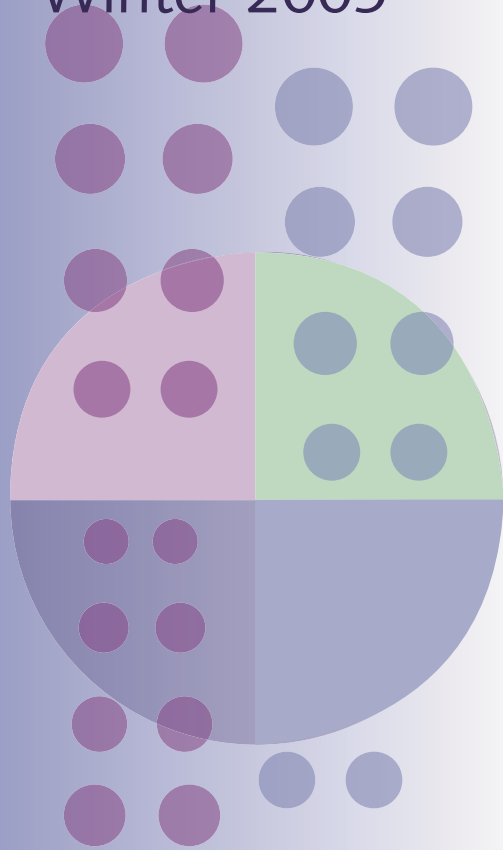


CSREES Administrator's Report to the Partnership

Winter 2005



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.



Advancing Knowledge for the
Food and Agricultural System



Message from the CSREES Administrator

On February 14, 2001, leadership and staff of the Land-Grant University Research and Extension System and that of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) met in Baltimore, MD, for the first "Partnership Workshop." From my perspective, the meeting changed the trajectory of our relationships with the universities with whom we share a mission to advance knowledge for agriculture. As a result, we have revised how we are staffed and how we train individuals, and operate at CSREES. The intensity of the conversation at the February 2002 meeting affirmed the commitment of everyone to sustaining and improving our working relationships.

We are again at a juncture which calls for us to define how we wish to sustain our partnership into the future. The President's budget for CSREES for Fiscal Year 2006 sends two clear messages. First, it supports a continuing role for university-based research, education, and extension in the federally-supported agenda for agriculture. Second, the President's budget clearly signals a strong preference for competitively awarded grants to support agricultural science, as evidenced in increases in the National Research Initiative (NRI) to \$250 million. The budget also creates a new State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) competitive grants program at \$75 million. The budget supports assuring broad capacity in agriculture by sustaining and growing support for minority-serving institutions; targeting high-priority national issues such as obesity prevention by ramping up funding for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program; and acknowledging innovation by establishing a funding line for utilizing new technologies for extension, such as eXtension. These messages come with a rapid phase-out of three formula-based programs currently supporting research activities, including Hatch and McIntire-Stennis funds scheduled for a 50-percent reduction in FY 2006 and elimination in FY 2007, and the elimination of the formula program (Section 1433) supporting animal health and disease research in FY 2006.

The budget challenges us to create a new federal land-grant university partnership in support of agricultural research for the 21st century. Agriculture continues to be a geographically dispersed enterprise, taking place across a wide range of ecosystems, involving many crops and local, regional, national, and international markets. To effectively serve this enterprise, agricultural science must be conducted on a broad array of topics, often across a wide range of places. Moving from formula-based to competitive funding changes only the mechanism by which science is supported, not the goals or objectives of the work.

I encourage us to work together to design competitively awarded programs which build and sustain capacity; assure that research contributes to teaching and extension programs; link strengths and unique or limited expertise across institutions; and address local and regional issues which collectively secure the national agricultural system.

The long-term viability of our joint commitment to providing a science base for agricultural, natural, and community systems depends on the creativity with which we embrace the challenge of change. I hope we can continue to work in partnership to serve citizens.

