

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**  
**at the**  
**WILLIAM HENRY HATCH MEMORIAL LECTURE**

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This morning's William Henry Hatch Lecture marks 28 years since the USDA- CSREES Memorial lecture was conceived to honor one of the three Land Grant University's "Founding Fathers" Justin Smith Morrill, Seaman A. Knapp and William Henry Hatch.

The lecture series held during the annual NASULGC meeting began in 1980 with the Knapp lecture featuring Lester Brown and his speech entitled, "The Role of Land-Grant Universities in Creating a Sustainable Society."

Since that inaugural year, there have been many thought provoking lectures by many outstanding contributors to agriculture research, extension and education. I am sure this year's lecture, which honors William Henry Hatch, will provide all of us with thought provoking questions and issues we all need to think about.

This year's lecture honors Hatch, the father of the concept of providing Federal funding across the nation for agriculture research at State agricultural experiment stations located at each Land Grant University.

William Hatch was born in Scott County, Kentucky, on Sept. 11, 1833, the son of a pioneering Protestant (Campbellite) minister. Called to the bar at the age of 21, Hatch moved to Hannibal, Missouri. There he became a noted lawyer, joined the Democrats, and was elected a circuit attorney (1858-1862).

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Hatch joined the Confederate forces. After the War, he returned to Hannibal to practice law. Following the defeat of the Radical Republicans in 1871, he began seeking elective office in Missouri. He became the Democratic congressman for the solidly agricultural First District in 1878, thereafter winning eight successive 2-year terms.

Hatch's influence in Congress was exerted mainly through his chairmanship of the Committee on Agriculture. He was defeated for the Speakership in 1892 and never achieved his ambition of becoming secretary of agriculture, though he successfully led the movement to raise that post to Cabinet rank (1889).

Hatch's pure-food reforms included the Bureau of Animal Husbandry Act of 1884; the first Oleomargarine Act of 1886 (which brought Federal inspection of margarine production and earned him the nickname "Bull Butter Hatch").

He was also responsible for the Meat Inspection Act of 1890; and various measures to check grain speculation, to control the "tobacco trust," and to establish national standards of hygiene in the control of communicable animal diseases.

"Farmer Bill" Hatch made his greatest contribution to American agriculture with the Hatch Act of 1887. This gave direct Federal support to each state and territory for agricultural experimental stations closely associated with the Morrill land-grant colleges.

The agricultural colleges were suffering from low enrollments, poorly trained faculty, and bad morale owing to the relatively undeveloped state of the agricultural sciences in the United States.

The Hatch Act brought immediate improvement: 50 or 60 research stations were eventually created, and their discoveries helped revolutionize American agriculture and the life of the farmer. The colleges grew rapidly after 1887, and it was soon taken for granted that Federal and state governments should work together in a national system of agricultural teaching, research, and (later) extension education work.

The Office of Experimental Stations was created in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1888. Defeated for reelection in 1894, Hatch retired to his farm in Hannibal, where he died on Dec. 23, 1896.

Our speaker today, similar to Hatch, has recognized the strong need for agriculture research and has worked tirelessly in his own area of St. Louis to support increased funding for basic research.

William H. Danforth became Chancellor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of the board of trustees of Washington University in St. Louis on July 1, 1999. He is a director of the board of trustees of the Danforth Foundation and a trustee of the American Youth Foundation. He is chairman of the board of directors of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, and co-chairman of the board of directors of Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Dr. Danforth received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1951 and continued his medical training at Barnes Hospital and St. Louis Children's Hospital. He joined the Washington University Medical School faculty in 1957.

In 1967, Dr. Danforth was appointed professor of internal medicine, which is his present rank at the university. From 1965 to 1971, Dr. Danforth served as vice chancellor for Medical Affairs and as president of the Washington University Medical Center. He became Washington University's thirteenth chancellor in 1971 and served until his retirement in 1995. He also served as chairman of the board of trustees of Washington University from 1995 to 1999. Dr. Danforth is a member of the Institute of Medicine.

Although it took many twists and turns on the road to realization, Dr. Danforth is the father of the idea for a National Institute for Food and Agriculture. He led a study group that was formed by the 2002 farm bill and named by Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman as the "Research, Education, and Economics Task Force" to "evaluate the merits of establishing one or more

National Institutes focused on disciplines important to the progress of food and agricultural science.”

The Task Force presented its report in July 2004, recommending that:

- A National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) should be created within the USDA for the purpose of ensuring the technological superiority of American agriculture;
- The mission of NIFA should be to support the highest caliber of fundamental agricultural research through competitively-awarded, peer-reviewed grants;
- NIFA should supplement and enhance (not replace) existing USDA research programs, with an annual budget building to \$1 billion over a five-year period;
- The Director of NIFA should be a distinguished scientist appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Well, the final outcome we all now know was the direction for the creation of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture by October 30, 2009. The National Institute will assume responsibility for all programs that are currently being administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. By next October, the reality of NIFA will be final and the idea that Dr. Danforth has been championing now for many years.

Quoting Dr. Danforth when he testified before Congress in support of NIFA, “if nothing is done, America will lose its competitive edge to cheaper land and low cost labor; we will not capitalize optimally on our opportunities for bio-energy, a cure for the most virulent animal diseases will elude us, we will fail to protect our health and environment, our cost of production will continue to rise, our environmental quality will suffer and spending on future farm programs will escalate.”

I think all of us agree with this scenario and we all look forward to an exciting and productive future for NIFA. Dr. Danforth’s comments today are entitled “Imagining William H. Hatch today.”

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I would like to take a personal moment. Over the last 3 years, I had a number of visits with Dr. Danforth. That someone outside our profession would be a champion for agricultural research is indeed impressive – but not unheard of. In the early days of agricultural science much encouragement came from the medical profession. Dr. Danforth, I want to say personally that I appreciate your efforts and I know the greatest tribute we can give you is to make the National Institute for Food and Agriculture an overwhelming success.

It is indeed my honor to introduce to you the 2008 William Henry Hatch guest lecturer, Dr. William Danforth.