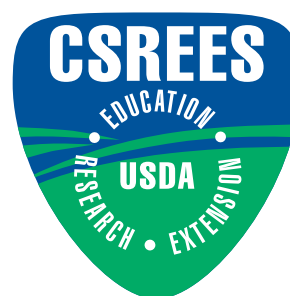


CSREES Administrator's Report to the Partnership Summer 2005

Advancing Knowledge for the
Food and Agricultural System



MESSAGE FROM THE CSREES ADMINISTRATOR

Helen Keller was asked, "What could possibly be worse than not being able to see?" She replied, "Being able to see, but having no vision." This Spring, our System collectively thought about where we need to focus our vision for the 21st century to assure a continuing level of discovery and use of knowledge for our citizens.

About 50 representatives of research, education, and extension programs met in May in Roanoke, VA, for strategic planning coordinated by Patricia Sobrero of Virginia Tech and the Partnership Working Group. Participants analyzed contextual issues facing agricultural research, education, and extension, such as the revolution in biological sciences, and discussed shifting funding systems to greater emphasize competitive grants. I believe this exercise will be repeated on many campuses.

Later in May, the third annual meeting of ECOP's Leadership Advisory Council convened under the guidance of ECOP Chair-elect, Larry Cote of West Virginia University. Dewitt Jones' video on creativity, a program first introduced to the Extension System at last fall's Innovation Conference in Columbus, OH, assisted discussions about creativity and its application to defining and solving problems facing extension.

Drawing from his experience as a photographer, Jones offers creative thinking and action lessons which we can emulate. He says creativity depends on perspective—if you cannot change your lens, you cannot change your perspective. You must believe there is more than one right answer to questions or problems and not fear mistakes in proposing alternatives until you arrive at the "next right answer." Jones believes in "training your technique" to position yourself where the most potential for creative solutions to problems exists. He encourages an intellectual understanding of any issue, the emotional preparedness to think differently and the confidence to think creatively, rather than looking fearfully at change.

Never in our history as a university/Federal partnership seeking to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, communities, and human well-being have we been more challenged to think creatively about how we define our future. As a system, we are stuck on a plateau of Federal, state, local, and private resources which limit our capacity to address the widening range of critical issues facing the citizens we serve. In an era when the public endorses reducing the size and scope of public institutions, we need to listen to stakeholders, decide what is needed now, develop effective partnerships, and continuously test and demonstrate the value of doing things in new ways.

We have an opportunity, perhaps an obligation, to redefine a part of the long-standing partnership in support of public higher education, discovery and engagement in the 21st century. We can embrace this as a shared opportunity and a privilege to serve.

—Colien Hefferan

The mission of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities.



July 2005

Status of Senate Mark Up on FY 2006 Agricultural

Appropriations Bill: On Thursday, June 23, 2005, the Senate Appropriations Committee marked-up the FY 2006 agricultural appropriations bill. The Senate mark is \$1,181,849,000 for CSREES, an increase of \$149,150,000 over the FY 2006 President's Budget proposal of \$1,032,699,000 and \$6,038,000 over the FY 2005 appropriation of \$1,175,811,000 after rescission. (The totals for the FY 2006 President's Budget, the FY 2005 appropriation, and the FY2006 Senate mark include an estimate of interest earned on the Native American Endowment Fund).

The Senate mark proposes that funding for the Hatch Act, McIntire-Stennis, Animal Health, and Smith-Lever 3(b) and(c) formula programs remain at the FY 2005 appropriated levels. An increase of approximately \$775,000 over the 2005 appropriated level is provided for both the Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension formula programs. No funding is provided for the State Agricultural Experiment Stations Competitive grants program proposed in the FY 2006 President's Budget.

\$190,000,000, an increase of \$10,448,000 over the FY 2005 appropriation of \$179,552,000, is provided for the National Research Initiative.

Report language indicates that, prior to receiving a special research grant award, "the grantee must provide a report to the Committee that describes the specific research objectives for which these funds will be used, methodologies to measure performance and determine when the research objectives will be met, and the expected date of completion."