—Colien Hefferan

CSREES Nanotechnology—New Scientific Frontier for Addressing Critical Agricultural and Food Issues

Hongda Chen, National Program Leader, Plant and Animal Systems

Spinach power is usually affiliated with Popeye, a well-known cartoon character. Who would have imagined using spinach to generate electricity-- powering laptops and recharging cellular phones? Research happening in nanotechnology laboratories is leading to many valuable new possibilities. A research project recently funded by the newly established Nanoscale Science and Engineering for Agriculture and Food Systems program (NRI 75.0) seeks to create a biologically inspired photochemical device that incorporates one of nature's optimized nanoscale photodiode, a Photosystem I (PSI) reaction center extracted from spinach leaves. It is based on new techniques to precisely control the orientation, immobilization, and electrical transfer of PSI (a nanoscale protein structure) assembled on metallic surfaces. The success of this research will not only provide an effective alternative energy source built on renewable agricultural materials, but also expand new uses of agricultural products as feedstocks for the emerging nanomanufacturing industry, thus presenting new economic opportunities for agricultural producers and processing industries. This is only one example of many exciting research opportunities in the frontier of nanoscale science, engineering and technology.

Nanoscale science, engineering and technology, referred to as nanotechnology hereafter, is based on the new ability to image, measure, model, control and manipulate matter at a dimension of roughly 1 to 100 nanometers, where unique phenomena enable novel applications. This exceptional capability is leading to a vast array of new technologies that will impact virtually every aspect of science and technology, industry and economy, the environment, and human lives. The President signed into law the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (P.L. 108-153) on December 3, 2003. The National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), a joint effort of 22 Federal Departments and Agencies, has sought to accelerate the responsible development and applications of nanotechnology to create jobs and economic growth, to enhance national security, and to improve the quality of life for all citizens. Since its inception in Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, the NNI budget has more than doubled to a request in FY 2006 of more than \$1 billion. USDA/CSREES is an active participant and contributor in furthering the vision of the NNI, bringing the new cutting-edge science to agriculture and food systems. The CSREES nanotechnology program focuses on establishing and sustaining world-class research and development (R&D) in nanotechnology for agriculture and food systems, and facilitating transfer of new technolo-

gies into commercialization and public uses, through collaborations with its partnerships.

The CSREES nanotechnology research programs support the mission and strategic goals of the USDA. As a powerful enabling tool, nanotechnology will have impacts on nearly all of the Agency strategic goals, and scientists have caught on quickly.

While examining the scope of 74 research proposals submitted for the NRI 75.0 program competition in FY 2004, one can clearly see many brilliant novel ideas using nanotechnology to address a wide spectrum of critical agricultural issues, including:

- new materials and products;
- highly specific, sensitive, and rapid detectors of pathogens and infectious agents for food safety and biosecurity applications;
- improving quality and value of agricultural products and foods;
- enhancing animal reproductivity, product identification preservation and tracking;
- smart delivery of micronutrients, drugs and other functionally important agents for optimal health;
- development of new tools to study important biological phenomena at nanoscale;
- animal and plant health and disease prevention;
- biocatalysis for efficient conversion; and
- clean air and water; soil remediation and environmental protection.

It is anticipated that increasingly more scientists will embrace the new found power in nanotechnology and engage in active, productive, often multidisciplinary research and development in the broad field of agricultural science and technology. The newly formed development committee for a Multistate Research Fund project (NCDC-201: Nanotechnology and Biosensor) is an example of significantly increased interests among the scientists in our Land-Grant University partners.

The arrival of the new era in nanotechnology requires proper preparation of a skilled workforce and a well-informed citizenry. The CSREES High Education Challenge Grant has awarded two projects to develop new interdisciplinary curricula of nanotechnology for undergraduate students majoring in agricultural science in FY03. Graduate students are continually trained under funded research projects awarded by our various funding mechanisms. Through residence in established nanotechnology facilities and participation in conferences and workshops, faculties are retooling. CSREES has supported, and will continue to support, nanotechnology symposia in all agricultural science disciplines. A great opportunity exists for Cooperative Extension System (CES) to engage the stakeholders and the public in disseminating the new science, and

to facilitate two-way dialogues to gather public inputs for assuring societal dimensions such as environmental, health, and safety implications are properly addressed.

For more information, see CSREES' Nanotechnology web page at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nanotechnology.html>.

