

**ESCOP Social Sciences  
Subcommittee Meeting February 3-4,  
2016  
Washington, DC**

Location  
APLU Building  
(Board Rm) 1307  
New York Avenue,  
NW Phone:  
202.478.6040  
<http://www.aplu.org>

<b>Minutes of the Meeting</b>
-------------------------------

**Members in attendance**

**Ag Communications**

Emily Buck – Ohio State Univ.  
Dwayne Cartmell – Oklahoma State Univ.  
Erica Irlbeck – Texas Tech Univ.

**Ag Econ**

Corinne Valdivia – Univ. of Missouri  
Philip Watson – Univ. of Idaho  
Matt Fannin – Louisiana State Univ.

**Human Sciences**

Tim Killian  
    subbing for Betsy Garrison - Univ. of Arkansas

**Rural Sociology**

Dreamal Worthen – Florida A&M

**Ag Education**

Harry Boone – W. Virginia Univ.  
Travis Park – North Carolina State Univ.

Mike Retallick – Iowa State Univ.  
Jack Elliot – Texas A&M Univ.

**Other Representatives Present**

Robert Nowierski - NIFA Program Leader Bio-Based Pest Management  
Louie Tupas - NIFA *Deputy Director for the Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment,*

USDA NIFA Liaisons: Aida Balsano  
Liaison to the ESCOP Science & Technology Committee: Travis Park  
ESCOP Liaison: Dan Rossi for Jeff Jacobsen, North Central Regional Association of Experiment Station Directors, Michigan State University ESCOP

**Ex-Officio (non-voting) Members:**

Regional Rural Development Centers: Mark Skidmore  
Chuck Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)  
Wendy Naus, Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Caron Gala, The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE)

### Wednesday, February 3

8:00 AM Introductions, Review of Agenda, and Review of Minutes

**Minutes approved (Jack Elliot, moved and Dreamal Worthen, second)**

**Dan Rossi**

**Provides a brief overview of committee**

**Charge of this committee -**

Recommend specific actions to help the Land-Grant system address high priority research and education issues leading to outcomes that deal with social issues in a significant, measurable way and that will generate sustained financial support.

**This committee has been extremely valuable over the years in promote better coordination among the areas of social sciences discipline, increase visibility, and increase funding opportunities for social sciences.**

**Impact includes**

1. **Science Roadmaps**
2. **The Gap Analysis of RPFs**

**Also see - <http://escop.ncsu.edu/ViewCommittees.cfm?comid=23>**

8:30 AM APLU Overview and Items on the Radar Screen

*Ms. Wendy Fink, Associate Director Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources*

**(PPT)**

Overview of APLU and some current initiatives

1. Increase degree completing and student success
2. Advancing the science

Things on the APLUs radar

1. Food is a hot topic
  - a. Urban agriculture, local food movement, Michelle Obama's focus on obesity and healthy foods
  - b. White House office of Science and Technology wants to raise the profile of agriculture so that more students are interested in working in agriculture and rural areas.
2. As is the labor force issues - attracting student so take on careers related to agriculture
  - a. National Academy next week - How do we solve the problem and actually complete the loop where we attract students, educate them and then see them succeed in careers in agriculture.

Regularly get questions about small farmers/local foods, their background and what drivers Constant message about where to get your ag background? Seeing more private, small universities being pushed as good place to get your education. e.g., centers are saying the things that some of the groups are wanting to hear.

AFRI - NIFA - don't see much focus on youth development, etc that could impact this issue.  
Higher Ed Challenge grants are more a capacity opportunity than a research line

9:00 AM Environmental Sustainability

*Dr. Robert Nowierski, National Program Leader Bio-Based Pest Management*

*USDA NIFA*

**(PPT)**

*Also joining from USDA NIFA will be Dr. Louie Tupas, Deputy Director for the Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment, Dr. Muquarrab Qureshi, Deputy Director for the Institute of Youth, Family and Community and Dr. Jeanette Thurston, Office of the Director, Science Program & Analysis Officer*

Tupas - looking at a pilot to focus on a topic across NIFA with the charge that the program leaders to identify the major topics with input from various stakeholders including

Nowierski -Pilot Science Outcome Cmte

Identify critical science priorities for environmental sustainability

Identified priority - Food loss and Waste

Aligns well with USDA and EPA; FAO discussion.

*Tupa- important to understand the human aspects around this issue and what to engage social sciences to ensure this happens which is being reinforced across all capacity building programs*

*Balsano - it's important to get this groups feedback as well as help in finding other stakeholders who need to be engaged in the conversation*

*Tupas - This is a pilot program exploring the process to identify the issues and focus on a topic to reach a convergence on 1 or 2 topics. It seems promising to use this process across NIFA.*

*Elliot - one recommendation from last year's committee - how do we stay relevant? Need to talk about steps as to how this committee can stay involved especially the communication discipline*

*Tupas - important to communicate with NIFA in a formal/semiformal basis, especially using our liaison from our committee back to NIFA. Also offer to present as part of their stakeholder presenters they invite in to learn about the issues.*

*Elliot - Aida is the liaison we need to work with. Just want to be sure this committee has a role in the process and in fact Jack has represented social sciences and provided such presentations at NIFA.*

*Park - What problem are we solving?*

*Tapus - Remove waste will keep more food in the supply chain; for every volume of food we waste, we are also wasting other resources like water, inputs, and other costs.*

*Balsano - family/individual basis- is there an income loss*

*Buck - What are we looking at funding priorities? What are we supposed to come back with when we break out?*

*Tapus - not clear within social science area what issues that we need to address - is it cultural, income levels, educational levels, generational. i.e., variables*

9:45 AM Break

10:00 AM DISCUSSION: What are the human dimensions of environmental sustainability and the related societal level impacts? *Small group discussions around family, community, industry, and policy foci*

**Questions that you want feedback on (results provided as sub-point)**

1. *Farm bill policy - What's that do with food and waste?*
  - a. *Still need some more science needed before recommendations can be provided.*
  2. *Need to know more about the demographics*
  3. *Role of institutions locally and how they impact the discussion*
    - a. *Local solutions vs global solution*
  4. *What is an optimal level of food waste? -*
  5. *Production - can use investment vehicles to help address these issue by getting Wall Street to invest in infrastructure.*
  - 6.
2. *Encourage sustainable farming practices?*
  - a. *How to you work with people to adapt; early adopters vs non-adopters*
  - b. *Profits vs traditions*
  - c. *Need a definition/consensus of "sustainability"*
  - d. *Cooperation among scientists and need to included social scientists*
  - e. *Focus on..*
    - i. *Demographics including national heritage, economics not all can afford to participate in change*
    - ii. *Define sustainability*
    - iii. *Look at changing demographic of "farmer" - local farmer's market-type that has a small footprint vs the stereotypic larger farmer/producer*
3. *Address the blemished fruit and vegetable angle?*
  - a. *Need to hone in on audiences and how to target various audiences*
    - i. *Cultural shift in last 30 years from home and family to 2 income households and its impact on family living, meals, etc.*
  - b. *Education of consumers*
    - i. *FCS and Ag Ed is missing in most local schools today, limits*
  - c. *Collaboration with such issues as obesity including portion size, etc.*
  - d. *Risk Management - repackage, repurpose and the actual cost*
  - e. *Testing of messages that resonate, the message needs to fit and be appropriate for each audience*
4. *Date label issues and what the means to the consumer?*

*Look at this from various lenses including households, business, etc.*

**Commonality as we reflection on the reporting out**

Diversity in consumers, producers, and communities, thus lack homogeneity is solving the problem.

**Continued discussion as large group**

Huge challenge between local and global

Role of social media, but don't discount radio (or what's impactful locally)

Changes in communication and marketing - new way is 2-way communication

Financial incentive for households to address food waste is relatively small.

Other issues can be convenience and health

Utilize Family and Consumer Extension staff to develop meal plans and related shopping lists

Function of economic status?

Decisions made based on cultural boundaries?

Decisions made from sellers perspective?

Change perspective to see that there is money to be made or saved as a result of sustainability

Crossover of this issue and there are lots of opportunity to work on things across agencies

11:30 AM Lunch on your own

1:00 PM Are Our Respective Disciplines Ready to Work in Environmental Sustainability and Impact Measurements?

PRESENTATIONS

National Impact Database, Jack Elliot & Scott Cummings, Texas A&M University

**(PPT)**

**Visit the site at** <https://landgrantimpacts.tamu.edu/>

State's Impact Statement Reporting training, Johanna Mitchell  
**(PPT) - eXtension is hosting the course**

Creating Impact Stories, Faith Peppers, University of Georgia

Originally developed for deans and administrators

- Has moved into a public portal as well, mainly as a tool to connect researchers
- Impact story tellers engaged and helped to determine how to share with national media
- Issue areas of ECOP and SCOP and created 1) issue sheet and 2) web stories (200-300 stories with photos) both of which link back to impact statements hoping to pull people in.
  - [Landgrantimpacts.org](http://Landgrantimpacts.org)
- At UGA, collect 800 impact statements per year but only small number gets uploaded to the national site.
  - Made them part of the reporting process for grants and then have multiple reasons for using them

*Question and answers*

*To summarize, we have 1) Training on writing, 2) Database to store them and 3) process for sharing. What is the need yet?*

*TRAINING of faculty to get high quality impact statements and plan a program with the impact in mind*

*Observed some pushback because it's viewed as an additional thing because faculty already has a lot of things to report on*

*Philosophical issue - we are public, often LG institutions and we owe it to society to share our impacts*

*Need to incorporate impact statement and writing into doctoral and post doc programs*

*"Hide our greatness within our goodness." per Jack Elliott*

**ROSSI** - *can't overstate the importance of these. Need to start at undergraduate and graduate levels and faculty must plan for the impact statement as part of the planning process.*

*What are the plans for managing the whole system, especially with differing short- and long-term impacts?*

**PEPPERS** - *It's up to the institutions to ensure the impacts are kept up to date. Often see the widest and best impacts where state data is required.*

*Database is not relational*

*There's a question as to whether or not non-LGs like Texas Tech have access and can participate in this process.*

2:00 PM DISCUSSION: *What is missing to ensure that our disciplines can document and report impacts? Small group discussions around our individual disciplines*

**Balsano**

*Need to network across all areas because impact statements are becoming prevalent across a lot of areas.*

*Trying to start an Extension Education Portal; NIFA has a role in raising the capacity and it's purpose to bring all of the impact statements to one central area. Not training of grantees or staff around impact statements; there's a need to train all of these and develop an expectation that impact statements become part of the reporting process.*

**Worthen** - *challenges in crafting the impact statements locally. Need some introductory/orientation webinars/activities to help institutions and individuals get started*

**Rossi** - *Multistate projects are also required to develop impacts, but they also have someone who develops a gloss two-pager, is uploaded to the TAMU portal, and shared with the APLU's marketing agency and the results have been huge.*

3:00 PM Break

3:15 PM How ESCOP's Science & Technology Committee Interfaces with SSSc  
Dr. Dan Rossi, Rutgers

*Few things working on as a system*

- *Budget and Legislative*
  - *Develop a process to bring initiatives forward*
    - i. *le. Water quality*
  - *Looking at transaction costs of competitive grants*
    - i. *Lower % funding and less money while more grant applicants. So what's the value to time?*
  
- *Science and Tech committee*
  - *USDA open access policy. USDA produced a statement and APLU trying to give feedback*
  - *Report just came out on antibiotic resistance and APLU looking at it*
  - *National initiative around water security (quality and quantity)*
    - i. *Need to raise the issue to the point where the public will invest in it*
    - ii. *Developed a product that identifies the areas and need for investment*
    - iii. *It's quality of life - drinkable water, ability to assist with producers, and families who want water for recreation*
  - *Science Roadmap - it had a lot of impact*
    - i. *Provided a framework for Natural Resources to do something similar*
    - ii. *Used it as a model to look at research needs*
    - iii. *Developed a futuring proposal from the next 20-15 years including the look at the structure/organization of the system*
      - 1. *Have we evolved in our decision-making process like business has?*
  - *Diversity of Research Leadership is an issue (may be less of an issue in other programs like deans, academic programs, etc)*
    - i. *Need for a study to explore issues/barriers*
      - 1. *Have some cultural barriers - P&T process*
      - 2. *Some development plan at local institutions and LEAD21 but nothing nationally, especially for USDA , NIFA, etc.*
    - ii. *Definitely don't have a plan for the future*
    - iii. *Suggestion used by American Evaluation Association - Coffee Break Webinars*
  
- *How do we do this in a better fashion than just coming to our meeting and dumping all of this?*
  - *Need better, ongoing communication and discussion*
  - *Also need to be utilize our liaison back to the Science and Technology Committee*
  - *Goal is to see how this group can be a better resource for the system because when they have, its been effective*

### **Cartmell**

*Hope we don't lose the impact of the visual message related to the impact. This is a huge element.*

4:30 PM Officer Elections (Vice Chair)

- After 2016 meeting, Mike Retallick will assume the chair (2017 and 2018)

- Chair-elect/Secretary- 2 years (2017-18) and then chair 2019- and 2020 - Travis Park
- Liaison to Technology and Science Committee - Dwayne Cartmell
- Executive Committee - chair, chair-elect, and past-chair plus liaison from Science and Tech Cmte
- Suggestion to add an at-large position to join the Exec Cmte, specifically Dreamal Worthen, be sure to include diversity

#### Reflection/Implications/Next Steps

Jack - it is evident that we are making a difference and we can be a catalyst for change

Dreamal - National impact data base and how to strengthen it

Harry - leadership issue and then the sustainability discussion

Mike - Iceberg, common themes around impact and sustainability, impact statements beyond just land-grants

Tim - Food loss and waste and related issues and ability to stress to a broader social science discipline as well as how we fit into the discussion

Dwayne - fits in with the discussion about message testing and aligns with the Ag Comm discipline and what they are discussing; the walls separating research teaching and service.