The language further indicates that, if the purpose of the grant is more long-term in nature, the Committee expects the grantee to pursue funds through other authorities.

Section 709 of the General Provisions limits indirect costs charged against competitively awarded research, education, or extension grants to 20 percent of total Federal funds provided under each award, except for grants available under the Small Business Innovation and Development Act. The current indirect cost rate is limited to 20 percent.

Section 718 of the General Provisions prohibits the use of funds to carry out the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). Funds are available for the purpose of administering and conducting oversight of grants awarded and obligations in prior years. Similar language was included in the FY 2005 appropriation.

Section 727 permits the use of up to 20 percent of the funds appropriated for National Research Initiative to be used to carry out a competitive program under the same terms and conditions as those provided for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems. Similar language was included in the FY 2005 appropriation.

Senate Report 109-92 is available at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_reports&docid=fsr092.109.pdf. CSREES report language begins on page 48. This document is large and may take time to download.

You can also track Congressional action by going to the Library of Congress website at <http://thomas.loc.gov> <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>, scrolling down and clicking on 'Appropriations Legislation.' The chart will provide information on the status of Congressional action on all appropriations bills, including agriculture.

We understand that Senate floor action may occur in late July as the Summer 2005 CSREES Administrator's Report to the Partnership goes to press. We will provide additional information as it becomes available. Contact: Tina Buch, USDA/CSREES - tbuch@csrees.usda.gov

Status of House Mark Up on FY 2006 Agricultural

Appropriations Bill: On Wednesday, June 8, 2005, the House passed the FY 2006 agricultural appropriations bill. The House provides \$1,145,248,000 for CSREES, an increase of \$112,549,000 over the FY 2006 President's Budget proposal of \$1,032,699,000 and \$30,563,000 less than the FY 2005 appropriation of \$1,175,811,000 after rescission. (The totals for the FY 2006 President's Budget, the FY 2005 appropriation, and the FY 2006 House action include an estimate of interest earned on the Native American Endowment Fund).

The House includes funding increases for the Hatch Act, McIntire-Stennis, and Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) formula programs over the FY 2005 appropriated levels. The Animal Health formula program is funded at the FY 2005 appropriated level. An increase of \$1,000,000 over the 2005 appropriated level is provided for both the Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension formula programs. No funding is provided for the State Agricultural Experiment Stations Competitive grants program proposed in the FY 2006 President's Budget.

The budget designates \$214,634,000, an increase of \$35,082,000 over the FY 2005 appropriation of \$179,552,000 for the National Research Initiative. The House continues the pro-

posal in the FY 2006 President's Budget to streamline the budget process by including in the National Research Initiative programs previously funded under Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA).

Section 710 of the General Provisions limits indirect costs charged against competitively awarded research, education, or extension grants to 20 percent of total Federal funds provided under each award, except for grants available under the Small Business Innovation and Development Act. This continues the current indirect cost cap of 20 percent.

Section 719 of the General Provisions prohibits the use of funds to carry out Sec. 401 of AREERA, the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). Funds are available for the purpose of administering and conducting oversight of grants awarded and obligations in prior years. Similar language was included in the FY 2005 appropriation.

Section 728 of the General Provisions allows for up to 22 percent of the funds appropriated for the National Research Initiative to be used to carry out a competitive program under the same terms and conditions as provided in Section 401 of AREERA for IFAFS. Similar language was included in the FY 2005 appropriation although the House increased the maximum percentage of funds for this purpose from 20 percent to 22 percent in FY 2006.

Information about Congressional action may be found on the CSREES website at www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/budget.html.

House Report 109-102 is available at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_report&docid=f:hr102.109.pdf. CSREES report language begins on page 23. The bill, H.R. 2744, is available at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h2744rh.txt.pdf. The CSREES language begins on page 12. Both documents are large and may take time to download.

Congressional action can also be tracked on the Library of Congress website at <http://thomas.loc.gov>, scrolling down and clicking on 'Appropriations Legislation.' The chart will provide information on the status of Congressional action on all appropriations bills, including agriculture.