CSREES' Role in Family and Human Development

Caroline E. Crocoll, National Program Leader, Families, 4-H, and Nutrition

American family life in the 21st century is immensely more complex than it was a century ago. Shifts in family structure, substance abuse, domestic violence, parental incarceration, teenage pregnancy, food insecurity, poor health and nutrition, and our rapidly aging society exacerbate stressors associated with transitions in the human life course. These challenges pose special burdens for families attempting to access quality education and information, achieve self-sufficiency, and provide for the safety and well-being of their children. The sheer number of U.S. family households (currently 76 million), combined with their growing diversity and the challenges they encounter, reinforces the importance of developing and delivering innovative programs to improve the quality of life of families and individuals over their life course.

CSREES' Families, 4-H, and Nutrition unit provides national leadership in family and human development (FHD) to promote the design and dissemination of research-based education for the purpose of enhancing the capacity of individuals and families to make informed decisions, become self-reliant, improve their quality of life and well-being, and engage their full participation in the growth and development of their communities. The FHD field provides a context within which to understand the synergy and balance necessary between all content-specific domains impacting infancy through late adulthood. FHD experts in the land-grant university system share a common commitment to develop and apply scientific knowledge surrounding the critical interplay between social, behavioral, psychological, physical, and economic influences impacting family and human development.

Current research and programmatic efforts in the CSREES FHD program area include marital and couple relationships, family caregiving, adult development and aging, family preparedness and parent education, with a broader contextual focus on the needs of rural, marginalized, and diverse families. Collaborations and partnering opportunities are critical to these efforts. For example, the multi-state, longitudinal research project *Rural Families Speak* assesses the impact of welfare reform on rural, low-income families to better understand the many facets and complexities faced by rural families within the context of their communities. Additionally,

a multi-state, multi-agency Cooperative Extension effort is currently underway to educate Medicare beneficiaries about Medicare reform, facilitating informed decisions about new benefits. In a technology-related FHD collaboration, a multi-state team of specialists is harnessing emerging technologies to develop and deliver quality in-service training through electronic seminars to bring current knowledge to Extension educators in the field. "E-Seminars" dovetail with eXtension's goal of expanding learning choices and methodologies in support of just-in-time learning by providing coordinated access to the objective science-based information of land-grant universities.

In April 26-29, 2005, FHD specialists will gather in Washington, D.C. at the biennial National Extension Family Life Specialists Conference. This conference provides a unique and engaging opportunity for specialists to come together to share best practices and participate in multi-state groups working to develop strategies and programs around critical family life issues. Specialists will have the opportunity to work together on collaborative grant proposals, network with representatives from Federal and national organizations, and share resources with valued partners and colleagues.


For more information on CSREES' FHD program, visit www.csrees.usda.gov/familydevelopment.

Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program

Elizabeth Tuckermanty, National Program Leader, Competitive Programs

The Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program, a proactive approach to fighting hunger, was established under the 1996 Farm Bill in the Community Food Security Act by a group of hunger activists, community and economic development specialists, urban planners, food and nutrition professions, religious leaders, other academics and community leaders. They planned a grant program that would fund low-income communities to take steps that would make those communities more self-reliant around their food systems. This is a parallel, long-term comprehensive approach to solving hunger issues, which includes addressing environmental stewardship, economic and social inequities as well as food access, nutrition and farm issues. It is separate from emergency food efforts and not meant to replace food banks or pantries, but create new innovative alternatives to solving a community's hunger issues. The act was passed by Congress and became law in 1996 and \$2.5 million was mandated from Food Stamp funds to go into Community Food Projects. In 2002 the authority was renewed and the budget set at \$5 million per year.

Since 1996, 185 projects have been funded. Though the funds are intended for grassroots community private non-profit orga-



nizations, the Cooperative Extension System has been involved in many projects across the country. Some Extension staff are involved in catalyzing community organizations, in assessing the issues around food security, in organizing, evaluating, and occasionally directing the activities of projects. Here is a small set of example projects:

Achieving Sustainable Agriculture Goals by Working with Low-Income Farmers to Meet Islamic Religious Dietary Needs, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago, IL [\$120,000 for two years]. The project aids both farmers and consumers by linking low-income farmers in the Pembroke community on the urban fringes of Chicago with existing Muslim markets in the Bridgeview section of the Southwest suburbs to help meet Islamic religious dietary requirements with high-quality, reliable Halal food.

