

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

The most dire information we continue to receive relates to budgets. Many of our campuses struggle with state budget cuts and on Capitol Hill the cuts continue. As stated by the ESCOP BAC "Already tight state finances make the impacts of the FY2012 House budget cuts even greater and have potential to substantially decrease system capacity through loss of faculty and staff." Since the last *ARD Updates*, the House has made more cuts to its 2012 NIFA budget. Last month the House recommended a \$2.989M cut to Evans-Allen and recently the cut increased to a cut of \$3.272M. These are the newest cuts to the 1890 lines in addition to the Evans-Allen cut: 1890 Extension cut by \$6.872M, Capacity Building Grant Program cut by \$3.664M, and 1890 Facilities Program cut by \$3.161M. The decreases to our 1862 counterparts from the House this month are now -\$29.957M for Hatch and a decrease of 36.733M for Smith-Lever. AFRI itself would be cut by \$41.1M and NIFA's total budget would be cut by \$212.754M. ARS is targeted for a 12% reduction.

The Senate Ag. Committee has not taken up the 2012 budget bill and will not likely do so until September. I again ask you to please make sure your campus follows the advocacy instructions from Cornerstone when requests and instructions materialize. In the meantime, we will discuss the white paper you all received from the Southern Region of Research and Extension Directors (see page 2). They are asking for endorsement of their white paper to have the BAC primarily concentrate their efforts on maintaining and increasing capacity lines (which are lines for formula funding.) We will discuss this at our summer meeting.

At the September ESS/SAES/ARD meeting there will be breakout discussions on operationalizing the ESCOP Roadmap, realizing we have to depend on more than capacity (formula) funds and AFRI. How else can we fund our programmatic priorities? And finally, there was a fly-in meeting to include system representation, including the 1890s, to provide REE feedback on its strategic plan. The group prioritized the USDA-REE 12 Goals with "water" initiatives coming out on top of the prioritization and with Bioenergy surprisingly being ranked very low. Bioenergy funding was thought to be available from more agencies/sources than just from AFRI/NIFA/USDA.

We have a very full agenda for our summer meeting as you will note from the draft agenda you have received. I look forward to seeing all of you in July and I hope you all are finding time for some of the pleasures of summer.

Sincerely,

Marsh, ARD Chair

Dyremple

ARD Summer Meeting

July 26 - 29, 2011

Encore Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

See agenda at www.umes.edu/ard



Meeting Reminders

ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting/Workshop

September 26 - 29, 2011

Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, CO

<https://regstg.com/Registration/Introduction.aspx?rid=0aa0b6ed-369b-4ea2-a9f6-2e6999549976>





Great Things Are Happening on Our Campuses:

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian Receives the Phi Tau Sigma Elizabeth Fleming Stier Award



Fatemeh Malekian, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, received the 2011 Elizabeth Fleming Stier Award for “pursuit of humanitarian ideals and unselfish dedication resulting in significant contributions to the well-being of the food industry, academia, students, or the general public.” Malekian has committed her professional career to making changes in people’s attitudes toward living healthier lives regardless of race, age, culture, gender and socioeconomic background. Her research focuses on product development, chemical analysis of foods, stability, processing, packaging, and food safety. She spreads her message of good nutrition, health, and food safety through presentations, seminars, workshops, and media. Dr. Malekian provides

training and leadership support for extension professionals and paraprofessionals and other individuals throughout Louisiana. Her influence is not confined to Louisiana alone; she has been an invited participant in nutrition and food safety programs in Armenia, Kenya, and Malawi. In addition to educating people about nutrition and health, Dr. Malekian has directed a project in the greater Baton Rouge, La. area where she developed a dietary assessment and intervention food questionnaire and conducted focus groups, nutrition education, and exercise classes for those displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Do you Agree? - White Paper: Criticality of Formula Funds for Research and Extension

In May, 2011 the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors met and voted unanimously that federal formula funding is still their number one priority and that maintaining or increasing these funding lines was absolutely critical to serving stakeholders. Therefore a white paper was developed that utilized information from previous work by an ECOP/ESCOP Formula Funds Task Force. One of the reasons for developing this paper was to seek endorsement from the other four regions, one of which is the 1890 region. As you consider your university’s position for a vote to be taken at the ARD summer meeting, please use the following points from the paper to assist you in your considerations. This position does not suggest that advocacy efforts to increase competitive lines in NIFA are not important, but the Southern Region wants to make it clear that support to maintain and increase formula funds should be the ECOP/ESCOP’s most important stance.

- Competitive funding mechanisms ensure high quality research but do not necessarily ensure relevance to farmers, ranchers, and consumers, particularly at the state or local level. Formula funds, however, promote ongoing engagement of research and Extension with its stakeholders – producers and consumers – and allows for continuous adjustment of program direction and objectives based on that engagement while competitively funded proposals are guided and judged by peers of the proposal developers.
- Formula funding is better able to promote multi-state collaboration that is more efficient, systematic, inclusive, and sustainable than competitive funding mechanisms, due to its greater flexibility and continuity.
- Formula funding provides a bridge to maintain infrastructure, personnel, and competitiveness between successful grants.
- A loss of formula funds, even with an equal increase in competitive funds, will disproportionately disadvantage smaller institutions and will have a detrimental impact on regional and national networks of research and extension programs. All states and LGUs will be negatively impacted, but competitive-dominated mechanisms create or exacerbate the “have’s and the have-not’s.”