At the time this information went to press in mid-July 2005, House floor action occurred on June 8, 2005 -- and Senate Subcommittee and Committee mark up had not yet occurred. Contact: Tina Buch, USDA/CSREES – tbuch@csrees.usda.gov.

CSREES Selects New CSREES Science Policy and Legislative Affairs Advisor:

Rob Hedberg has joined CSREES as the new Science Policy and Legislative Affairs Advisor effective July 11, 2005, filling the position formerly held by Phil Schwab. Rob was Director of Science Policy for the National and Regional Weed Science Societies since 1999. He received his Bachelor's degree in Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State University, his Master's degree in Plant Science from the University of New Hampshire and a Certificate in Management and Administration from Harvard University. His previous policy experience included work on the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow from 1995-1996. Rob has also served as Agronomic Business Manager and Manager of Crop Protection Research for Agway, Inc., a large farm cooperative in the Northeastern U.S., worked with farmers as a Regional Agronomy Agent for the University of Vermont Extension Service and served as a crop consultant specializing in crop management and field research. Contact: Rob Hedberg, USDA/CSREES – rhedberg@csrees.usda.gov.

Ensuring CSREES' Messages Reach Our Audience: As the new CSREES' Communications Director since April 2005, Janet Allen's primary goal is to work with our partners to develop and implement the most effective strategy to communicate our impacts to our nation and the world.

Janet commends land-grant communicators for making conscientious efforts to reach the masses through the media. At CSREES, we have stepped up our efforts to produce news releases and stories about the impacts of our successes and to glean news stories from the LGUs for national exposure on our Web site. We've improved the quality of our Partners video magazine and introduced business card DVDs that each feature one of the individual stories of the full-length video.

Based on feedback from the partnership, we are developing a more useful "impacts" Web site. Janet is keenly interested in your comments on how you currently use the impact statements, and your ideas on how we can improve their effectiveness.

This year we will unveil a new CSREES Web site as part of a USDA-wide effort to improve continuity. Our new design will incorporate USDA standards, maintain continuity with our current site, and respond to customer expectations. You may have noticed a short pop-up survey. This survey provides great insight into who visits our site, why they visit, and how well we serve them. So, if you encounter the survey, please respond. We want to hear from you. Contact: Janet Allen – USDA/CSREES – jalien@csrees.usda.gov.

Future Direction for ECS: Frank Boteler became CSREES' new Deputy Administrator for Economic and Community Systems (ECS) in April 2005. His unit, working in cooperation with land-grant university partners and others, strives to advance CSREES-fostered new knowledge past the bookshelf by integrating it with the social sciences, further enabling rural leaders and rural communities to thrive.

New knowledge advanced by ECS might include how agricultural policy dramatically affects local economies with spin-off effects on the interrelated psychological, sociological, and political factors that sustain rural communities. Improved evaluation methods with integrated econometric modeling will help enable leaders to assess all of the pertinent factors which should be considered in guiding communities forward in making decisions concerning resource use and empower rural communities to have greater control over their future.

ECS can help integrate new knowledge into individual behavior and rural community activity by using technology transfer. The receptivity for new knowledge will enable CSREES and its land-grant partners to more successfully relay new knowledge about individual asset accumulation, sustainability of environmental systems, improved agricultural practices, technological advancements, entrepreneurial development opportunities, and improved nutritional choices for rural America. Contact: Frank Boteler, USDA/CSREES – fboteler@csrees.usda.gov.

Applications Submitted Via Grants.gov Scheduled for Fall 2006: CSREES has been working to implement Grants.gov as an option for grant applicants. The agency is aligning itself with collaborative efforts by federal research agencies to collect grant application information uniformly and reduce the burden on applicants. In the new system, applicants will provide commonly-required information through a unified system, and CSREES or program-specific information needed to process an application on a supplemental form. CSREES anticipates providing the option to submit applications via Grants.gov's "APPLY" for a few select programs beginning in the fall of 2005 (FY 2006). Based on the success of these programs' implementation, CSREES' plans to offer electronic submission for all programs beginning in the fall of 2006 (FY 2007). Contact: Jason Hitchcock, USDA/CSREES – jhitchcock@csrees.usda.gov.