Linking Food and Water to Benefit Communities in Grand Canyon Country, Northern Arizona University Foundation, [\$196,000 for two years]. The project will establish a food and water council to serve a four-county area of Northern Arizona near the Grand Canyon in which community food security is linked to the availability of water, due to frequent local drought conditions. The effort will aid small-scale producers in making more efficient and sustainable use of water and food resources and enhance local direct marketing.

Youth Entrepreneurial Farm and Food Preservation Project, Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc., Gainesville, FL [\$108,000 for three years]. The project will create a replicable youth job training and social entrepreneurship model program with a continuous pool of trained teens who will teach their peers about local food, farm, and nutrition issues. Youth will be involved in building a business based on fresh produce, transplants, and value-added products, with some of the food going for donations to serve at-risk members of the community.

Community Supported Agriculture in New York City: New Approaches for Outreach, Development, and Sustainability, Just Food, New York, NY [\$200,000 for two years]. Working in partnership with over 50 organizations, the grantee will implement strategies to double the number of successful Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) sites initiated in New York City each year, enabling increased numbers of low-income residents to gain access to fresh produce while simultaneously aiding local farmers. CSA sites will be piloted at churches, housing organizations, and WIC and food stamp offices, as well as at other social service agencies.

Developing a Sustainable Food Policy Council and Community Food System Model for Illinois, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Rochester, IL [\$120,000 for two years]. The project has established a statewide food policy council (FPC) for Illinois that would bring together public and private interests to increase local marketing opportunities, foster local FPCs, and facilitate sustainable community food systems. Statewide FPC activities would include holding statewide and regional meetings, identifying research priorities, setting up a speakers' bureau, and fostering leadership development.

Growing a Greener Mississippi: Linking Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture, Mississippi Food Network, Jackson, MS, [\$110,000 for two years]. Focusing on small-scale, sustainable agriculture efforts, the project will provide income and means for self-reliance for low-income households by: increasing access to local, affordable, high-quality produce; breaking down cultural barriers to growing one's own food; teaching sustainable agricultural practices; and launching a statewide food security coalition.

The solicitation for 2005 is open now until March 30, 2005--go to: www.csrees.usda.gov "funding opportunities."

CYFAR 2005 Conference in Boston

CSREES/USDA announces the Children's, Youth, and Families At Risk Program (CYFAR) 2005 Conference May 24-27 at the Seaport Hotel and Seaport World Trade Center in Boston, MA. Karen Barshefsky and Bill Miller, CYFAR Project Directors, University of Massachusetts, are the co-chairs of the conference. Steve Goggin and June Mead, Cornell University, Harry Mangle, University of Connecticut, and Nayda Torres, University of Florida, coordinate program and registration for the CYFAR Conference. A conference planning committee made up of university, county, and community CYFAR program staff from across the country reviewed more than 100 proposals for conference workshops, refereed program showcase exhibits, and computer lab sessions and selected very high-quality presentations with relevance to the CYFAR mission to reach out to at-risk youth and families.

Keynote Speakers are: James Garbarino, Professor of Human Development, Cornell University; Pedro Noguera, Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning, Steinhardt School of Education, New York University; Dante Cicchetti, Professor of Psychology, University of Rochester, Director, Mount Hope Family Center. Research Presenters are: Lisbeth Schorr, Director, Pathways Mapping Initiative Project on Effective Interventions at Harvard University; Thao Le, Director of Research for the Asian/Pacific

Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

CYFAR 2005 is planned especially for community and University CYFAR Project Teams from all states and territories, collaborators on State Strengthening and New Communities Projects, all Extension staff and volunteers working with children, youth, and family programs, CYFERnet partners, and Extension collaborators including the Army and Air Force Youth and Family Program staff. To register for CYFAR 2005, May 25-27, and to pre-register for any of the pre-conference sessions, May 24, go to: <https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/cyfar/reg.htm>

To make reservations at the Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, MA 02210, call 1-877-SEAPORT. Identify yourself as part of the CYFAR Conference. All room reservations must be made by April 25, 2005. Group rates will be available three days before and after the official meeting dates. Room rates for single and double rooms = \$162.00 plus state and local taxes. Extra per person charge is \$25.00 per night. Contact: Sharon K. B. Wright, USDA/CSREES – swright@csrees.usda.gov.