Emily - Grants now require that they have a teaching and leadership portion within them. We know have a responsibility to follow through

Erica - "opened my eyes" See where we can be useful in the process

Aida - different entry points for social sciences into the NIFA programming; we all bring different perspectives. NIFA is struggling with the same issues and needs that APLU, specifically Science and Technology committee are facing

Philip - glad to see that sustainability is coming back into vogue again.

Mark - 40% food lost was shocking along with the discussion around it. Benefits of the two-way street that occurs as a result of the discussions around the table today.

Matt - Wendy's statement of seven years to get it through the system and a need to take a serious look at the LG system to be more nimble.

Dan - Encouraged that NIFA came to the group with a message about where they were going and asking about some feedback before it's finalized.

Corinne - discussion of sustainability, impacts, and diversity (things that I've worked on all the time) but seeing different perspectives. And, how do we continue the conversation throughout the year?



David - Disruptive Innovation; two-way communication. The world has changed and what/how can we disrupt it all to meet the needs of a digital age. As a matter of fact, what we discussed today aren't new problems and we need to continue.

5:00 PM Adjourn  
(Dinner on your own)

### **Wednesday, February 4**

8:00 AM Meeting Reflections/Observations/Housekeeping Items

- Possibility of making Hill visits, dependent on university policy
- Work more closely with Science and Tech Committee, this committee often serves as a model/pilot of good things
- Some disciplines are not very well represented. Budget issues and priorities are issues. Possible grant commitments that have limited F&A funds, etc.
- Comment phase of for grant proposal
- Panels need discipline diversity - some feed back that "Ag Comm is not a discipline"

8:30 AM Caron Cala, *Executive Director*  
*The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE)*  
(PPT)

*Update of what has taken place over the past year was shared.*  
*Has a YouTube Channel if you wish to stay connected and learn more*

*Hill briefings, partnerships with various organizations, webinars, symposia and workshops*  
*With every event, they have congressional visits (but no lobbying with the visits)*

9:00 AM Chuck Fluharty, President and CEO et al  
*Rural Policy Research Institute*

Joslin - Health and Humans Services

2 main challenges, both early stages of development and don't know policy issues yet.

- Opiate and substance abuse
- Changes in hospital and health care system

Matt- Analytics and academic programs

Four elements

- Micropolitan
  - Umbrella for understanding the place of policy geographies standpoint
- Wealth creation
  - Focus on wealth as a driving force in returns on quality of life in rural locations
- Social mobility

- Mobility of upper and lower of families in rural areas and counties
- International
  - Work with OECD, USDA to help facilitate conference in Memphis.

Chuck

Blessed to have a diversity of scholars

Several vexing issues

- Next generation of scholars and scholarships
  - Use relationship with USDA to have discussion
- Scale, capacity, and rural/urban interphase is crucial
  - And currently we are in the wrong end of that work
  - Look at depth of education, inclusiveness and diversity of human system, interactions of a society for a place to live

9:30 AM Wendy Naus, Executive Director  
*Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)*

**(PPT)**

Julia - here as well because she focuses on the ag-related issues

*Concerns raised by COSSA directly tie with the impact discussions we've had. Impact statements are extremely important to share*

People aren't going to seek out academic experts, although that's what where they go for their information, thus we really need share the impacts publicly.

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM Summary Discussion/Implications/Next Steps/SSSc business 11:00 pm  
 Adjourn

Jack looked into who is associated with **Visit the site at** <https://landgrantimpacts.tamu.edu/> and currently it is only for LG. Scott Cummings suggested the we go through ECOP and SCOP to start making the change because we need as many impacts as possible for support

Erica suggested there is need to provide visuals with the impact statements as part of the communication because that is what resonates with stakeholders.

Rossi - the database is just a database and only concerned that it is public and quite often people are using it to try to find something wrong.

K- Global should be invited to present/talk about what they are doing. Check with Jeff or Dan to get contact information. They present at many of the other meetings.

Need to have a broader conversation about requiring impact statements as part of grant funding, in so far as, a portion of the grant is required to put a portion of the funds toward developing impact statements.

Environmental sustainability  
Workforce development  
Impact statements.

May need to meet a little more often, look at slack or coffee break to continue the conversation

Need to build the longitudinal impact

Workforce development - access, diversity, preparation of workforce. Need address race and ethnicity

- problems approaches

- Best practices and how to leverage this for a broader audience
- Look at latest 5 year USDA projection, there is a deficit
  
- Always emerging opportunities in agriculture
- Ag brand isn't that appealing to young people.

Interest to have ongoing discussion with technology.

- Look at opportunities. Qualtrics

Jack - next steps

- Visiting scholars etc are important and there is interest by partners to help
- Revisit the committee structure
  - Is it possible to add a fifth discipline - Ag Leadership
  - Process - submit the proposal through Jeff
- Many of the issues that we face, we (as a profession) are late to the game
  - NCA-24 - we are 24th of 24 in line as an organized body

David Doerfert was recognized as for his leadership and dedication to the committee.

Discussion on executive committee. -

Will included chair, chair-elect, and past-chair plus liaison from Science and Tech Cmte

- Suggestion to add an at-large position to join the Exec Cmte, specifically Dreamal Worthen, be sure to include divers
  - Approved by the committee - moved by Elliott and second by Park

# ESCOP Social Sciences Subcommittee Meeting

Wendy Fink, Associate Director for Food Agriculture  
and Natural Resources



# What is APLU?

- 235 University & University System Members
- Three Pillars
  - Increasing degree completion and student success
  - Advancing scientific research
  - Expanding engagement



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Project Degree

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# 2015 APLU Annual Meeting

*Delivering the Future*

More than 1,400 leaders from public higher education came to Indianapolis this year for the 2015 APLU Annual Meeting. View the opening video; read APLU's op-ed on inclusiveness and free speech; get information on the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science; watch videos of the 2015 Magrath Awards Finalists; read APLU news that came out of the meeting; and register early for 2016.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Annual Meeting Recap

- Access & Diversity
- Accountability & Transparency
- Agriculture, Human Sciences, & Natural Resources
- College Costs, Tuition, & Financial Aid
- Degree Completion
- Economic Development & Community Engagement
- International Programs
- Learning With Technology
- Research, Science, & Technology
- STEM Education
- Urban Initiatives



2015 APLU Annual Meeting

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Focused on increasing degree completion, advancing research, and expanding economic impact.

**Screenshot Added**  
A screenshot was added to your APLU IT

DECEMBER 18, 2015  
APLU Statement on Congressional Passage of Tax Extender Bill

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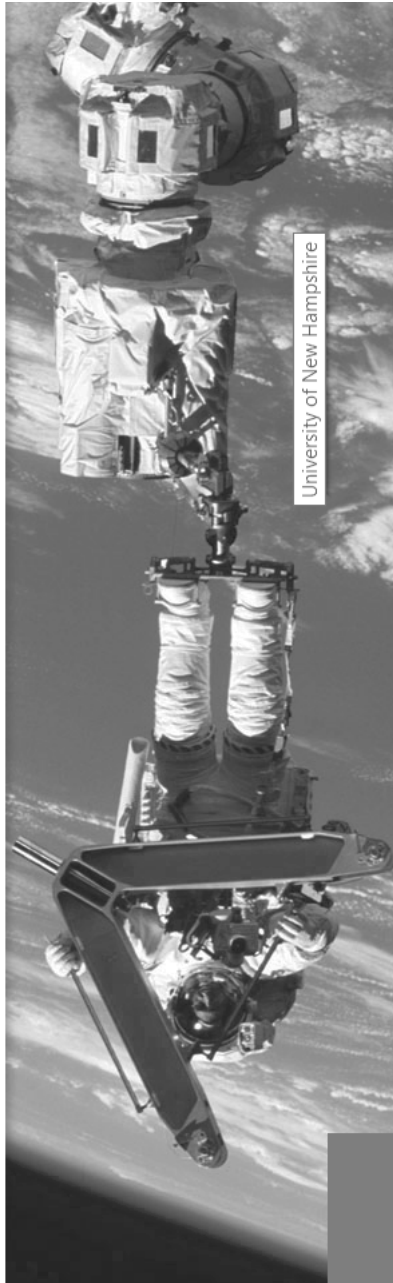




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CFERR Organizational Chart

CFERR Rules of Operation

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## Commission on Food, Environment & Renewable Resources (CFERR)

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- Administrative Heads Section
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- International Agriculture Section (IAS)
- CARET
- Non-land-grant Agriculture and Renewable Resources Universities (NARRU)

### Board on Human Sciences

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## Board on Agriculture Assembly

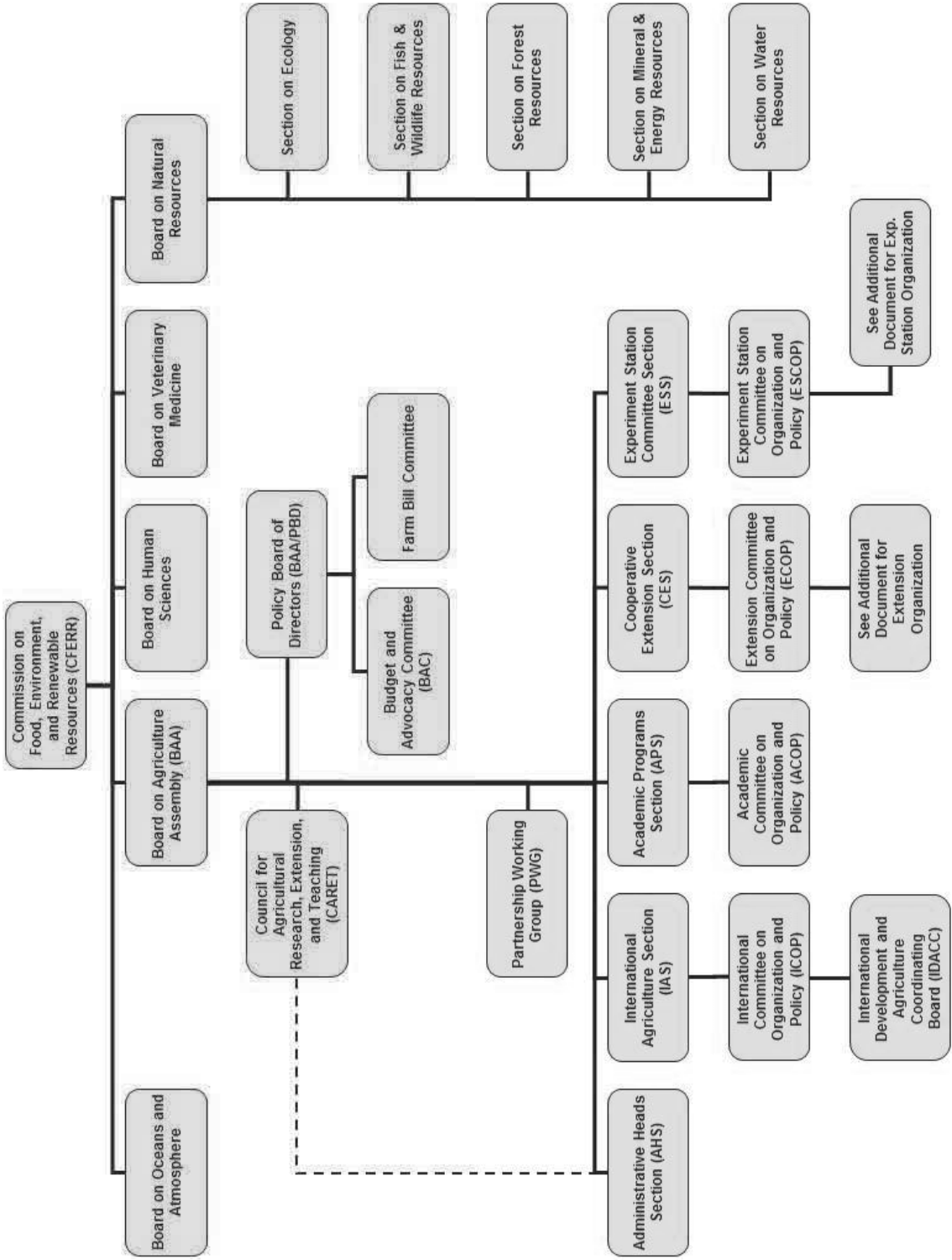
The Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) is a unit of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources (CFERR). The purpose of the BAA is the promotion of agriculture in all of its phases (food, environment, agriculture, natural resources, and international) in the state universities and land-grant colleges of the states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the territories of the Pacific, and the U. S. Virgin Islands.