"Journey to the Pacific" Via Partners Video Magazine:

This newest Partners Video Magazine highlights land-grant institutions hard at work in the vast region of the Pacific. This episode features a Hawaiian farmer's battle with a banana-killing virus, Pohnpei's hope for economic independence through black pearl cultivation, a Guam 4-H agent's quest to reach youth-at-risk through fishing, and a paravet program that helps American Samoan and Saipan farmers with on-site livestock care. See video clips of these stories or order your own half-hour DVD at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/partners/partners.html>

Contact: Patrick Holian, USDA/CSREES – pholian@csrees.usda.gov.

One Solution Implementation Begins: The One Solution Initiative is designed to increase the quality and completeness of reports to OMB, Congress, and the public in a way that better aligns the budget with performance outcomes across Research, Education and Extension and simplifies the reporting burden of the partner.

To assist in the initial planning of One Solution, CSREES staff visited six states to understand their reporting systems. University representatives and dozens of other university staff reviewed portions of the business case.

Over the next few months, the One Solution group will share more detailed information and interact more frequently with the partnership as plans and products are tested and piloted. A Web site will launch soon with news and information. Contact Greg Crosby, USDA/CSREES - gcrosby@csrees.usda.gov.

CSREES Coordinated Agricultural Projects Link Research, Extension and Stakeholder Community Resources to Tackle Three Animal Disease Challenges:

CSREES' Animal Biosecurity Competitive Program is investing \$13.8 million to tackle three animal disease challenges. Coordinated Agricultural Projects for Avian Influenza (www.agnr.umd.edu/aicap), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) (www.porkboard.org/prrs), and Johne's Disease (www.jdip.org) are working to speed research discoveries and the translation of basic and applied research into significant outcomes that diminish the impact and threat from these diseases.

These projects provide a strategic framework of objectives that integrate research, education, and extension specialists representing academia, producers, veterinarians, pharmaceutical and other biologics companies, federal agencies, state partners, and international institutions. Project accountability is high. Annual assessments are conducted by both Scientific Advisory Boards that evaluate scientific merit and External Stakeholder Advisory Boards that evaluate relevance to industry needs.

The Avian Influenza Coordinated Agricultural Project (\$5.0 million/3 years) brings together 17 states, 21 U.S. institutions, and representation from the Netherlands. It addresses four areas: 1) the molecular basis for the emergence of influenza A viruses in poultry; 2) the dynamics and evolution of influenza A viruses in waterfowl of the four major flyways of the United States and in live bird markets in California, Minnesota, and New York; 3) implementation of educational biosecurity programs; and 4) diagnostic tests and vaccines.

This project links directly to the recently funded Department of Homeland Security "National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense" which includes work on four diseases, one of which is Avian Influenza. Relevant partners for the other Coordinated Agricultural Projects, and stakeholders are included on the Scientific Advisory Board (e.g., USDA-ARS; HHS-NIH-NIAID; US Poultry and Egg Association; Perdue Farms); the Stakeholder Advisory Board (US Poultry and Egg Export Council; United Egg Producers; National Turkey Federation; National Chicken Council; Pilgrims Pride Corporation); or the Executive Committee (e.g., HHS-CDC; DHS; USDA-ARS).

The PRRS Coordinated Agricultural Project (\$4.4 million/3 years) links 15 states, 19 U.S. institutions, and representatives from Canada, Spain, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. It addresses four areas: 1) PRRS biosecurity within herds; 2) viral spread among herds; 3) diagnostics and monitoring; and 4) regional elimination. The award supports a virtual laboratory of researchers who develop standardized protocols and share samples and materials. Research results are shared in real time through a secure website, while protecting data ownership and confidentiality and eliminating delays in information sharing. Communication tools transferring discoveries and technology are rapidly shared with producers through the participation of the National Pork Board and veterinary swine practitioners. USDA funding each year is closely coordinated with the National Pork Board's PRRS Initiative that is contributing an additional \$2 million of producer dollars to PRRS elimination. It is also tightly coordinated with CSREES' North-Central 229 PRRS Multistate Research Project, many of whose members provide critical leadership for the PRRS Coordinated Agricultural Project.