New Financial Security Curriculum Joins eXtension Prototype

“Legally Secure Your Financial Future: Organize, Communicate, Prepare” is a new addition to the “Financial Security in Later Life” educational toolkit at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fsll> (click on educator, then program toolkit). Program participants will learn about records, wills, advance health directives and estate planning documents; understand the importance of family communication about legal documents and their relationship to financial security; and develop an estate plan. Marilyn Bischoff, Extension Family Economics Specialist, University of Idaho, leads an Extension educator team from seven land-grant universities to design, pilot test, market and create an evaluation tool. The program, originally designed for workshop-based delivery, is being adapted for web-based education as part of the eXtension prototype. Contact Jane Schuchardt, USDA/CSREES – jschuchardt@csrees.usda.gov.

A Multi-State Coordinating Committee for Planting Breeding Proposed

Plant breeding is a major investment in the partnership. The Southern region has been proposed as the administrative home because of that region's relatively high proportion of states with a broad range of crop breeding programs. All states will be invited to participate. Activities may include: developing a method for valuing the working genetic material in U.S. public breeding nurseries; identifying gaps--national needs or emergencies for which there are no candidate materials; describing the role of plant breeding in mitigation strategies for critical production activities in a national emergency. Contact Ann Marie Thro, USDA/CSREES – athro@csrees.usda.gov.

Priester Extension Health Conference is April 12-15

Dr. John C. Nelson, president of the American Medical Association, Dr. David Mathews, president and CEO of the Kettering Foundation, and Dr. Richard Jackson, State Public Health Officer for the California Department of Health Services, will headline the 2005 Priester Extension Health Conference program. The conference will be held April 12-15, 2005, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington, KY. This year's theme, “Call to the Post: Translating Research into Policy and Practice for Healthier Communities” will provide tracks on Environmental and Occupational Health, Health Literacy, Social and Ecological Determinants of Health, Legal and Regulatory Approaches to Public Health Issues and Bio-terrorism/Agri-terrorism.

The 2005 National Priester Extension Health Conference is sponsored by USDA/CSREES, NASULGC's Commission on Outreach and Technology Transfer, the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention and the University of Kentucky. The NASULGC Commission on Outreach and Technology Transfer is chaired by University of Kentucky president, Dr. Lee T. Todd, Jr.

The conference will include approximately 75 concurrent workshops, presentations, exhibits, and poster displays, as well as workshops on the move and outstanding general session speakers. The Priester Conference registration forms, hotel information and tentative program agenda are available on-line at www.nnh.org. The early registration deadline is March 11. Contact: Anna Mae Kobbe, USDA/CSREES – akobbe@csrees.usda.gov.

CSREES Develops Research Agenda for Perchlorate in Agricultural Products

Perchlorate is a chemical substance that has been used in explosives and rocket fuel for decades. Effluents from perchlorate manufacturing plants have resulted in measurable amounts of perchlorate in water supplies and irrigated agricultural crops. Perchlorate competes with iodide for uptake by the thyroid gland and it can affect thyroid function and development in sensitive populations such as fetuses, infants, and pregnant women. Federal agencies, state agencies, the U.S. military, and industrial, environmental, and consumer interest groups have been at odds over perchlorate issues such as sources of contamination, movement in soil and water, and safe levels in food and water.

In January 2005, the National Research Council (NRC) released a report entitled "Health Implications of Perchlorate Ingestion" commissioned by the EPA, Defense Department, Energy Department, and NASA (<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11202.html>). The NRC report criticized EPA's decision to rely on laboratory animal tests to set a safe dose of perchlorate, rather than clinical studies of healthy adult volunteers. The report also estimated a safe dose of perchlorate about 20 times higher than EPA estimated.

The NRC report, in order to help clarify safe levels of perchlorate for sensitive populations, recommended clinical studies, *in vitro* studies, epidemiological studies, and iodide deficiency risk factor studies. The NRC report focused on the human toxicity of perchlorates rather than on human exposure through food.