The BAA is comprised of the following sections: Academic Programs Section; Administrative Heads Section; Cooperative Extension Section; Experiment Station Section; and, the International Agriculture Section.

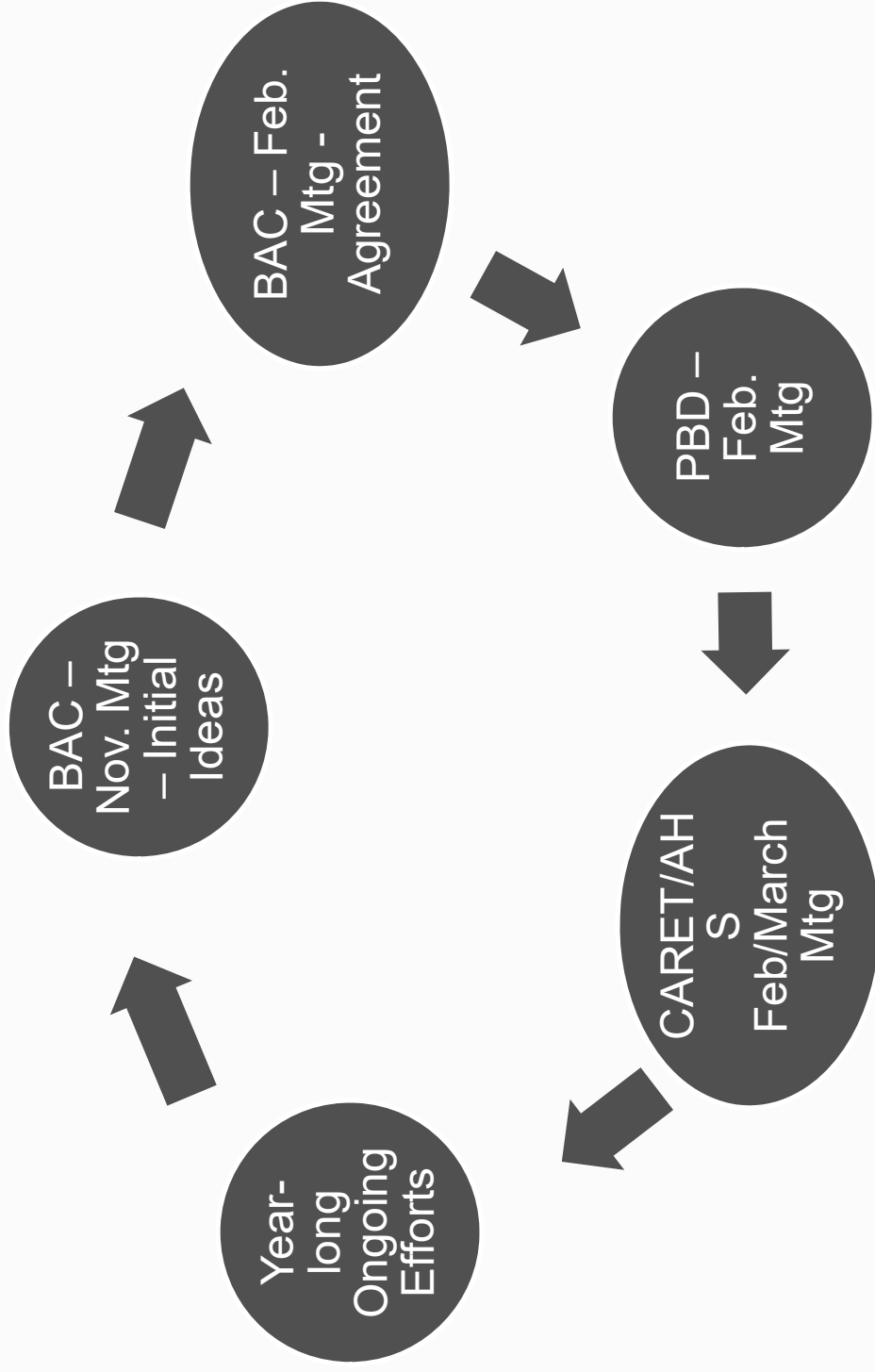


Meetings & Events

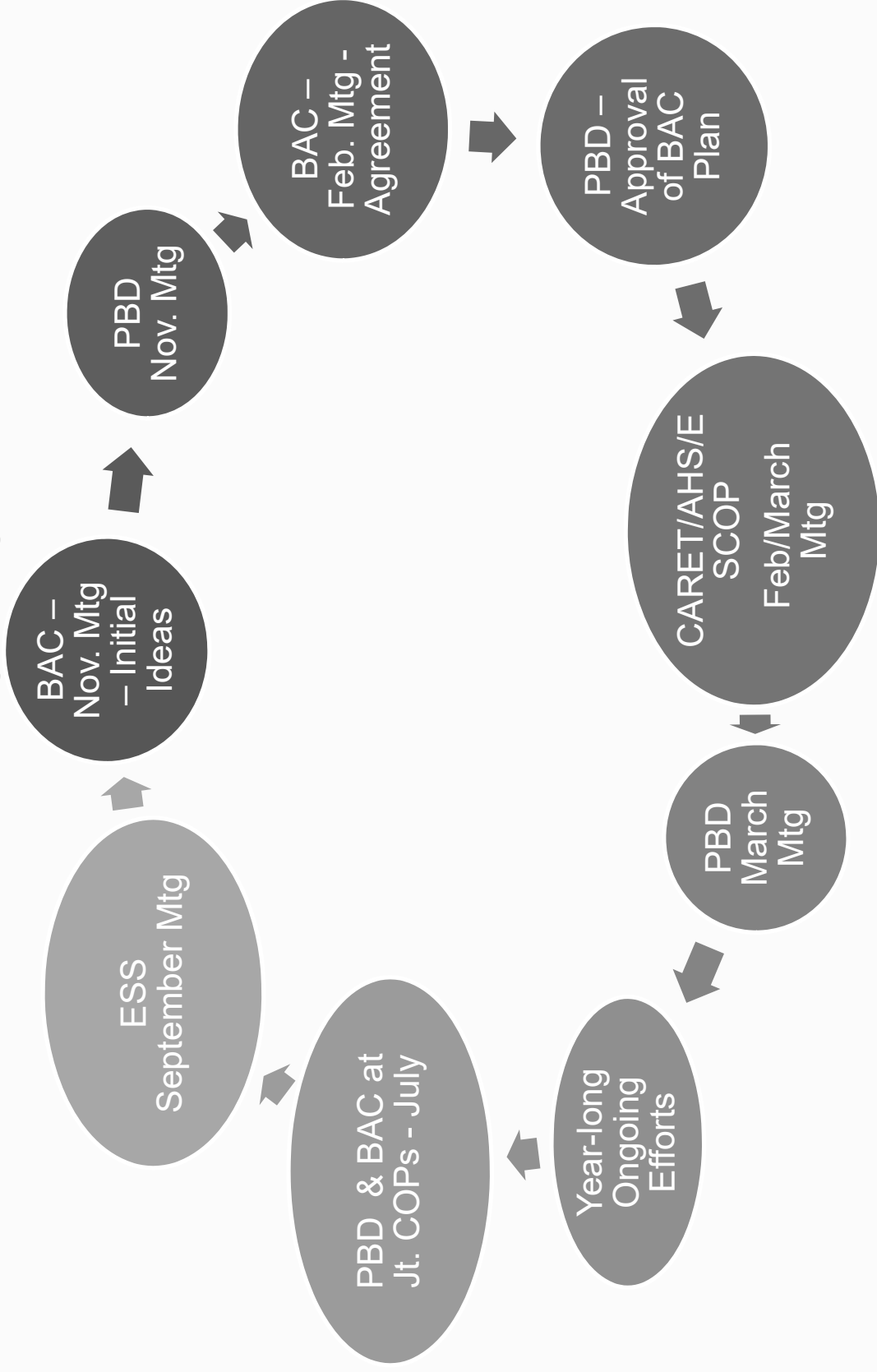




# Timeline



# Timeline





# LAND GRANT IMPACTS PORTAL



# NATIONAL EFFORTS RELATED TO IMPACTS

- In 2010, ESCOP appointed a writer to create impact statements for multistate projects
- In 2012, ECOP appointed an ad hoc committee to compile impact statements from each institution



NC-1029 (2006-2011)

## Applied Animal Behavior and Welfare

### Who cares and why?

Understanding animal welfare has become increasingly important to livestock producers in the US and internationally. Recent legislative initiatives in the US and the establishment of global animal welfare standards by the World Organization for Animal Health all indicate that animal welfare concerns will play large roles in determining the future survival and competitiveness of livestock producers. In general, consumers, legislators and activists have expressed concerns regarding the quality of life experienced by agricultural animals. In particular, there is strong public concern that farm animal welfare is compromised as a result of fear, pain, and suffering. The possibility that animals suffer greatly due to excessive fear during interactions with handlers, social disruptions, and exposure to transport conditions is of particular concern. Management practices associated with fear and pain are also viewed very negatively by animal scientists and veterinarians. As a result, several animal welfare certification programs now include assessment of fear levels in their auditing procedures; however, little is known about whether such assessments accurately and reliably measure fear in animals.

### What has the project done so far?

Over the past five years, NC-1029 members have formed working sub-groups to design fear tests for use on farms with small ruminants, swine, poultry, and cattle. Members of the working groups have designed protocols for validating tests that are commonly used to assess fear in laboratory animals to be sure that these tests accurately measure fear

This project has compiled unique data sets regarding appropriate tests for assessing fear in livestock through collaborative multi-state research efforts.



NC-1029 has been working to test for and reduce fear among small ruminants during interactions with handlers, transport, and other events that elicit pain to, or affect the behavior of the animals. Photos courtesy of USDA-ARS.



Piglets are one of the main subjects of animal welfare studies. The goal is to improve animal handling practices to reduce stress on the animals. Photos courtesy of USDA-ARS.

# NIDB LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

- ECOP and ESCOP partner in Fall, 2014 and appoint a joint committee
- Meetings conducted by distance technology
- 3-year appointment, subject to review

Name	Representing
Bill Brown, Co-Chair	Experiment Station Directors
Tim Cross, Co-Chair	Extension Directors
Ron Brown	Southern Extension Directors
Scott Cummings	Texas A&M Development Team
Steve Loring	Western Experiment Station Directors
Ashley Hawn	Kglobal representative
Debby Lewis	Extension
Sarah Lupis	Western Experiment Station Directors
Tyrone Miller	1890 Institutions
Faith Peppers	Communications (ACE)
Adele Turzillo	USDA-NIFA
Eric Young	Southern Experiment Station Directors

# MARCH 2, 2015 LAUNCH



## Your monthly snapshot of extraordinary work from the members of Agriculture is America

This is a monthly, internal email highlighting some of the stories featured on the Ag Is America website, Twitter feed, and Facebook page. Ag Is America's goal is to share the land-grant story with important legislative and media audiences, and our goal in sending this newsletter to you is to demonstrate the types of stories that resonate with our followers.



## National Impact Database Launched March 2

On March 2, the National Impact Database Committee announced the launch of the Database as well as the corresponding public facing Land Grant Impacts website. The Database is an internal resource that allows designated university contacts to upload and update impact statements, and the Land-Grant Impacts website highlights the land-grant story and impact for the general public. The Database is jointly sponsored by ECOP and ESCOP.

Here's what **Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy**, director of National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture said: "The Land-Grant Impacts website is a new tool that will better inform the American people and the international community of the significant agricultural research, education and extension impacts taking place at land grant universities across our nation, which offer practical solutions to today's critical societal challenges. This website will help policy makers and the public learn more about this work that is partially supported with NIFA funding."

Here's what **Barbara Allen Diaz**, vice president, University of California, and chair of BAA Policy Board of Directors said: "Articulating positive changes as a result of Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension research and education is critical today. The Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) celebrates the launch of this web site. Having a searchable source for outcomes of our work will help to communicate the value of our research and extension programs in our land grant universities."

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APLU/ NID Collateral  
February 6, 2015

A Public Voice

LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES UNVEIL NEW ONLINE RESOURCE

Website Features History and Impact of Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Programs

February 23, 2015 - The Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU) announced the launch of the Land-Grant Impacts website, which was developed and will be maintained by several Land-grant universities. The public-facing website showcases how land-grant universities use teaching, research, and extension to positively affect the agriculture industry, local communities, and the nation at large.

"The Land-Grant Impacts website is a new tool that will better inform the American people and the international community of the significant agricultural research, education and extension impacts taking place at land grant universities across our nation, which offer practical solutions to today's critical societal challenges. This website will help policy makers and the public learn more about this work that is partially supported with NIFA funding," said **Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy**, director, **National Institute of Food and Agriculture**, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The website also hosts an internal database where land-grant universities and institutions can share results and updates of local, state, and regional Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension efforts. These impact statements specifically highlight advancements made to benefit food security; nutrition and health; youth, family, and communities; environmental stewardship; energy and bioproducts; and agricultural systems.

