows that about \$3 million is lost in consolidation. Why isn't that proportional across lines? Jim doesn't know why there was a reduction.
- For the Working Group, there are two important questions: 1) What should the administrative program (i.e., NIFA) look like and 2) What does the regional structure look like. Clear that a regional structure is highly preferred.
- Call tomorrow of the co-chairs, Frank Galey, Steve Slack, and Robin Shepard. A new white paper has been drafted, and a set of questions developed for each of the program areas to address. Anticipate that the questions will go out next week.

5. Request from CAST for funding (\$150,000 per year to support their efforts) - Ian Maw

- Through the policy board, a request for \$150K for CAST support has been made. Ian has requested a full budget, in order to have more information before a decision is made, but hasn't received it yet.
- The sentiment among the EDs was not positive and the Policy Board was surprised at the request.
- Lee followed up with the Agronomy Society. Soil & Crop has dropped out of CAST membership.
- It was recommended that the joint COPS discuss this in July. Lee will follow up with Doug, Mike and Jane about this as well.

6. White Paper from the Southern Region Animal Sciences Department Heads - Eric Young

- See attached
- Jim knows that a couple of animal ag groups are frustrated by the lack of funding from AFRI that goes towards animal agriculture research. They are interested in a matching fund (from industry) focused on animal science research. Discussions on how better to focus work on animal ag research, rather than "know-your-farmer-know-your-food." Cornerstone providing some quiet council to these groups.
- This same argument was used with specialty crops. The difference here is that the animal ag industry has specific check-offs.
- Directors in Eric's region felt that this was a broad and cross-functional problem, so this was sent to the ESCOP, ECOP chairs for discussion.
- A session on BMPs for sharing faculty, facilities, etc. has been proposed for the meeting in September. This would be of interest to the Directors in the other regions. The workshop will likely be focused on production animal agriculture as the programmatic focus. The Best Management Practices for sharing faculty, facilities, etc. could be applicable to other areas.
- A similar letter was circulated from Veterinary Medicine folks last year. Veterinary medicine/disease/etc. is an important aspect of the current concern.
- Lee cautioned about directing research toward only commodities; risk leaving out other important, basic research.

7. Communications and Marketing Committee update- Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm

- Making good progress, everyone is on board, with getting a scope of work, protocol for working together, and contract in place.
- Arlen and Robin Shepard were involved in developing the above.
- By this time next week will be sharing the protocol with the entire joint committee.

8. Approve Steve and Barbara as PDB nominations

- Steve is the incumbent (and eligible to hold this post again) and Barbara was the alternate.
- Steve Slack and Barbara Allen-Diaz were recommended to the Executive Committee for approval as ESCOP representatives to the PDB—approval to be handled electronically.

9. Future Meetings

- Joint COPs, Savannah GA: July 25 am ESCOP, July 25 pm joint COP session, July 26 am ESCOP/ECOP (this year will likely include all COPs)
- Experiment Station Section annual meeting: Portsmouth NH, Sept 24-26. Start with reception on Sept 24 evening, business meeting on morning of Sept 25, workshop remainder of time, and end with dinner on Sept 26
- APLU Annual Meeting: Denver CO, Nov 11-13. ESCOP typically meets on Monday pm, Nov 12th.
- CARET: Washington DC, Feb 24-27, 2013. ESCOP typically meets late Sunday pm (2/24).

CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS OF SOUTHERN ANIMAL SCIENCES CHAIRS

SAC-2 Chairs' Group

February 1, 2012

In addition to our responsibility to review the progress of Southern Region Multi-State projects, the SAC-2 group also serves in an advisory role to the Experiment Station Directors in the region. The last decade has presented a number of challenges to Land Grant institutions in the Southern Region that have the Animal Sciences chairs concerned about our ability to maintain teaching and research programs or to adequately serve our clientele in certain commodity groups. Year after year of budget cuts, retirements, inability to fill vacancies, loss of faculty positions, closing of facilities, and reallocation of resources have stretched our resources as never before. In addition, the reorganization and setting of new priorities within the USDA competitive grants program (AFRI) seems to have shifted funding away from production animal research, creating added concerns for young faculty trying to establish their research careers, as well as maintain those programs already established. For example, 6-10% of AFRI competitive grants were funded for animal production and health research. However, a minimum of 44% of U.S. farm gate income is from direct sale of animal products; a definite disparity.

With dwindling resources in most states, the need to partner with other Land Grant universities, other universities within our states, industry, or state agencies and organizations is becoming more important to sustain our missions. With the maintenance of, or increase in student enrollment in Animal Sciences coupled with decreases in faculty numbers or expertise, challenges exist in teaching the necessary courses for the major.

We would like to express our concerns as outlined above and enlist support in addressing the following:

1. The need to expand the AFRI funding for production animal research that is more in line with the impact of animal industries on the economy in the region and nationally.
2. Assist departments and faculty in addressing and/or removing barriers to collaboration in teaching or sharing courses among states.
3. The need to initiate, continue or enhance Extension collaborations among states.
4. The need to share research facilities and/or resources.
5. Provide appropriate training of professionals to address societal issues such as:
 - Global hunger
 - Ensuring a competitive, secure food supply
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Food safety
 - Nutrient management

We appreciate your consideration of these serious issues and welcome dialogue among states in the Southern Region.