CSREES has developed a research agenda for perchlorates in agricultural products to support regulatory decision on perchlorates.

The preliminary CSREES perchlorate research agenda is part of USDA's National Research Initiative's (NRI) food safety initiative. It complements the NRC report by focusing on natural background levels and transport, human exposure to perchlorate through various food and water routes, iodide consumption and health status, and consumer information about perchlorates. Contact: Dan Jones, USDA/CSREES – djones@csrees.usda.gov.

Lead ²¹ National Leadership Development Program Begins June 2005

"Leadership Development for the 21st Century (LEAD ²¹): Linking Research, Academics, and Extension" is the new primary national leadership development program, replacing the ESCOP/ACOP and NELD programs. The Leadership Planning Committee appointed a year ago by the various Committees on Organization and Policy and CSREES developed LEAD ²¹ to integrate leadership development for research, extension, academic programs, and the federal partner into a single program.

LEAD ²¹ will serve the needs of land-grant university colleges of agricultural, environmental, and human sciences and CSREES, reaching faculty, specialists, program and team leaders, research station and center directors, district and regional directors, department heads and chairs, and others.

To make clear the total participant cost and to simplify payment for LEAD ²¹, there will be one all-inclusive fee of \$8,000 per participant, which will be invoiced to the participant's institution. This fee covers all instructional costs, educational materials, assessment instruments, and all meals and lodging during three on-site sessions. Transportation to the on-site sessions is the responsibility of the institution.

The first LEAD ²¹ class begins June 2005. The application deadline is April 1, 2005. For further information regarding the experience, application materials, scholarship information, and the 2005-2006 program calendar, see <http://www.fanning.uga.edu/LEAD²¹/>. The limited scholarship opportunity is mainly for 1890 and 1994 institutions.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Young (Interim Board of Directors Chair) at eric_young@ncsu.edu or 919-513-1746 or Jessica Garris-Miller (Fanning Institute for Leadership, UGA) at jgarrismiller@fanning.uga.edu or 706-542-1108.

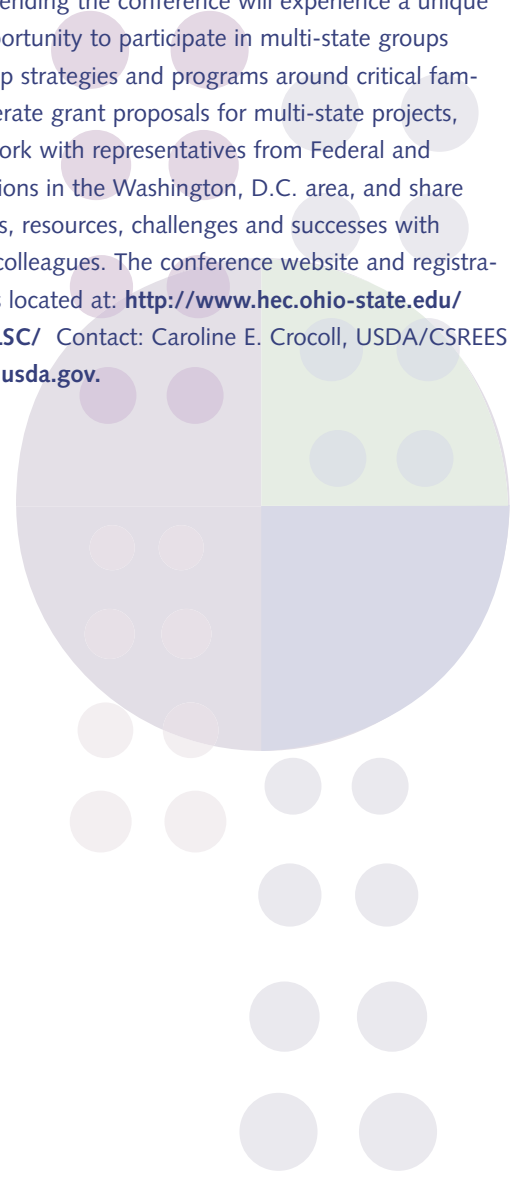
2005 CSREES Administrative Officers' Meeting and the 2005 National Diversity Conference Coincide in April 2005