The Johne's Coordinated Agricultural Project (\$4.4 million/ 3 years) links 20 states, 24 U.S. institutions, and representation from Germany and Australia. It addresses four research areas: 1) Johne's disease epidemiology and transmission; 2) diagnostic tests; 3) basic biology and pathogenesis; and 4) immune responses and vaccines. Five scientific cores that provide community tools to anyone in the Johne's Disease community are also supported: 1) biostatistics and epidemiology consulting; 2) diagnostic reagents and standardized protocols; 3) gene and protein expression reagents; 4) animal facilities; and 5) Extension, education and communication activities. The project objectives are closely coordinated with the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and USDA-APHIS supported National Johne's Working Group, as well as USDA-APHIS funding for Johne's outreach grants. Contact: Peter Johnson, USDA/CSREES - pjohnson@csrees.usda.gov.

CSREES Sponsorship Helped Guayule-Based Natural Latex Reach Commercialization: Many years of collaborative research supported by CSREES with ARS to develop guayule (*Parthenium argentatum*) as a new industrial crop for the semi-arid Southwest has yielded the only U.S.-produced natural rubber latex. Since the early 1980s, ARS, the University of Arizona, Texas A&M, New Mexico State University and University of California-Riverside have conducted breeding, genetics, and agronomics R&D, and ARS developed and patented the technology to extract high quality latex from guayule. Products made from this latex are important for healthcare workers and patients who are susceptible to tropical latex allergy.

This biobased material is important because 8 -12 percent of U.S. and European medical workers suffer allergic reactions to the proteins in tropical (*Hevea*) latex. Until now, no safe alternative source of natural rubber latex existed. Contact: Carmela Bailey, USDA/CSREES – cbailey@csrees.usda.gov.

CSREES Support Helps Development of Green

Metalworking Fluid: CSREES helped sponsor the University of Northern Iowa's Ag-Based Industrial Lubricants (UNI-ABIL) Research Program. CSREES funds have helped developmental research resulting in the formulation of alternative, bio-based metalwork fluids (MWFs) using renewable crop oils. MWFs play an important role in machining operations where a stable, high performance fluid can improve operating efficiencies. These fluids provide essential temperature control (cooling) and lubrication between tools and parts being formed.

These new biobased products are benefiting the U.S. soybean industry and offer metalworking shops alternatives that are superior to petroleum-based counterparts. Contact: Carmela Bailey, USDA/CSREES – cbailey@csrees.usda.gov.

New Legal Education Program Curriculum: "Legally Secure Your Financial Future: Organize, Communicate, Prepare" is now available for educators' use. This three-seminar program is designed to educate participants about how to evaluate their legal status related to later life issues, develop a personal action plan, and take important steps to safeguard their families' financial future. The curriculum contains all the tools an educator needs to plan, market, implement and evaluate this legal education program.

The curriculum is the latest addition to Cooperative Extension's "Financial Security in Late Life" educator materials. To access the materials go to: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fsll> and click on "Tools for Educators" then "Program Toolkit." Contact: Jane Schuchardt, USDA/CSREES – jschuchardt@csrees.usda.gov.

CSREES Partners with CMS to Educate Underserved

Communities: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has an ongoing partnership with CSREES to help educate Medicare beneficiaries and their families to make informed consumer and health care decisions. These efforts have led to reduced health care costs and a greater awareness of Medicare benefits for seniors and people with disabilities. The CSREES Families, 4-H and Nutrition Unit is partnering with CMS to provide tools and training to Cooperative Extension professionals in five targeted states (NE, SD, NV, WY, and ID) to educate rural and underserved communities about the new Medicare Prescription Discount Drug Card Program. Extension educators partner with state and community organizations to educate primary caregivers of beneficiaries, increase understanding about available resources, develop and implement public information campaigns, and mobilize widespread volunteer support to inform and educate people in various community settings. Contact Caroline Crocoll, USDA/CSREES - ccrocoll@csrees.usda.gov or Anna-Mae Kobbe, USDA/CSREES - akobbe@csrees.usda.gov.

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