"Articulating positive changes as a result of Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension research and education is critical today. The Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) celebrates the launch of this web site," said **Barbara Allen-Diaz**, vice president, **University of California**, and chair, **BAA Policy Board of Directors**. "Having a searchable source for outcomes of our work will help to communicate the value of our research and extension programs in our land grant universities."

# PRIMARY AUDIENCES AND USES

General  
Public

Information  
and key  
contacts  
for subjects  
of interest

Land  
Grants

Reporting  
tool  
capturing  
broad  
program  
impacts

USDA-  
NIFA

Responses  
to state  
and  
subject  
matter  
inquiries

Kglobal

Content for  
Grasstops  
advocacy  
and social  
media

# LAND-GRANT IMPACTS PORTAL

- Developed to highlight mission of Land-Grant University system
- Houses the Excellence in Extension database
- Houses the Land-Grant Impacts database
- Portal for general public to search state, regional, and national impact statements

http://landgrantimpacts.tamu.edu/

Land-Grant Impacts

HOME

ABOUT

VIEW IMPACTS

TEACHING

RESEARCH

EXTENSION

# THE LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

was built on behalf of those who have invested their hopes, their support, and their confidence in these public universities.



## Teaching

Land-Grant Universities provide a practical college education in agriculture and engineering.

READ MORE



## Research

Experiment Stations conduct practical research based on real-world problems in order to improve lives.

READ MORE



## Extension

Cooperative Extension connects people across the nation with the latest research from Land-Grant Universities.

READ MORE

# LAND-GRANT IMPACTS PORTAL TOUR

## AREAS OF IMPACT

### FOOD SECURITY

Ensuring everyone's family has enough to eat, and that their food is safe, affordable, nutritious, and readily available.

### NUTRITION & HEALTH

Providing for your family's health through nutrition, genomics, physical activity, wellness, and management of chronic disease.

### YOUTH, FAMILY, & COMMUNITIES

Creating engaged citizens for our future with economic and community development, leadership, and youth development programs.



### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Creating a sustainable future for our natural environment through stewardship of the ecosystem, energy conservation, and water management.

### AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Ensuring profitability, productivity, and sustainability for food and fiber production systems, using innovative and time-tested methods.

### ENERGY & BIOPRODUCTS

Leading the way in energy technologies such as bioproducts, biofuels, biomass, and other energy technologies and techniques.

# LAND-GRANT IMPACTS PORTAL TOUR

Search or browse through the statements below to learn more about the impact of land-grant institutions.

## View Impacts

### Institution based Filters:

All Regions ▾	All States ▾	All Types ▾	All Designations ▾
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### Impact Statement based Filters:

All Years ▾	All Focus Areas ▾	All Tags ▾	All Funding Sources ▾
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# LAND-GRANT IMPACTS PORTAL TOUR

## View Impacts

Institution based Filters:

Southern ▾ All States ▾ All Types ▾ All Designations ▾

Impact Statement based Filters:

All Years ▾ All Focus Areas ▾ All Tags ▾ All Funding Sources ▾

Page 1 of 16 | Results 1 - 25 of 398

search...   Statements per page: 25

Sort by: Year Title State Focus Area

Tennessee 2014 | Agricultural Systems

### Hawkins County Cattlemen's Association Feeder Cattle Marketing (2014)

Producers across Tennessee marketing cattle through an alliance have witnessed prices for feeder cattle as much as \$15-

Florida 2015 | Agricultural Systems

### "Winter Weather Watch" Program Helps Polk County Citrus Growers Save Water

Though Florida is known for warm weather and mild winters, it's not unusual for the Sunshine State to experience an-

Arkansas 2013 | Agricultural Systems

### 300 Days of Grazing Program Reduces Livestock Producer Input Costs

With the increase of inputs for livestock producers including fertilizer, feed and fuel (the three F's) plus the cost.

Georgia 2013 | Agricultural Systems

### 300-bushel Corn Program

The farmers in Baker County and southwest Georgia are primarily producing cotton and peanuts. Corn production at the-

# LAND-GRANT IMPACTS PORTAL TOUR

2013

Agricultural Systems

## 300 Days of Grazing Program Reduces Livestock Producer Input Costs

Arkansas | University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service | Southern Region

*300 Days of Grazing Program reduces livestock producer input costs.*

### Impact Statement:

With the increase of inputs for livestock producers including: fertilizer, feed and fuel (the three F's) plus the cost of equipment to harvest hay, it has become ever more important to utilize inputs and resources wisely. The ability to graze livestock for 300 days or more per year is a step to alleviate rising prices of inputs for producers.

The Prince farm agreed to become a whole farm demonstration in 2009.

The farm was already working with county agent on a grazing management system for the farm so the 300 days of grazing program was a good fit to increase the number of individuals that would be watching over the farm. In 2009 Extension personnel collected data from the farm on previous management activities and also did forage inventories on every field on the farm. Soil fertility was also obtained by soil sampling the entire farm and fertility adjustments were made over time on several fields to increase there productivity.

The 300 Days of Grazing program on the Prince farm did allow for over 300 Days of Grazing in 2009, 2010 and 2011. By increasing the number of grazing days it reduced the amount of hay that had to be fed to the cow herd. The farm had normally fed hay approximately 135 days per year prior to enrolling in the program. Now the average number of days for feeding hay is less than 65 days per year, saving the farm an estimated \$17,000 per year over the three year span in hay feeding cost. This savings in hay feeding has been accomplished while increasing the number of animal units being grazed on the farm.

### Tags:

Name:

Mike Andrews

Email:

mandrows@uaex.edu

Links:

# IMPACT WRITING TRAINING

- Housed on eXtension.org
- Free to members of eXtension
- \$80.00 for enrollment otherwise
- <https://extension.org/impact-statement-reporting/>

## Impact Statement Reporting Online Course

What is it? The Impact Statement Reporting course is a valuable tool to make sure that policy makers, funders and the taxpaying public understand the public value of Extension and non-profit programming. Improved impact statements mean more exposure to the benefits of Extension's programs.

Who is it for? Extension educators, researchers, communicators and administrators are the primary audience but it can also be useful for non-profits, foundations, NGOs and government organizations.

What makes it different from on-site trainings? The online Impact Statement Reporting course combines the best practices from educators who have been training on impact writing for decades. The online format means that there is consistency across trainings, ease of use for people with busy schedules and greater accessibility--no travel required, a cost savings for universities and organizations.

Course Summary: Throughout seven interactive modules, participants will learn all about impact statements: What they are, how to write them, where to market them and how they can help a participant's organization. The course contains samples, video case studies, take-away resources, readings, interactions and assessments to help users engage with the topic. ✓

Module 1: Course Overview

Module 2: Impact Statements and Why You Should Write Them

Module 3: Know Your Audience

Module 4: Definition of Impact

Module 5: How To Write an Impact Statement

Module 6: Submitting Your Impact Statement

Module 7: Market Your Impact

## Expanding and Developing New Approaches to Water Security

*Further discussion on the National Land Grant Initiative to Improve of U.S. Water Security by the nation's Land Grant Institutions*

### **A compelling reason to act:**

Agriculture sits at center of a host of 21<sup>st</sup> century water challenges ranging from the impact of farm practices on our waters, to not having enough water to grow crops and livestock. Agriculture is coming under increased scrutiny about its role in water security and human health. Recent attention to drought and wild fires in the Western U.S. are one example. Meanwhile in the other sections of the country, especially the Midwest and South, nutrient loading combined with heat waves and extreme runoff events generate blue green algae blooms that result in beach closures and loss of drinking water sources. Local ponds and reservoirs are increasingly unusable and urban residents in the Great Lakes have witnessed large scale hardships, including physical illnesses, due to loss of quality drinking water. Algae blooms are also implicated in the increasing widespread generation of harmful drinking water contaminants, like chloroform, that result from byproducts of disinfectants combining with organic matter.

Now more than ever, the US farm community is demanding a response from USDA. Bill Myers, president of Ohio's Lucas County Farm Bureau was recently quoted in the Detroit Free Press, July 29, 2015:

*"I am tired of hearing hypotheticals on where things are coming from. We need to know for sure what areas are contributing, and target the highest levels with the quickest response. I don't care which ones we identify, [but] being able to treat this water so people can drink it is the No. 1 task."*

Land Grant Institutions have a systematic network of expertise, on-going research, campus-based instruction, and strong community/county-based responses through agents and educators that are all well positioned to work on challenges associated with water security. Land Grant Institutions are able to go beyond site-by-site fragmented projects and link local needs to our capacity on campuses and in communities.

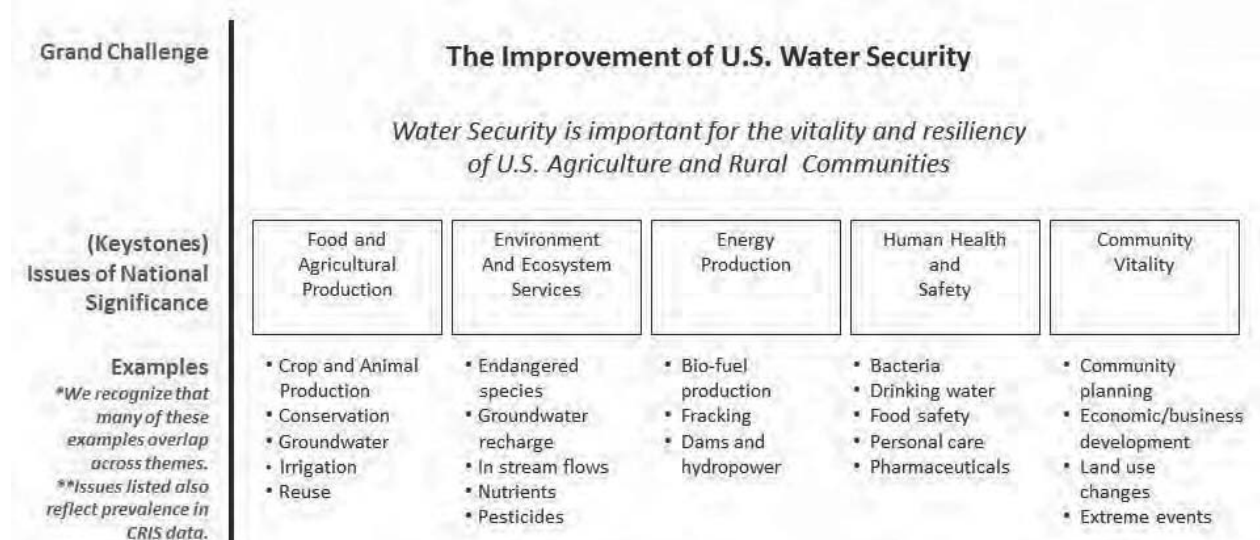
This water security initiative will increase collaboration within and among our Land Grant Institutions as part of a collective national response. As outlined it maximizes our existing institutional resources, leverages where appropriate with others, and expands what we do to meet emerge issues. This initiative addresses current and emerging needs by expanding the current expertise and infrastructure of our national Land Grant network – a network that is well positioned to respond -- but currently overstretched.

### **An invigorated Land Grant/NIFA partnership can address these challenges:**

The National Water Working Group produced recommendations for expanding and enhancing new approaches to protecting water security in the U.S. [*please see full report from August 2014*]. To further document the need for such bold steps by the nation's Land Grant Universities and Colleges the following is a more detailed explanation of what steps would be taken if funded.

The National Water Working Group identified National Issues of Significance (Figure 1) which represent current and and emerging threats to U.S. water security. These issues are primary drivers for future research, teaching programs and extension-outreach to communities. Addressing U.S. water security interests will require substantial investment in new/additional funding.

**Figure 1. National Issues of Significance.**



The Issues of National Significance greatly influence how Land Grant Universities need to organize their expertise and the way they should offer community assistance through research, teaching and Extension. This national water security initiative increases support so our Land Grant University can meet both current and emerging needs described in the Issues of National Significance by enhancing their capacity. **The Working Group report calls for \$100M (annually) in new/additional funding [Table 1] to be allocated across the five Essential Elements. [PLEASE SEE FULL REPORT FOR A COMPLETE EXPLANATION OF HOW ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOSTER IMPROVED RESPONSES, EFFICIENCY AND COLLABORATION AMONG LAND GRANT INSTITUTIONS.]**

**Table 1. \$100M/year National Water Security Initiative**

Essential Element		
#1. State/Institution-based Coordination	\$4M	Fixed costs
#2. Regional Water Centers	\$6M	Fixed costs
#3. Integrated Regional Water Grants	\$45M	50% of competitive funds
#4. AFRI National Grants	\$36M	40% of competitive funds
#5. Instructional Grants	\$9M	10% of competitive funds
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100M</b>	Annually - for a <u>minimum</u> of five years.