The 2005 CSREES Administrative Officers' Meeting will be held April 24-28, 2005, in Greensboro, NC. For the first time, an 1890 land-grant institution will serve as the lead host institution for the annual CSREES Administrative Officers' Meeting. North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, in cooperation with its 1862 partner, North Carolina State University, will welcome 2005 meeting attendees to the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons. This meeting is a great forum for state participants to share information with their peers in budget, finance, grants management, and human resources management. CSREES has posted a tentative agenda and breakout matrix for the meeting on the web at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/training/admin-offmtg05.html>. Online registration will be made available later this month.

The timing of the Administrative Officers' Meeting coincides with the 2005 National Diversity Conference. The same two universities will be hosting the Diversity Conference April 27-29, 2005, at the Greensboro/Highpoint Airport Marriott. Attendees of both conferences will be treated to a civil rights tour and a keynote address by Johnnetta Cole, current President of Bennett College for Women and President Emeritus of Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. Other keynoters include Dr. Michael Tate, Vice President for Equity & Diversity at Washington State University, and Dr. Allan Johnson, writer, teacher and public speaker. This is the first Diversity Conference sponsored jointly by the Change Agent States for Diversity (CASD) and the Change Agent States for Engagement (CASE). The CASD/CASE project is a consortium of fourteen states dedicated to greater cultural diversity in the land-grant system by bringing the needed technical skills and training to each of the member states. Through this collaborative approach, the consortium has developed successful models and strategies that can be applied throughout the system. The 2005 conference will focus on sharing the results of the CASD/CASE project and their implications for changes in the land-grant institutions. For further information about the Diversity Conference, please contact Chiquita McAllister on (336) 334-7691 or via e-mail to mcallist@ncat.edu. For the Diversity Conference, online registration is available at <http://www.continuingeducation.ncsu.edu/casd-case/>.

National Extension Family Life Specialist Biennial Conference to be Held in Washington, D.C.

The National Extension Family Life Specialists Biennial Conference, *Engaging the Nation: Building Extension Family Life Partnerships to Maximize National and Community Impact*, will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Franklin Square in Washington, D.C., April 26-29, 2005. This conference brings together state and regional specialists from land-grant universities across the Nation whose work has traditionally been included in the term "family life" or "human development" in Cooperative Extension. This includes specialists working in areas such as Family Life Education, Family Development, Family Science, Human Development, Parenting Education, Child and Adolescent Development, Adult Development and Aging, Gerontology, Family Policy, or Child Care. All those attending the conference will experience a unique and engaging opportunity to participate in multi-state groups working to develop strategies and programs around critical family life issues, generate grant proposals for multi-state projects, connect and network with representatives from Federal and national organizations in the Washington, D.C. area, and share research, programs, resources, challenges and successes with valued Extension colleagues. The conference website and registration information is located at: <http://www.hec.ohio-state.edu/famlife/2005NEFLSC/> Contact: Caroline E. Crocoll, USDA/CSREES – ccrocoll@csrees.usda.gov.



Public Research and Regulatory Review of Small-Market Biotechnology-Derived Crops

CSREES partnered with The National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy (NCFAP); Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA; Langston University, Oklahoma; and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA, to organize an expert workshop on effective ways to meet regulatory requirements, with minimal cost, for specialty transgenic crops developed by public-sector and small business research. The ultimate target outcome is availability of a wider range of public-goods benefits than can be provided by major-market transgenic crops and private investment alone. The full report and recommendations are in preparation.

Two follow-up teams have been formed. One team is drafting a concept for a public organization to facilitate interactions between developers of transgenic specialty crops and regulatory agencies, to help provide advice and data necessary for regulatory evaluation of those crops. This concept relies upon existing models that have similar functions for other types of products, such as USDA's IR-4 Program and Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Orphan Drug Program. A second team will produce a series of white papers, to be submitted to peer reviewed journals, to organize and evaluate current information relevant to the regulatory process.

Contact: Ann Marie Thro, USDA/CSREES - athro@csrees.usda.gov.

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