

Message from the Chair



Dear Colleagues:

I sincerely hope your holiday break gave you much needed rest and extremely happy and memorable occasions to celebrate. I also hope the weather did not put a damper on your activities.

During the week that most of our campuses had closed, the federal budgeting process was becoming clearer, and not in a very positive way. Indeed, our efforts must be really shored up if we are going to prevent a big drop in the formula funds that we currently receive. From what we have been told about the FY11 budget, there will be a short term Continuing Resolution (CR) at FY10 levels for now. Also, 406 programs would remain in tact but funds will likely not be apportioned until the FY11 budget is firmer.

The new Congress will be very conservative and there is great fear that our formula funding levels will be reduced back to what they were in 2008. Currently the 1890s receive \$48,500,000 for research (Evans-Allen) and in 2008 the appropriation for research was \$41,051,000. In 2008, 1890 Extension was receiving \$35,850,000 and currently 1890 Extension funding for 2010 is \$42,677,000. Consequently, if we go back to the 2008 funding levels, research will lose \$7,449,000 and Extension will lose \$6,827,000.

At the CARET/AHS meetings in Washington, D.C. on February 27—March 2nd, Cornerstone will be working with the CARET representatives and with the System on how we must come together, speaking with one voice, as we lobby our states' politicians to not drastically cut our funding in this way. Hunt Shipman from Cornerstone will be attending our meeting in Atlanta on January 11th to discuss the steps we need to take as 1890 Universities. I fervently ask all of you to respond to requests of us to assist the Cornerstone advocacy firm in presenting an air-tight case for, at a minimum, making NO CUTS to the 2010 appropriations, even as we go forward in making requests for increases to the FY2012 appropriations.

As you can see, we have a lot of work to do, including of course working with the symposium steering committee in planning and implementing a successful 2011 Biennial Research Symposium. See you in Atlanta as we have these extremely important discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dyremple Marsh".

Dyremple Marsh, Chair

**Happy New
Year!!!!**



ARD UPDATES

Important dates

Symposium Steering Committee Meeting is January 10—11 in Atlanta

ARD Winter Meeting is January 11—12 in Atlanta

Nominations Deadline for the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award and the B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award is 1/19/2011 (one per campus for each)

Regular Symposium Registration ends 2/25/2011 (\$500)

CARET Meeting in D.C. is February 27 — March 2nd

Late Symposium Registration begins 2/26/2011 (\$550)

Capacity Building RFA will be out soon: Proposals will be due in March

ARD UPDATES



The 68th PAWC

Tuskegee University hosted its 68th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference December 5—7, 2010 at its Kellogg Conference Center. The theme was *Empowering Underserved Farmers and Rural Communities by Changing Legislation, USDA Eligibility Requirements, and Program Delivery*. The conference included the student paper and poster competition, concurrent workshops and informative presentations. This year Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, attended and spoke at the conference. An unexpected piece of information was revealed at this conference that will impact the wording used from now on by the USDA and the 1890 Universities. In a session of reporting back from case studies, it was learned that minority clientele applying for USDA funding felt insulted or disconnected to the wording “socio-economically disadvantaged.” The 2501 program for example is called **Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR)**. It was suggested that there be a name change of this program, and to make this change in the next Farm Bill. The 1890 universities will also address this and make changes accordingly.

Consensus on National Outcomes and Indicators Workshop

NIFA continually has a need for data to report evidence of performance for the grants it awards each year. NIFA must annually report outcomes from its funding to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), explanatory notes for the budget request to Congress, the USDA’s performance report, and performance reports for OMB and other USDA Departmental and congressional inquiries. While the land grant universities are getting better in providing information that is useful for NIFA reporting, what is lacking are outcomes that can be aggregated across the nation to show national impact. About 75 individuals, (14 from the 1890 universities) will meet in New Orleans in late February for a workshop that will define two or more national outcomes and measures (research and extension) and/or two or more regional outcomes and measures for each of the five NIFA priority areas which will be reported in the Plan of Work and Annual Report of Accomplishments in the future.

THE ESS SCIENCE ROADMAP IS COMPLETED

The Agricultural Experiment Station Section (ESS) has recently completed the first steps in developing a new Science Roadmap for Food and Agriculture. The objectives of the Roadmap are to:

- Chart the major directions of agricultural science over the next 5 – 10 years.
- Define the needs and set the priorities for research.
- Provide direction to decision makers in planning and investing resources to future program areas.
- Support advocates of the food and agricultural research and education system.
- Support marketing of the SAES system.
- Facilitate the building of partnerships for a stronger coalition to solve problems.

The final document can be found at <http://www.nera.umd.edu/escop/scienceroadmapnov172010.pdf>. Several products will flow from this large document and these products will be used to educate and hopefully influence several different audiences. **Please explore the document with the idea that your thinking will be influenced, ideas generated, and productive discourse created.**

Grand Challenges for Agricultural Research

- Sustainability, competitiveness, and profitability of U. S. food and agricultural systems.
- Adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change on food, feed, fiber and fuel systems in the U.S.
- Supporting energy security and the developing the bio-economy from renewable natural resources in the U.S.
- Playing a global leadership role to ensure a safe, secure and abundant food supply for the U.S. and the world.
- Improving human health, nutrition and wellness of the U.S. population.
- Heighten environmental stewardship through the development of sustainable management practices
- Strengthen individual, family and community development and resilience.

