

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

I have received several responses from you, my ARD colleagues, indicating your appreciation of having the *ARD Updates*. I thank you for giving the newsletter your attention and remind you again, I look forward to your ideas for topics to include.

The Executive Committee met recently and discussed the need for more frequent meetings, as a committee and for the full ARD membership. It was the consensus that if you are kept informed through these newsletters, maybe the face-to-face meetings can be more than information, but sharing of best practices, and discussing initiatives that will strengthen ARD

and allow for stronger programming. Orientation sessions and workshops could also be provided for those who need them. We are planning the summer meeting and will provide details soon. Because of the new McIntire-Stennis eligibility of the 1890s, the summer meeting is tentatively being planned for Asheville, N.C. where administrators and scientists from the Forest Service can meet with us. The winter meeting is being planned for January, 2010 in Key West, FL. Meetings will still be held in conjunction with the September SAES meeting in Oklahoma and the NASULGC Annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The Executive

Committee of the ARD consists of me, as the ARD Chair, Dyremple Marsh, Chair-Elect, Robert Barney, secretary, Conrad Bonsi, treasurer, Alton Thompson, Immediate Past Chair, Ambose Anoruo, Member-at-Large and Carolyn Brooks, Executive Director. Again, I invite you to send suggestions for the enhancement of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Orlando F. McMeans,
Chair

*****Funding*****

The upcoming Research Symposium will offer breakout sessions led by the NEPLs (Ali Mohamed and Tim Grosser) on Tuesday morning, March 31st. The RFA for the **Capacity Building Grant (CBG)** Program should be out by mid-March, with proposals due in April (most likely). Thus it will be extremely helpful to hear from the NEPLs about the RFA CBG changes so that the proposals submitted will meet the guidelines. Jeff Jordan and James Hill will also be making a presentation about **SARE** because there have been changes to this pro-

gram as well. Finally, we were notified that **AFRI RFAs** are late and for inquiries, the NPLs of AFRI (formerly NRI) should be directly contacted. For example, the **Soil Processes Program** (Program Code 94440) has delayed its RFA and anticipate it will be out by mid-March as it is hoped that the proposal due date for this program will be April 14, 2009.

1890 Funding Lines for 2009:

Evans-Allen - \$45.504 million (increase of \$4.453 million)
1890 Extension - \$40.15

million (increase of \$4.3 million)

CBG-15 million (increase of \$2.408 million)
1890 Facilities- \$18 million (increase of 0.733 million)

Other CSREES Programs of Interest:
AFRI- \$201.504 million (increase of \$10.621 million)

SARE- \$14.399 million (same as FY08)
EFNEP- \$66.155 million (increase of \$0.598 million)

McIntire-Stennis- \$27.535 million (increase of \$2.744 million)



Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)

One of the fastest growth areas in funding for CSREES has been in mandatory funding programs which are the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (\$230 million), the Organic Research/Extension Program (\$78 million), Beginning Farmer/Rancher (\$75 million) and Biomass R&D (\$118 million). It should be a major priority for the 1890s to work together to apply for some of these mandatory funds as they fit well with programs on 1890 campuses.

In this newsletter issue, the SCRI program is highlighted. The SCRI was established to solve critical industry issues through research and extension activities. SCRI will give priority to projects that are multistate, multi-institutional, or trans-disciplinary; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public. Projects must address at least one of five focus areas: research in plant breeding, genetics, and genomics to improve crop characteristics; efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators; efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term; new innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening; and methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops. There are five types of projects to be funded:

1. **Standard Research and Extension Projects** (SREPs) and the budget can not exceed \$2,000,000 per project for up to 5 years.
2. **Coordinated Agricultural Projects** (CAPs) with a funding range that will not exceed \$2 million per year for up to 5 years.
3. **Regional Partnerships for Innovation** (RPIs) for 2–3 years and the funding will not exceed \$2,000,000 per project. These projects would help form partnerships that provide the local or regional infrastructure needed to fully exploit future technology commercialization and adoption.
4. **eXtension Projects for 3–5 years** and funds will not exceed \$500,000 per project. The purpose is to develop Communities of Practice (COPs) for the eXtension system and to support existing COPs.

While a Letter of Intent was requested and was due March 2nd, it is not required. The deadline for submitting SCRI proposals is April 15th. The prohibitive factor in seeking these funds as 1890s is the 1:1 match requirement. However, this year, unrecovered indirect costs may be allowable as part of the 1:1 match, which may help. For more information go to the CSREES website.

New Appointments

At a recent Executive Committee meeting, it was deemed appropriate to establish two new committees. The first is the Creative Ideas Committee. This committee would present to the membership new initiatives to address 1890 needs. Dr. Zachary Senwo will chair this committee and the other members are Ed Buckner at UAPB, Wondi Mersi at VSU, Oghenekome Onokpise at FAMU, and Frieda Eivazif at Lincoln. Please contact Dr. Senwo at zachary.senwo@aamu.edu if you have ideas for his committee to consider. A second committee is the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that will review the ARD Constitution which has not been amended since 1990 and shows evidence of being obsolete in some areas. This committee will report back at the ARD summer meeting and the members are Carolyn Brooks, Chair, Alton Thompson at NCA&T, Steve Meredith at Lincoln, Al Parks at PVAM, and Ambrose Anoruo at DSU.

Another new appointment as ARD Representative is Dr. Wondi Mersie who has agreed to serve on the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center.