**About Table 1. Fixed Costs versus Competitive Funding.**

**Fixed costs** are essential investments required to support the expertise and services of Land Grant Institutions as they expand their efforts to address water security. These are basic costs that occur, regardless of funds associated with short-term projects (commonly supported by grants). These costs are presented as static/fixed because they are necessary for on-going activities (ranging from program/project/curriculum development to administrative coordination). This support ensures integration among and between Agricultural Experiment Stations (AES) and Cooperative Extension Services (CES). **The Working Group recommends the first \$10M in any new/additional funds be dedicated to meet these needs. The Working Group also recommends that the \$10M amount in fixed costs should not decrease even if the funding for competitive programs is less than described (\$90M).**

The following describes each of the National Issues of Significance in terms of the primary problems, and links those priorities to where Land Grant Universities are best positioned to make a difference by expanding current efforts and developing new approaches across research, teaching and extension.



## Food and Agricultural Production



Water insecurity is threatening our ability to maintain agricultural production at a time when increased world population pressures suggest we must increase production. While gains have been made in irrigation efficiency that have resulted in increased yields, adoption of these technologies and the information needed to manage them has been lagging. Agriculture is on the cusp of a new era of increased production using environmentally responsible technologies. There is an urgent need to assist in this transition to information based management systems that uses big data, earth mapping, earth monitoring systems and other internet based technologies to increase water use efficiency, manage water systems and reduce water quality concerns. These technologies are currently spawning new methods of addressing water quality and conservation issues through “precision conservation” techniques that target programs to those areas with the greatest production, environmental stewardship and economic impacts. These new technologies will be even more important as irrigated and rain fed agriculture adapts to more variable climate conditions in our future. In addition, poor groundwater management across the nation is threatening future water supplies. Our Land Grant Institutions need to promote irrigation efficiencies, increase yields and help our communities better manage all of their water supplies.

### Specific actions provided by this initiative will include:

- Adoption of advanced irrigation technologies and the information and management tools to effectively use them. This includes: increasing the development and adoption of precision conservation technologies and techniques; adaptive planning to account for interactions between surface waters and groundwater recharge; and the use of big data, earth mapping, earth monitoring systems and other internet based technologies. *GOAL: In five years, increase acreage under precision irrigation (target - over 1 million acres).*
- Work with growers to adopt sustainable management systems for surface and groundwater that recognize their interconnection. This would support: the creation and implementation of sustainable groundwater and surface water management plans; increased use of aquifer recharge strategies to increase groundwater storage and build drought resilience; and increased reuse of agricultural and urban waters, including agricultural runoff, urban stormwater runoff, treated urban waste water and others. *GOAL: In five years, increase aquifer recharge in targeted river basins (target - at least 10 major basins will increase recharge by 10 percent).*
- Increasing soil health through techniques such as no-till and addition of soil amendments such as compost to increase water holding capacity and soil tilth in ways that will sustain our agricultural systems and increase yields. *GOAL: In five years, increase acreage under no-till systems (target – over 5 percent increase in acreage).*
- Creation and adoption of drought resilient plant varieties in irrigated and rain fed agricultural systems.
- Decrease animal product water footprints through more water efficient feed production, feed formulation, and selective breeding.

## Environment and Ecosystem Services

America’s agricultural and rural lands serve as the water source for downstream lakes, rivers and estuaries – but more intensive production from existing agricultural lands is sought if we are to meet the demands of a growing world population while retaining natural ecosystems. Melding these two visions of agriculture and rural lands represents one of the major challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Improved nutrient use can accelerate production, but runoff from poor management of cropland and animal agriculture fosters harmful algae

blooms that cause beach closures and fish kills from ponds in the Midwest to the Great Lakes and the coasts. Irrigation is a key component that will enable stable and high levels of agricultural productivity but poor management threatens fish migration, spawning and nursery habitats. We are poised to make major advances that will provide safe and plentiful water from agricultural and rural lands.

Specific actions provided by this initiative will include:

- Innovative, rapid crop and soil tests combined with advances in cropping systems and nutrient management can reduce offsite losses and enhance production.
- Locally-based watershed assessment that rely on new, high resolution geospatial data can target “hotspots” of nutrient losses and identify and enhance ecosystem niches, such as riparian zones and beaver ponds that purify runoff waters. *GOAL: In five years, improve the efficiency of conservation and restoration investments in targeted watersheds (at 12 digit HUC level).*
- New water sensors are now available that provide real-time data on river, lake and estuary water quality and advance our capacity to pinpoint the effects of timing of agricultural practices on nutrient losses. These data are poised to be translated into risk reduction practices.
- New management practices such as edge of field bioreactors are now being optimized for nitrogen control on drained cropland and innovations are ongoing to promote phosphorus reductions. *GOAL: In five years, increase the use of edge of field bioreactors (target – installation of field bioreactor on 500,000 acres of drained cropland).*
- Advances in geospatial data, high resolution modeling and new agro-forestry practices can now promote strategic restoration of headwater habitats through riparian buffers and elimination of instream barriers.
- Advances in irrigation water management through the use of improved technologies, computer mapping, and state-of-the-art sensors can be combined with improved understanding of critical flow periods to sustain important fisheries.

## Energy Production

Extreme events such as the current Western drought directly affect both agriculture and the energy sector, often putting these two critical sectors in competition for scarce water resources. According to the U.S. Geological Survey’s 2010 report, 45% of US water withdrawals are for thermoelectric power generation and 37% are attributed to agriculture. As such, much of the problem and solution to water availability and water quality lie within these two sectors. However, the economics of energy production are such that agriculture cannot compete in the marketplace with the energy sector for water supplies. The recent movement of irrigation water to hydraulic fracturing demonstrates this tension graphically. Additionally, our food system is a large consumer of energy. About 30% of the global energy demand is used for the full food production and supply chain. In the U.S., use of energy along the food chain has increased more than six times the rate of increase in total domestic energy use between 1997 and 2002. Aside from food transportation and processing, significant energy use occurs in the pumping of irrigation water. According to the USDA-ERS, over 30% of the US corn crop is used for ethanol production. Collectively, these facts make it abundantly clear that energy and water are intertwined in our food system and that research and extension programs are critically needed to address these linkages for a secure food supply – both domestically and internationally.

Specific actions provided by this initiative will include:

- Provide new methods, technologies, water efficiency and water sharing strategies to reduce/optimize agricultural water and nonrenewable energy use. *GOAL: Over the next decade, decrease excessive irrigation application (target - 56 million U.S. irrigated acres by decrease by an average of one acre-inch over the next decade); GOAL: Increase the use of renewable energy in agriculture (target - 10 percent increase in renewable energy by those participating in program activities).*



- Develop algorithms and optimization strategies to use the right water in the right place and time. In many cases energy production can utilize marginal waters and effluents from Ag systems, in other cases Ag can utilize waste waters from energy. *GOAL: In five years, increase the use of treated effluents and marginal water (target - 1 million acre feet).*
- Develop biofuels production systems that produce more energy with lower water and energy inputs. *GOAL: In five years, maintain current biofuel production levels, decrease water and energy use in producing biofuels (target - 15 percent less water in biofuel production).*
- Provide US crop and livestock producers with timely data and information to improve decisions on energy and water use to balance the tradeoffs that occur with these critical inputs. *GOAL: Develop and manage open source data and modeling platforms that provide needed information on water use, water quality, soil, climate data, crop growth, carbon stocks at a 12 digit HUC level to enhance producer decisions.*

## Human Health and Safety

The safety and security of our nation's food and water supply is of paramount importance to individual and community health. We must understand and communicate the inherent risks and uncertainties in the complex food-water system. Advanced research and extension programs can create and disseminate the knowledge necessary for producers and consumers to take appropriate actions to ensure the long-term safety and continued productivity of our food and water systems.

### Specific actions provided by this initiative will include:

- Nationwide, increase the number of private well owners who test and protect their private wells. New extension programming also will provide critical education resources for private well owners to ensure the safety of their drinking water in the aftermath of extreme events and natural disasters (e.g., flooding, coastal storm surges). *GOAL: In the five years, increase the number of private well owners who test their water and take steps to protect their private wells (target - over 100,000 private well owners will test their drinking water).*
- New research that examines the occurrence, fate, and transmission of waterborne contaminants – specifically pathogenic bacteria and pharmaceuticals that could impact food safety (fruits, vegetables, and shellfish).
- Establishing trans-disciplinary research and extension teams that address both food safety and water quality protection. These teams will help to solve the complex and interrelated issues that impact the safety of the nation's food supply. Gathering and communicating interdisciplinary-based information will help communities make balanced and informed decisions.
- Studying and communicating the impacts of water quality management practices on potential contamination from domestic and wild animals, contaminant persistence in irrigation tailwater, sediments from irrigation, and sediment control structures. For example, vegetable growers report finding themselves in an untenable position—pressured to *minimize* the use of on-farm conservation practices that promote water quality in order to address concerns of food safety professionals. *GOAL: In the five years, nationwide, a growing number of farms will develop food safety plans (in response the Food Safety Modernization Act) that balance soil and water conservation with food safety concerns (target - 50,000 farms will develop food safety plans and implement them to some degree).*
- Analyzing the role of agricultural landscapes in groundwater recharge and conjunctive water management with an emphasis on drinking water supplies. Transparent information about local, regional, and national groundwater use will be made available.

## Community Vitality

Water security is important for long-term economic growth and community vitality in our cities and rural communities. This link between water and community vitality is very strong and transcends merely protecting water security solely through biophysical and remediation means.

For a community to be vibrant – it must be resilient to drought, floods and potential contamination events. Communities need support from Land Grant Institutions that foster wise and appropriate decisions over protection and enhancement of water resources. Likewise, when the water resources are secure it leads to a greater sense of quality of life through improvements in public health, local economies, water-related recreation, tourism, and aesthetic appreciation. When water has greater value as a public asset it helps that community improve its sense of place and identity. Water is part of a community's basic infrastructure, and therefore for a community to be healthy and vital it must be secure.

The vast Land Grant network of academic expertise is ultimately anchored locally by extension professionals with the ability to attack problems by working with local decision makers and cities on programs involving comprehensive community and land use planning, economic/business development, public health, and preparing for decisions faced during unexpected natural events (e.g., flood, wild fire, drought, and climate variability). This is the heart of addressing water security and community vitality.

### Specific actions provided by this initiative will include:

- Improve quality of life indicators (measures) that most closely align with water security. These include: protecting economic prosperity; engaging citizens in decision of public and individual rights over water use and protection; addressing social and leisure interactions with water; ensuring water availability for basic human needs such as human health and food production; and meeting the needs of sustaining natural resources. *GOAL: These quality of life indicators (measures) will become components to national impact reporting on CES and AES water programming (and will be reflected in <https://landgrantimpacts.tamu.edu/>).*
- Increasing community/citizen involvement in local decisions about water quality and quantity by supporting watershed councils and citizen advisory processes. Programming will support citizens with training and leadership programs that foster community-based decisions about water quality and quantity and natural resources (ranging from water quality issues such as non-point source pollution to water quantity and drought management). *GOAL: In five years, our programs will expand the number of citizens who take part in training and leadership programs (target - more than 100,000 citizens will take part in these programs and subsequently assume leadership roles in their communities).*
- Increasing use of science-based information by community-, state- and multistate-based group that made decisions about water quality and quantity. This will include: community-based planning involving the management of water and natural resources; and assisting a community in its “readiness” to address unexpected natural events (this would integrate and expand the current limited reach of programs such as EDEN).
- Assisting communities in their efforts to create and retain jobs directly dependent upon water resources. *GOAL: In five years, increase support jobs creation and/or retention in areas associated with water security protection (target - than three (3) million will be impacted – created and/or retained).*
- Provide training programs for professional water resource managers that will: improve the management of water treatment facilities; develop and implement new technologies for testing and treating public drinking water; encourage collaborative land management among producers/growers in headwater regions and communities/municipalities; and support public education through extension programming on water conservation. *GOAL: In five years, increase the number of water professionals will take part in training and professional development programs [in some states this may involve University-based certification programs] (target - more than 7,000 water professionals will be trained).*

- Mobilizing partnerships, especially those where the community-based expertise of our Land Grant Universities is well positioned to link and facilitate those connections. *GOAL: Program leveraging will multiply the federal funding by three-to-one (3:1). Meaning, for every dollar invested by USDA/NIFA three additional dollars in state/local support will be offered by partners and collaborators.*
- Engaging broad interest in helping our communities understand and respond to issues of water security.
- Engaging young people in efforts to enhance water security. *GOAL: In five years, engage more youth in programs supported by this national water security program (target – more than one (1) million youth will take part in programs and activities associated with this water security initiative).*

### **Why Invest in Water Security – Because National Issues of Significance Merit Expanded Attention:**

There has been a continual decline in the level of competitive grant funding available for water resource projects over the past thirteen years. In 2002, the three flagship grant programs that NIFA used to fund water projects were the National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP), the National Research Initiative (NRI) Water Program, and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program (Soil, Air, and Water Section). These three programs combined to fund a total of \$15.1 million in grants in 2002. In 2014, the NIWQP, SBIR, and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Water for Agriculture Challenge Area combined to offer \$10.6 million in grants. With the termination of the NIWQP in 2015, the expected total grant awards from SBIR and the AFRI Water for Agriculture Challenge Area will combine for \$9.3 million. The net result is a loss of 40% in total (annual) funding over the past thirteen years (not adjusted for inflation).