ESCOP Chairs Advisory Committee (CAC)
Conference Call, 6/21/12
NOTES

Participants:

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Abel Ponce de Leon
Steve Slack

J-COPs Meeting in July: Morning joint session on Wednesday. Kathy Wotecki cannot join us, but Sonny R. will be taking her place. He'll speak about "Framing the Partnership" followed by a panel of people who participated in that effort. After that, there will be a panel of people from industry/NGOs to talk about strengthening partnerships (Monsanto, EDF, US Golf Superintendents Association). At 11am, there will be a series of reports (BAA, BAC, CLP) and then additional comments from NIFA (Sonny R., again). There is an hour for the 4 reports.

After lunch there will be a joint meeting of ESCOP and ECOP talking about marketing programs.

Should be able to finish on Wednesday, based on existing ESCOP agenda—business will be completed by 5pm on Tuesday afternoon.

Request from CASS for support will be covered in the joint session with ECOP. There has been no further discussion regarding that request. Mike Harrington and Ian Maw have spoken about it, in the context of providing complete disclosure of the budget. Mike doesn't have any clear direction about who's decision this will be.

Mike Harrington will inquire if Sonny R can replace Meryl in the ESCOP agenda.

Mike Hoffman and Dan Rossi are attempting to get remarks/powerpoints from speakers to distribute to panel to help them respond.

Budget Update: Markup of the House Ag Appropriations Bill with the full appropriations committee. Their allocation was significantly less than the FY12, while they also had demands for increased funding for special supplemental nutrition program for women and children. House allocation was \$365 million LESS than last year. Senate allocation was \$1 billion ABOVE last year's. There was a small increase in AFRI. There was no discussion or amendments related to research. They plan to take this Bill to the House floor next week. It is not known if the Senate will be able to work on this in July.

Likely to see a lot of Farm Bill amendments during the debate. Not sure if House will be able to get members to defer those amendments.

Farm Bill Update: Earlier this afternoon, the Senate completed the Farm Bill, final passage 65-35. There were no meaningful amendments. Next Step is that the house plans to take up their version of the Farm Bill with a draft release projected for tomorrow. Right now, the mark-up will be held on July 11.

Hatch and Smith Lever were down about 2%--did those numbers stay the same? Yes. Hatch is at \$231 and McIntyre-Stennis was cut to \$23.275 Evens-Allen \$49.880. AFRI went up to \$276.5.

It is still hard to say if there will be a vote before the election. Final numbers changing may depend on an after-election change when there will be a bigger discussion about the federal budget. The House took money from every other subcommittee to avoid taking money from defense in the sequestration. If that can be changed, our numbers will go up and final spending will look more like the Senate Bill.

Crop Protection Update: On the 12th, the Core Team led a conference call with members of the working group, approximately 25 people participated. Process, timeline for feedback on straw-man, and charge to generate comments on that straw-man was reviewed. Daryl and Mike Hoffman had a conversation with NIFA, discussed partnership, and NIFA emphasized the need for greater coordination and efficiency. The Working Group has been divided into subgroups. Will be checking in with subgroup leaders next week to assess status of feedback. Hope to have a final draft to the BAC by mid-July.

The IR-4 newsletter has a fairly long article on the consolidation. ***Lee will send to Sarah for inclusion in these minutes.*** The article is very strong in opposition to these consolidation efforts. Dan Rossi suggested that the article was written several weeks ago.

If this remains in the integrated account, there will be an IDC issue. Some would argue that they need to charge this to cover real costs, others feel it is money out of the budget. This could be put under the research and education line and IDC would be protected. The legislation that created these programs also specifies about whether IDC is allowed or not. This is the thing that has IR-4 very upset as well.

Committee Updates (B&L, C&M, S&T):

B&L—Nothing new to report.

C&M—the partnering with ECOP is moving swiftly and quickly. The Co-Chairs will be Jerry and Scott Reed from Oregon State University Extension. Trying to finalize an operations protocol and primarily to provide a smooth and effective way to get information between kglobal and the system so that there is minimal time delay and kglobal knows how to make contact with the states. There are 2 working groups working on different pieces of this effort—describing and diagramming the communication pathways. In the past several months, we've had some significant impact and are making a difference.

S&T: NCERA208 - Response to Emerging Threat: Soybean Rust was the national award winner. There is an effort to create a synthesis paper based on the roadmap. The committee will meet prior to the ESCOP meeting to work through a draft of that paper.

Other: The Western Region Office is hosting the national impact writer. Sara Delheimer started this week and is working on impact statement templates that will be shared with the NRSP001 Management Committee and the regional offices sometime next week. There may be an opportunity to vote online for the three choices and/or there will be an NRSP001 committee meeting to discuss the options.

Next Call: July call canceled. Next call will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2012 at 4:00 PM EST/3:00 Central Time/2:00 PM MST/1:00 PST. The call in number is 970-491-2613.