

# Message from the Chair



## *ARD Summer Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina*

Things are falling in place for our summer meeting in Asheville, NC. If you have not already done so, please make your reservations at the Grove Park Inn Resort and Spa. Specific instructions to do so can be found at the ARD website, [www.umes.edu/ard](http://www.umes.edu/ard). The meeting will get underway with a reception and dinner on Monday, August 10th. The next full day is devoted to learning about the Forest Service in general and the Southern Research Station (SRS) of the USDA Forest Service in particular. We will even go on a tour of one of the SRS lab locations. On Wednesday we will hear from invited guests from USDA/CSREES, USDA/OASCR, ESS, and APLU. While we will receive updates from CSREES on our traditional funding programs, we will have a detailed overview from Dr. Deborah Sheely, the Deputy Administrator, CSREES Competitive Programs, about the Agriculture Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Too often we, as 1890s, have concentrated primarily on the Capacity Building Grant Program for much needed funding. Dr. Sheely will enlighten us on broader possibilities for funding through AFRI. On Wednesday afternoon we will hear ARD-related reports and have discussions on critical issues affecting us. Thursday morning will be utilized as an ARD business meeting followed with an educational tour of the Biltmore Estate. All meeting updates can be found at the ARD website. See you in Asheville.

Sincerely,

Orlando F. McMeans, Chair



ARD UPDATES





## AFRI Priorities

AFRI funding will be guided by their Priorities which have been defined as follows:

- **Food Safety and Health** to include strategies to detect and eliminate foodborne illnesses, bioterrorism agents, and plant, human and animal pathogens; improving value of food and creating health-promoting foods; understanding environmental factors related to obesity and food-related diseases.
- **Environmental stewardship** to include agricultural production management strategies that are sustainable and promote environmental stewardship; waste management practices and alternative waste usage; enhancing energy efficiency in agricultural production.
- **Economic return** to include sustainable production systems that are profitable and protective of the environment; integrating local, regional, national and global food systems to maximize US benefits and benefits to consumers throughout the world, particularly underserved and immigrant populations
- **Communities and Families** to include stimulating entrepreneurship and business development in rural communities and new forms of economic activity; enhancing problem-solving capacities of rural communities, including urban-rural interface issues; analyzing ways to design youth programs to strengthen communities.
- **Crop Production Systems, New Products and New Uses** to include encouraging change in farm practices that reduce petroleum-derived inputs; increasing productivity with limited inputs; and improving crop quantities and qualities through agricultural production efficiencies.
- **Local and Global Climate Change** to include increasing the storage of carbon and nitrogen in soils, plants, and plant products; assessing socioeconomic impacts, risks, and opportunities associated with global climate change and extreme climate events on ag. and natural resources; and minimizing effects of climatic changes.
- **Animal Production Practices, New Products and New Uses** to include technologies for reducing impacts of agriculture on the environment; using conventional and newly developed technologies and wastes that are socially and ethnically acceptable; promoting animal health through enhanced nutrition, feed efficiency, utilization of non-traditional feeds, genetics and disease reduction.
- **Nanotechnology** to include integrating nanotechnologies into agricultural and food production practices; employing nanotechnologies for environmental stewardship.
- **Agricultural Water** to include developing technologies to improve production efficiencies of use, distribution and quality of water; evaluating and enhancing the recharge value of agricultural and forestry production areas; examining the policy and legal issues relating to water use, distribution and quality.

### *Overall Priorities for the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee*

- *Adequate funding to support all NIFA capacity programs*
- *Substantial increase in AFRI to reach full authorized level (\$700 million) within five years*
- *Full funding for all mandatory programs*
- *Funding at no less than the previous F.Y. level or the President's budget (if it is high enough) for all budget lines not targeted for enhancement*
- *Reducing the number of lines to advocate for (through CARET and the Advocacy Firm) and to concentrate on themes rather than budget lines and thus simplify the message*

However: ESS Directors favor increases in formula funding and while they heartily support seeking substantial increases for AFRI, they do not want the increases to be gotten at the expense of formula funding, i.e. Hatch, Evans-Allan, McIntire Stennis.