The National Water Working Group developed recommendations based on the need to **both** expand current efforts and to foster new systematic approaches to protecting water security in the US. Just as in other major societal advances, agriculture must reinvest in efforts to protect our waters. We must consider the existing investment in the national Land Grant Institutions and how to best focus that expertise. This isn't about recreating and/or duplicating current efforts, it is about expanding and enhancing new approaches, all the while taking advantage of the institutional expertise that is already in place. There is a strong case for a national water security initiative -- water and agricultural security are in an age where population projections continue to grow and food production needs to closely follow. If we do not act it will lead to a water-agriculture crisis that demands critical attention far above and well beyond existing investments which are struggling to address and meet the needs of today's broad array of critical issues.



**C-FARE Presentation to  
ESCOP – SSSc 2016**

**Caron Gala**

**C-FARE Executive Director**

# C-FARE Board of Directors

1. Roger Coupal, U of Wyoming, Chair
2. Mary Ahearn, ERS emeritus, Vice-Chair
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16. Parr Rosson, Texas A&M U; and
17. Steve Turner, Mississippi State U.



# C-FARE's Advisory Board Members

- USDA Economic Research Service
- USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service
- USDA National Resources Conservation Service
- Interior Environmental Protection Agency
- Congressional Research Service
- USDA Economists Group
- USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency



## C-FARE's Mission

The mission of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is to *enhance the effectiveness* of the food, agricultural, resource, and related economic sectors through a *stronger national presence* of the agricultural and applied economics profession and its policy relevant research.



# C-FARE's ED Philosophy



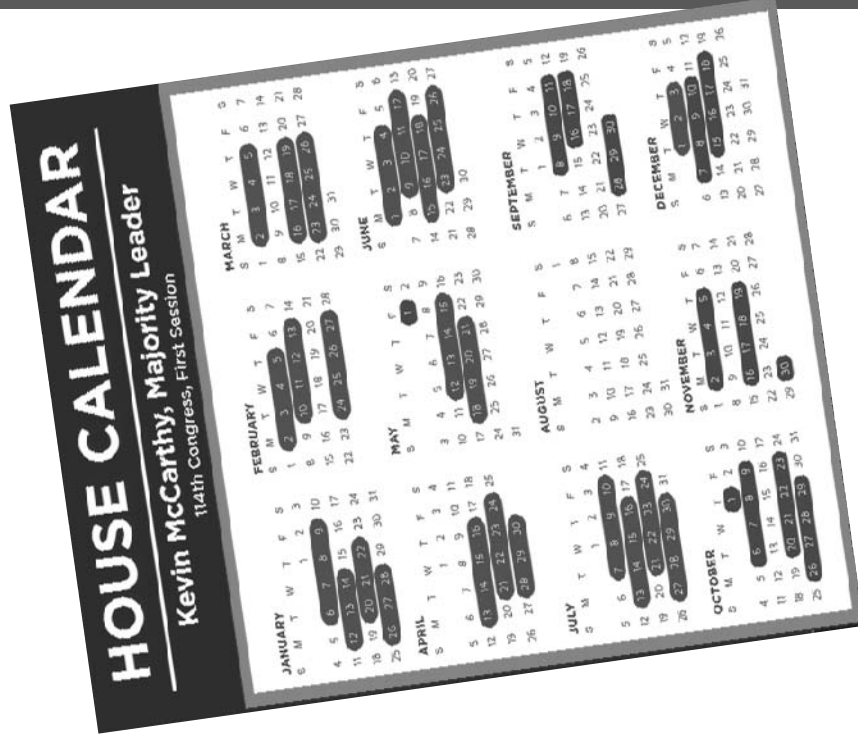


## **Education and Outreach**

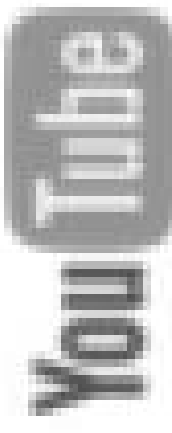
- Briefings
- Webinars
- Symposia
- Workshops
- Intern Briefings

# Education and Outreach

- Trade Policy
- Energy Policy
- Economic Valuation of Ecosystems Services
- Food Labeling
- COOL
- Rural Development/Investment
- Nutrition
- Immigration
- Regional Food Systems
- Drought Impacts and Insurance



# C-FARE's YouTube Channel



**YouTube**

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

CFARE's Focus  
The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC. ... Show more

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**Created playlists**

13 VIDEOS

Energy Webinars

7 VIDEOS

2014 - Big Data

4 VIDEOS

C-FARE's Project "The Role of Cooperatives in the Nation's

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- APeaceMakerInstitute
- Bonn Perspectives
- Chris Van Hollen
- dembisamoyo
- acadforum
- Global Oneness Project
- IFPRI
- karie phibbs
- Kevin Hurley
- MaineBamfordShow
- NRCS NSSC
- PrisonDramaNetwork
- RTV Noord
- spulkitchennifins

# AAEA –C-FARE-NC-FAR Hill Briefings

**October 26-Holly Wang, The Role of U.S. Agriculture in Chinese Markets: Factors affecting Chinese food and agricultural trade.** Dr. Joe Glauber also presented.

**November 5 - David Just, Choices: Increasing Nutrition Among Low Income and Food Insecure Individuals**

Over 200 congressional staff, media, and DC stakeholders attended the briefings.

**December 1-2, Jill McCluskey, Raising the Profile of Agriculture**  
Dr. McCluskey attended “Raising the Profile of Agriculture” at the White House. This meeting gathered agricultural and food researchers, educators, students, and other experts with representatives from industry, non-profit organizations, and government.



# **Webinars w/ USDA Economists & Blue Ribbon Panels**

## **January 14 - The Economics of Food Waste in the Contemporary Marketplace**

- Moderator – Caron Gala, C-FARE
- Dr. Jean Buzby, USDA ERS
- Dr. Rosetta Newsome, IFT
- Tiffany P. Kollar, JD, US EPA

## **June 3 - Adapting Agriculture to a New Climate Reality**

- Moderator – Dr. Jan Lewandowski, USDA OCE
- Dr. Bruce McCarl of Texas A&M University

## **June 12 - Pollinator Economics**

- Moderator – Tom VanArsdall, NC-FAR
- Dr. Mariah Ehmke, University of Wyoming
- Dr. Jennifer Bond of USDA ERS

## **September 3 - IMPLAN's 2013 Agricultural Sector Data**

- Moderator – Dr. Scott Loveridge, Michigan State University and Director, NCRCRD
- Dr. Shoshanah Inwood, University of Vermont
- Dr. Mary Ahearn, Retired from USDA

# DC Symposia and Workshops

**Agricultural and Rural Energy Economics Symposium Series - Sponsored by the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, USDA and the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE)**

## Symposium 1: Powering Prosperity. Bioeconomy Policy to Stimulate Growth

- Jim Lane, Biofuels Digest
- Dr. Wallace Tyner, Purdue University
- Mark J. Riedy, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
- Dr. Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois
- Dennis Hall, Ohio State University
- Dr. Harry Baumes, USDA Office of the Chief Economist
- Steve Csonka, Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative
- Dr. Jason Bergtold, Kansas State University
- Joseph Bryan, Department of the Navy Energy Office

# DC Symposia and Workshops

**Agricultural and Rural Energy Economics Symposium Series** - Sponsored by the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, USDA and the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE)

**Symposium 2: Energizing the U.S. Economy: Rural America at the Epicenter of America's Energy Future**

- Tim Kelsey, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences
- Richard Krannich, Utah State University
- Roger Coupal, University of Wyoming
- Jason Brown, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
- Irene Xiarchos, Office of the Chief Economist, USDA
- Dr. Venus Welch-White, USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service
- David Thigpen, USDA Rural Business-Cooperatives Service

# Jon Brandt Public Policy Forum 2015

On Tuesday, April 14, with core funding from the AAEA Trust, C-FARE cosponsored a forum to explore “*Strategies for Investing in Rural America*”. The Forum speakers explored choices that boost the kind of growth in rural America that support U.S. economic vitality and competitiveness.

*Master of Ceremony – Mary Ahearn, C-FARE Vice Chairwoman*

*Keynote Speaker: Mary McBride, President of CoBank*

*Agricultural Economist: Dr. Sarah Low, ERS*

*Speaker Panel: Successful Strategies for Rural Development Outcomes, Moderated by Mike Adams of AgriTalk*

- Kerry Kelton, CEO, Mid-South Synergy and NRECA Board Member, TX
- Greg Wagner, Economic Development Planner, West Central Initiative, MN
- Brian Whitacre, Associate Professor, Oklahoma State University, OK
- Alison Davis, Professor, University of Kentucky, KY

*Co sponsors included the AAEA Trust, Council on Food & Agricultural Resource Economics, USDA-Economic Research Service, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Regional Rural Development Centers, and CoBANK.*



# Jon Brandt Public Policy Forum 2015



*From left to right: Mike Adams, Mary McBride, Sarah Low, Representative Lucas (R-OK), Ranking Member Peterson (D-MN), Brian Whitacre, Chairman Conaway (R-TX), Alison Davis, Kerry Kelton, and Greg Wagner*

# DC Summer Intern Breakfast Briefings

C-FARE invited students with an interest in economics who are interning in Washington, DC this summer to participate in our **2015 Summer Intern Breakfast Briefings**. The briefing series focuses on how to navigate careers on Capitol Hill or at agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The briefings are designed to allow students to hear from professionals who have received a degree in agricultural, natural resources, or applied economics about their career paths and receive insight on potential classes to take and other details regarding the necessary background to succeed in Washington, DC.

- **Friday, June 19 – The Economic Experience on the Hill**
- **Friday, June 26 - Career Insights from USDA Economists**
- **Tuesday, June 30 - Field Highlights from Experts in Industry**
- **Friday, July 10 - Opportunities in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics**



## Government Relations

- Monitoring Budget and Appropriations
- Coalitions
  - NC-FAR
  - FASA
  - AFRI Coalition
  - SoAR
- Nominations
  - FFAR
  - NAREEEAB
  - NASS Advisory Committee
  - NSF Advisory Committee for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences
- Visits to DC Policymakers/ Stakeholders
- Targeted Communications

# Budget and Appropriations Update

*In Thousands*

	FY 2015	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 16 Omnibus vs. FY 15
USDA REE			
Agricultural Research Service	1,177	1,356	178 (+ 15.1%)
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,289	1,326	37 (+ 2.9%)
<i>AFRI</i>	325	350	25 (+ 7.7%)
Economic Research Service	85	85	0 (0%)
National Agricultural Statistics Service	172	168	-4 (- 2.3%)

# Government Relations – ERS

Important to communicate the relationships between intramural and extramural research.

Two funding streams communicate each other!

Workforce,

Training,

Data and Statistical Surveys

Publications

Etc.

# Government Relations – NSF

## National Science Foundation

- Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE)

SBE and cross-directorate initiatives that support the agricultural and applied economics sciences.

- Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems
- Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems



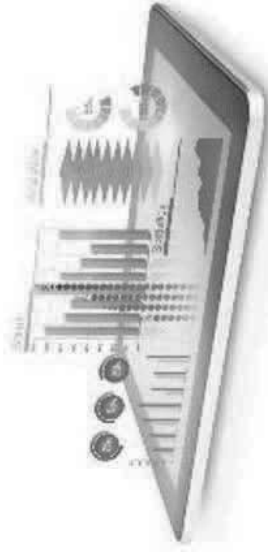
# Government Relations - NIFA

- AFRI has gained momentum over the past 10 years, since it was developed for the 2008 farm bill.
- AFRI Coalition, SoAR, etc.
- OSTP Reports
- Secretary Vilsack and President's Science Advisor, John Holdren announced that they are asking for \$700M for AFRI.
  - \$350M Mandatory
  - \$350M Discretionary

# Importance of Engagement







# Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis

Contact [agricultural.statistics@gmail.com](mailto:agricultural.statistics@gmail.com) for more information.

In 2015, FASA did the following:

- Hosted an inaugural meeting
- Grown to over 26 member organizations
- Submitted FY16 testimony to the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees
- Engaged House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Clerks with FY16 Testimony
- Organized a FASA congressional lunch briefing
- Send a letter of support re: agriculture appropriations committee and floor action

**More FASA Members Are Needed!**

*Not just supporters of agricultural statistics, but of intramural and extramural ag. and applied economics as well!*



## Government Relations

- Monitoring Budget and Appropriations
- Coalitions
  - NC-FAR
  - FASA
  - AFRI Coalition
  - SoAR
- Nominations
  - FFAR
  - NAREEEAB
  - NASS Advisory Committee
  - NSF Advisory Committee for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences
- Visits to DC Policymakers/ Stakeholders
- Targeted Communications

# 2015 Agricultural and Applied Economics Congressional Visits Day

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Congressional Visits Day (CVD) is a one-and-a-half-day event that brings agricultural and applied economics professionals and executives to Washington, DC to raise awareness about the importance of agricultural and applied economics analysis, research, and related statistical resources.

The effort is a relationship-building exercise that helps to connect the policymaker to on-the-ground economic research. It also serves to highlight the important cooperative role that intermural research and extramural research, education, and extension programs have in serving the nation. The intramural research and federal statistical resources which members of the profession coordinate with and/or use to undertake research are also discussed.

Friend of Agricultural Economics Award is presented to one or more Members of Congress for their support of economics research, extension, education, and reasoning. This year, Chairman Roberts received the award in his DC office (see center top photo below). See the photos on Twitter as well.

In the past, the award has honored the following: Representative Greg Walden (2013), Senators Debbie Stabenow and Roy Blunt (2011), Representative Chet Edwards (2009), Representative Frank Lucas (2007), Representatives Adam Putnam and Rosa DeLauro (2005), and Senator Thad Cochran (2003).

# 2015 Agricultural and Applied Economics Congressional Visits Day



# Developing Content for Communicating Priorities



# Priorities and Solutions Project

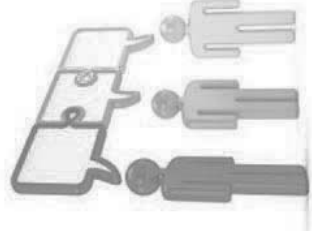
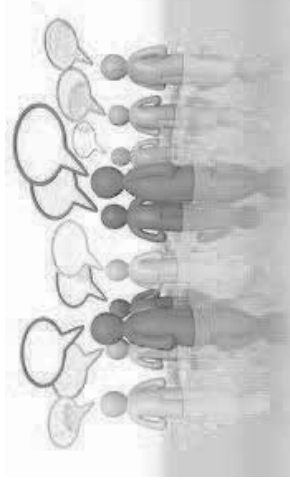
AAEA President, Jill McCluskey

C-FARE Board Member, Gene Nelson

**Welcome participation across the social sciences.**

**Please let us know if you have suggestions for people who should be involved.**

**Save-the-date  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016  
@ ERS**



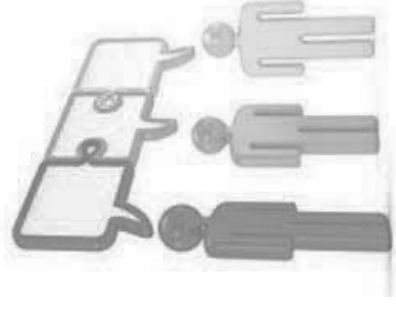
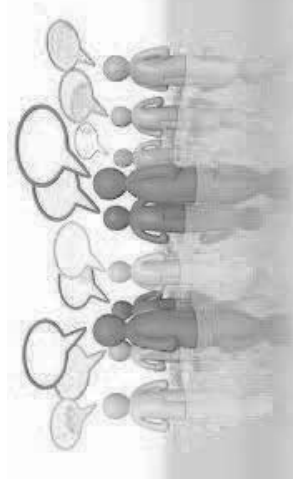
**Priorities and Solutions Workshop**

# AAEA Annual Meeting

## Priorities and Solutions Project

### Government Relations Breakfast, July 26, 8:00-10:00 AM PT, Marriott Marquis, Pacific I

At the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 26 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis in the Pacific I, the Blue Ribbon Expert Panels and AAEA section leaders are invited to attend a breakfast. The breakfast will include a presentation from Robin Schoen, the Director of the National Academies of Sciences' Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources. The group will be discussing the Agricultural and Applied Economics 2025 Priorities and Solutions Project which C-FARE will facilitate in 2015 – 2016.



# Big Ag. Data Steering Committee to Identify Issues and Opportunities

In the 21st century, the agricultural and food sector face many seemingly daunting challenges. These include 1) feeding an expanding world population through productivity gains or increased food accessibility; 2) efficiently allocating scarce water resources; 3) expanding ecosystem services and limiting agri-environmental impacts; and 4) maximizing food quality and safety.

The experts within the agricultural and applied economics profession are exceptionally well suited to work with these large datasets to elucidate the implications of “big data” for the U.S. economy.

Keith Coble

Ashok Mishra

Kitty Smith

Access to Big Data

Big Data Conference at AAEEA

Ag. Data in Govt.



# AAEA Annual Meeting

# AAEA Annual Meeting

- Keys to Responding Successfully to Funding Opportunities for Economics: Look, Read, Respond Tuesday, July 28, 9:45 AM - 11:15 AM PT (Senior Section Joint with AEM) Program Leaders, Robbin Shoemaker (USDA NIFA), and Nancy Lutz (NSF SBE) will be speaking



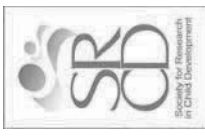
CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# Federal Social Science Funding & Policy

WENDY NAUS, CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS  
ESCOP SOCIAL SCIENCES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ■ FEBRUARY 4, 2016



- ▶ COSSA represents the shared policy interests of all fields of social & behavioral science research
- ▶ We seek to reach 4 main audiences:
  - ▶ Congress (both sides of the aisle)
  - ▶ Executive Branch Agencies & the White House
  - ▶ Scientific & Higher Ed communities
  - ▶ General public



# Social Science & Federal Policy

- ▶ Challenges to SBS fall generally into 3 buckets:
  1. Funding
  2. Policy
  3. Don't get no respect





## Challenge #1: Federal Funding of SBS Research

- ▶ Efforts to:
  - ▶ Cut funding for agencies that support SBS
  - ▶ Defund specific fields of research (e.g. political science in 2013)
  - ▶ Pick winners and losers among the sciences (e.g. increase computer science funding at the expense of social science)
- ▶ Funding for ALL DISCRETIONARY programs viewed as a zero-sum game – flat funding in this environment is a win
- ▶ Translation: Winners & Losers

# Competing Interests

FY 2016

► Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill:

- National Science Foundation
- NASA
- Department of Justice
- Department of Commerce

National Science Foundation	1.6%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	0.0%
National Institute of Justice	0.0%
NASA	7.1%

► Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill:

- National Institutes of Health
- Department of Education/Institute of Education Sciences
- Department of Labor
- Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health	6.6%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	-8.2%
Bureau of Labor Statistics	2.8%
International Ed	0.0%



## Real Story is in the Details

- ▶ NSF – Social, behavioral and economic sciences flat funded
  - ▶ House wanted to cut SBE to increase other sciences
- ▶ NIH – \$2 billion increase but at the expense of other accounts
  - ▶ AHRQ was zeroed-out in House bill, deep cuts in Senate bill
- ▶ NIJ/BJA – Flat funded
  - ▶ House wanted to eliminate direct appropriations
- ▶ Census – American Community Survey maintained
  - ▶ House voted to make the ACS voluntary





## Challenge #2: Federal Policy & SBS Research

- ▶ “Authorization” bills are used to “authorize” funding for federal agencies/programs and to set programmatic priorities (i.e. direct an agency to take a specific action)
- ▶ These bills often include funding GUIDELINES, but DO NOT appropriate funds
- ▶ Several authorization bills were introduced in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress (1<sup>st</sup> Session) that would impact SBS and peer review...

# America COMPETES Act

(in millions of dollars)	2015	COMPETES FY 2016-17	COMPETES vs. FY 2015
National Science Foundation	7344.2	7597.1	3.4%
Biological Sciences	731.0	834.8	14.2%
Computer and Information Science and Engineering	921.7	1050.0	13.9%
Engineering	892.3	1034.0	15.9%
Geosciences	1304.4	1200.0	-8.0%
Mathematical and Physical Sciences	1336.7	1500.0	12.2%
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences	272.2	150.0	-44.9%



# Scientific Research in the National Interest Act

- ▶ Seeks to set a definition of “national interest” for NSF funded research – intent is to suggest that SBS and other research is not in the “national interest”
- ▶ Passed Committee in October; no companion in Senate
- ▶ Broad scientific community objection



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503



June 1, 2015  
(House Rules)

## STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2578—Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Act, 2016  
(Rep. Rogers, R-KY)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 2578, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes. The bill drastically underfunds critical investments in research and development that are key to advancing U.S. economic competitiveness and reducing taxpayer costs for securing essential weather satellite data and conducting an effective 2020 census. It also severely underfunds State and local criminal justice assistance that helps ensure the safety and well-being of individuals and communities, and underfunds programs that would increase the use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement, expand training, provide much-needed police department reform, and multiply the number of cities where the Department of Justice facilitates community and local law enforcement engagement. It also cuts support for NASA's Commercial Crew Program that will help end our reliance on Russia for transporting astronauts, critical space technology investments that will help pave the path to reaching Mars, and earth science research that is helping us understand how our climate is changing and how to respond to earthquakes, droughts, and severe weather events. Furthermore, the legislation includes highly objectionable provisions, including provisions that continue unwarranted restrictions regarding detainees held at Guantanamo Bay that will undermine our national security, severely inhibit efforts to combat illegal gun trafficking, and put in place non-germane foreign policy restrictions related to Cuba. If the President were presented with H.R. 2578, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Enacting H.R. 2578 and adhering to the congressional Republican budget's overall spending limits for fiscal year (FY) 2016 would hurt our economy and shorthanded investments in middle-class priorities. Sequestration was never intended to take effect; rather, it was supposed to threaten such drastic cuts to both defense and non-defense funding that policymakers would be motivated to come to the table and reduce the deficit through smart, balanced reforms. The Republican framework would bring base discretionary funding for both non-defense and defense for FY 2016 to the lowest real levels in a decade. Compared to the President's Budget, the cuts would result in tens of thousands of the Nation's most vulnerable children losing access to Head Start, more than two million fewer workers receiving job training and employment services, and thousands fewer scientific and medical research awards and grants, along with other impacts that would hurt the economy, the middle class, and Americans working hard to reach the middle class.

Sequestration funding levels would also put our national security at unnecessary risk, not only through pressures on defense spending, but also through pressures on State, USAID, Homeland Security, and other non-defense programs that help keep us safe. More broadly, the strength of

May 18, 2015  
(House Rules)

## STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 1806—America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015  
(Rep. Smith, R-Texas, and 10 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, which would undermine critical investments in science, technology, and research. The Administration believes that H.R. 1806 would be damaging to the Administration's actions to move American competitiveness, innovation, and job growth forward through a world-leading science, technology, and innovation enterprise.

The Administration strongly opposes the bill's appropriation authorizations for the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) that would establish maximum funding levels significantly below those provided in the President's FY 2016 Budget. For example, H.R. 1806 would weaken investments in critical clean energy research and development and grid modernization by providing authorization levels at less than half of the funding levels proposed in the President's Budget for DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. Additionally, the legislation would shorthanded efforts to support fundamental research to address diverse and critical global challenges by providing an authorization level for the DOE Office of Science biological and environmental research program far short of the funding levels proposed in the President's Budget. The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 would also establish NSF authorizations levels for geosciences, education and human resources, international and integrative activities, and administrative activities well below the funding levels proposed in the President's Budget, as well as an NSF authorization for social, behavioral, and economic sciences research that is 58 percent below the President's Budget. Additionally, the legislation would undermine efforts to implement sound science and technology policies by providing an authorization level for OSTP nearly 20 percent below the President's Budget.

In addition to its strong opposition to the authorized funding levels in H.R. 1806, the Administration has serious concerns with several other provisions in the bill and looks forward to working with the Congress to address its concerns. For example, the Administration opposes barring Federal regulatory authorities from relying on the results of certain Federally-supported research and development. This provision would set an extremely harmful precedent of political interference in the scientific integrity of the regulation process, which would undermine the value of the Federal research and development enterprise as a whole. The Administration also objects to the increased administrative burdens that the bill imposes on NSF and its awardees without commensurate benefit. In addition, the Administration opposes reducing oversight at the DOE National Laboratories, which would increase the exposure of the Federal Government to risk and liabilities while also conflicting with the execution of the DOE mission.



## Challenge #3: Don't Get No Respect

Public statements devaluing social science and/or specific grants

- ▶ “Common sense” problem
- ▶ Focus on clever titles and project abstracts as “proof” of wasteful spending
- ▶ “Investigations” into agency grant-making practices
- ▶ Picking on individual grants

“I think NSF should focus more on the **pure sciences**, on the fundamentals, and be careful to **avoid funding research projects that would damage its sterling reputation in the eyes of the public**. I’d encourage them to avoid funding studies like shrimps on a treadmill – I hope we never see anything like that again – or alcoholism among prostitutes in Thailand. If the private sector is interested in funding obscure or obtuse social science questions, then let them. But NSF needs to be keenly aware of how these grants would look on the front page of the local newspaper. They are just not a productive use of our tax dollars.”

--Rep. John Culberson,  
January 2015



LAMAR S. BROWN, Clerk  
COMMISSION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301  
(202) 225-4371  
www.house.gov/scitech

Dr. Cora B. Marrett  
Acting Director  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Marrett,

Last week, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee held a hearing on the President's budget request for science and technology. Testifying at the hearing was Dr. Marrett. During the course of the hearing, the Committee discussed the funding for social, behavioral and political science (NSF), and how we can better prioritize research and funding for these areas. It was stated that there is "room for improvement" in the potential value to the national interest.

Based on my review of NSF-funded research and the information that you have provided to the Foundation and how closely you have worked with the Foundation, I am confident that you will be able to help us better understand how NSF makes decisions and how we can better prioritize research to obtain detailed information on specific research areas.

According to NSF procurement guidelines, the scientific/technical review of each grant proposal is a critical component of the review process.

LAMAR S. BROWN, Clerk  
COMMISSION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301  
(202) 225-4371  
www.house.gov/scitech

Dr. Cora B. Marrett  
Acting Director  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Marrett,

Last week, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee held a hearing on the President's budget request for science and technology. Testifying at the hearing was Dr. Marrett. During the course of the hearing, the Committee discussed the funding for social, behavioral and political science (NSF), and how we can better prioritize research and funding for these areas. It was stated that there is "room for improvement" in the potential value to the national interest.

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The Honorable France Cordova  
Director, National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Cordova,

I request paper copies of the following public text message, all peer reviews considered for the National Science Foundation (NSF), or consideration and approval of the grants listed:

- Comparative Histories of Scientific C and Amazonian South America
- Regulating Accountability and Trust
- Systemic Community-Based Rangeland Ecosystems to Climate Change in Mongolia
- Latin Regional Settlement Project
- CAREER: A Political Approach to Rangeland Ecosystems
- Life History Transitions among the Tolmie and Nisqually Tribes
- Ancient Mayan Wooden Architecture and the Role of Wood in the Maya World
- Essay on the Resilience to Human Impact on New Zealand
- How Marginalized Populations Self-Organize in Africa and China
- Metallurgical Practices, Technology and Age in the Southern United States
- Kinship, Women's Labor and China's Ethnic Boundaries and National Change
- Oppression and Mental Health in Nepal
- A History of the Impact of El Niño on Infrastructure
- An Ethnoarchaeological and Archeological Investigation of the Operation of and Resilience of the

LAMAR S. BROWN, Clerk  
COMMISSION

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House of Representatives

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www.house.gov/scitech

February 30, 2015

The Honorable France A. Cordova  
Director  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Cordova,

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is continuing its oversight of the National Science Foundation (NSF). As part of this oversight, I have previously requested copies of documents and information related to the NSF grant consideration and approval process. To date, the NSF has not complied with these requests. Although the Committee is awaiting itself of the limited access to documents that you have provided, I still have questions regarding the grant process.

The Committee requests that the NSF produce all documents including, but not limited to, every e-mail, letter, memorandum, record, note, text message, peer review for selection and recommendation made by the research panel to the NSF referring or relating to the NSF's consideration and approval of the grants listed below, including any approved amendments to the following grants, in electronic format:

1. "Geoinformatics: Leveraging the Paleobiology Database for Research, Education, Mentorship, and Interoperability." (Award #09549416)
2. "Bringing Diarrhea to Life Through Community Voices." (Award #0915778)
3. "Trial Network to Bring Music to the Study of Biology." (Award #0958196)
4. "Enhancing Diversity in Environmental Biology." (Award #0829236)
5. "Preparing to Prepare the 21st Century Biology Student: Using Scientific Societies as Change Agents for the Introductory Biology Experience." (Award #0848911)
6. "Biogeochemical Modification of Seawater CO2 Chemistry in Near-Shore Environments: Effect of Ocean Acidification." (Award #12355042)
7. "Atmospheric Mixed Phase Chemistry for Improved Climate Predictions: Field Measurements and Modeling of the Southern Oxidant and Aerosol Study." (Award #1242258)
8. "Synoptic Geospace Systems Analysis Utilizing Instrumentation from South Pole and McMurdo Stations." (Award #1248062)
9. "Random, Stochastic, and Self-Similar Equations." (Award #1106982)



SENATOR JOHN McCAIN PRESENTS



**RUNAWAY** **SPENDING**



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#AMERICASMOS

**FEDERAL FUMBLER**

**100 WAYS THE GOVERNMENT DROPPED THE BALL**

BY U.S. SENATOR JAMES LANKFORD

SENATOR JEFF FLAKE PRESENTS  
**WASTEBOOK**  
THE FARCE AWAKEN



A REPORT ON MASTERFUL SPENDING STARRING MINKEYS ON TREADMILLS, PARTIES FOR HIPSTERS AND SHEEP IN MICROBIA. FEATURING PARTY BOSS, WINEPAKING FOR MINORS, THE SCIENCE OF BEER KOTIZES, ZOMBIES IN THE WHITE HOUSE, LIFE-SIZE PIC NAIL, DATING SECRETS FOR THE UNATTRACTIVE AND INDEERS MORE.

**DECEMBER 2015**



# FEDERAL DIETS

## QUICK STATS

- X CONFERENCE: Spending
- X TEAM: National Institutes of Health
- O FUMBLE: \$2.658,929 weight-loss program for truck drivers
- O RECOVERY: Congress should develop clearer expectations for areas of research for NIH

The American economy is powered in no small part by the thousands of trucks on the road

This extended program was designed to determine whether those who successfully

## Weight-loss program for truck drivers

“NIH should have thought twice before funding programs when private funding of research studies is a better avenue. Congress, in consultation with NIH and other research institutes, can better assess areas of federal research.”

individuals who completed motivational interviewing sessions and computer-based training were better able to make healthy living decisions. Those who engaged in the challenging six-month study were then given the chance to participate in a 30-month study.<sup>37</sup>

for American taxpayers of \$2.658 million over four years.<sup>41</sup> NIH should have thought twice before funding programs when private funding of research studies is a better avenue. Congress, in consultation with NIH and other research institutes, can better assess areas of federal research.

*For more information, please visit:  
NIH Report: Protect Information  
US National Library of Medicine: NIH Weight Loss Maintenance Among SHIFT Pilot Study Participants 30-Months Post-Intervention*

## LOVE AT FIRST

### Love at First Swipe

“Uncle Sam wants you to swipe right and is spending nearly \$1 million to learn how those looking for love online decide to pursue a romantic relationship.”

the action taken on the popular dating app, Tinder, which allows users to peruse other singles in their area. When Tinder users view profiles, which contain photos, a brief bio, and shared interests on social media, they can either “swipe right” to indicate interest, or “swipe left” to move onto the next profile. When two users swipe right on each other, an official match is

### NSF’s Rebuttal

“The researchers used the context of online dating to address core questions facing society today. Those include how basic social psychological and judgmental processes change in a situation where the algorithms built into apps and social media sites play a part in communications and people receive information solely through computers, without the social cues provided in person-to-person contact.”

# WANTED

BY THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER

\$872,164 TO STUDY HOW CHILDREN CROSS THE STREET

Most children learn all they need to know about safely crossing the street from their parents who teach them simple but important safety tips such as looking both ways before crossing the street.

## Study How Children Cross the Street

“Ultimately, the NSF grant spent close to a million dollars to tell us that children take greater risks when crossing the street than adults—**something generations of American parents already know.**”



## NSF’s Rebuttal

“The grant is focused on better understanding perception, judgement, and decision-making – by examining children’s use of visual information to guide selection and timing of motor behaviors.”



- ▶ Attacks force us to constantly play defense.
- ▶ Once attack surfaces, already too late.
- ▶ Try to stay on offense – enter you!



# What can you do?

- ▶ **JOIN US** in Washington on March 15-16, 2016:  
<http://www.cossa.org/event/2016-annual-meeting>
- ▶ **SIGN UP** for our newsletter and alerts:  
<http://www.cossa.org/category/update>
- ▶ **TAKE ACTION** by responding to COSSA alerts:  
<http://www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action>
- ▶ **SHARE YOUR STORIES** of social science success: <http://www.cossa.org/share-your-stories>
- ▶ **PROVIDE FEEDBACK**



March 9, 2015

Dear COSSA Member,

Can't make it to DC for COSSA's Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day? You still tell Congress to support social and behavioral science.

1 2 3 4

**TELL CONGRESS THAT YOU SUPPORT FUNDING FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016**  
Our new online POPVOX tool lets you send a letter to all of your fe elected officials at once. Ask them to support funding for social an behavioral science research in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and to guard a cuts that target this science. You can use talking points provided b COSSA or personalize your letter to draw from your own experien

Email

**NEXT**

Now that all the steps to your representative and/or senators in Congress are passed successfully in POPVOX, it's time to

Next steps are an education piece for your constituents and a letter to the editor for your local newspaper.

Just visit the **TAKE ACTION** page on COSSA's website and follow fo simple steps to send a letter to your representatives in Congress.

About 60 COSSA members from around the country will be meeti

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SAVE THE DATE  
for the

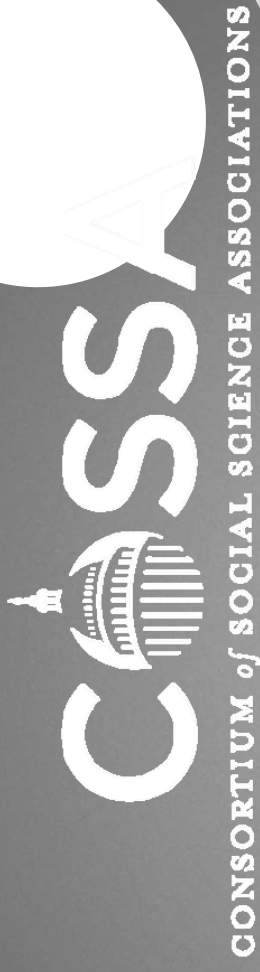


CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

2016 Annual Meeting &  
Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day

March 15-16, 2016  
Washington, DC

Visit [www.cossa.org/event/annual-meeting](http://www.cossa.org/event/annual-meeting) to learn more.



**Wendy Naus, Executive Director**

Email: [wnaus@coffa.org](mailto:wnaus@coffa.org)

Web: [www.coffa.org](http://www.coffa.org)

@COSSADC • #WhySocialScience

**ESCOP Social Sciences Subcommittee  
Membership Status as of February 2016 (three-year renewable terms\*)**

Discipline	Northeast	North Central	South	West	1890 ARD	At Large
<b>Agricultural Communication</b>	Rama Radhakrishna ('16) Penn State	Emily Buck ('15) Ohio State University	Dwayne Cartmell ('16) Oklahoma State	Erica Irlbeck ('16) Texas Tech	Adell Brown ('16) Southern University	Abigail Borron ('15) U of Georgia
<b>Agricultural Economics</b>	Stephan Goetz ('15) NERDC, Penn State	Corinne Valdivia University of Missouri- Columbia	Chuck Moss ('15) University of Florida	Philip Watson ('14) University of Idaho	Ntam Baharanyi ('15) Tuskegee University	Matt Fannin ('14) Louisiana State
<b>Agricultural Education</b>	Harry Boone ('14) West Virginia University	Mike Retaillick ('15) Iowa State University	Travis Park ('15) North Carolina	James Connors ('16) University of Idaho	Alton Johnson ('15) Prairie View A&M U.	Jack Elliot ('16) Texas A&M
<b>Human Sciences</b>	Daniel Perkins ('15) Penn State	Soyeon Shim ('16) U. of Wisconsin, Madison	Betsy Garrison ('15) U of Arkansas	<b>VACANT</b>	Doze Butler ('16) Southern University and A&M College	Lynn Bordon ('15) U of Minnesota
<b>Rural Sociology</b>	Carolyn Sachs ('15) Penn State	Linda Lobao ('14) Ohio State	Mimmo Parisi ('15) Mississippi State	Don Albrecht ('15) WRDC, Utah State	Dreamal Worthen ('15) Florida A&M	Bo Beaulieu ('13) Purdue

\*Number represents the start of membership term

Subcommittee Chair: David Doerfert (through 2016 meeting)

Subcommittee Secretary and Chair-Elect: Mike Retaillick (secretary through 2016 meeting, chair through 2018 meeting)

USDA NIFA Liaisons: Aida Balsano, Caroline Crocoll

Liaison to the ESCOP Science & Technology Committee: Travis Park

ESCOP Liaison: Jeff Jacobsen, North Central Regional Association of Experiment Station Directors, Michigan State University

ESCOP Science & Technology Committee Chair: Marikis Alvarez, Delaware State University

ARD Representative: Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University and Alton Thompson, Provost, Delaware State University

Ex-Officio (non-voting) Members:

Regional Rural Development Centers: Mark Skidmore, Bo Beaulieu, Stephan Goetz, and Don Albrecht

Neil Conklin, Farm Foundation

Chuck Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)

Board on Human Sciences Liaisons: Soyeon Shim, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Wendy Naus, Consortium of Social Science Associations

Caron Gala, The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE)

R. Thomas (Tom) Van Arsdall, National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR)

<http://escop.ncsu.edu/Viewcommittees.cfm?comid=23>

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