

# ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

November 2021, Vol. 12, Issue 11



## Message from the Chair Dr. Chandra Reddy

Dear Friends and Colleagues,  
Several members of ARD participated in the First Americans Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON) 2021 Annual Conference last month. This conference was content-rich, had several thought-provoking plenary, workshop training and networking sessions and faculty, staff and student presentations. One of these sessions, in particular, that resonated with the 1890 community focused on barriers to equity, tribal self-determination and 'indigenosity' of USDA. The 1890 community is sensitive to and fully understands these issues quite well. As our partners, the First Americans Land-Grant Colleges and Universities are integral to the tripartite mission of the land-grant system. Going forward, the 1890 and 1862 institutions will be very intentional and more vocal in supporting the First Americans Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

Last month, at a fly-in, the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) leadership converged on Kansas City with a focused agenda on advocacy that allowed for in-depth conversations on determining strategies for future priorities, expanding federal funding opportunities, and determining the organizational structure needed for success. I felt there was enormous support for the 1994 institutions and the 1890 institutions... especially recognizing our needs and historical negligence. In addition, in September, at the ESS business meeting in Palisades Tahoe, California, Dr. Carrie Castille, the new NIFA Director, stressed the importance of partnering with the 1994 tribal land-grant colleges and universities.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am reminded of those who have helped ARD along the way. I am so grateful for everyone who supports the 1890 research, discovery and innovation mission area and our partners and collaborators. I wish each of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving celebration.

Thanksgiving is a holiday shared by all Americans regardless of religious faith or background and

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## ARIA UPDATE

# Build Back Better, what's next?

By Doug Steele, APLU vice president

I'd like to share updates about the Build Back Better legislation and its next steps. Please see the Council of Governmental Affairs' summary of the legislation [here](#). Here is the [bill text](#). We are tracking all the bill's aspects that might have relevancy and funding opportunities for our members.

At this time, the Build Back Better budget reconciliation bill would support the USDA's NIFA to carry out agricultural research, Extension and education related to climate change.

- **It would fund the Research Facilities Act (RFA) at \$1 billion over 10 years, providing support to covered institutions for construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities and compliance issues.**

A covered institution includes the 1890s, 1994s, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian serving institutions, Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and Hispanic-serving institutions, insular institutions and the University of the District of Columbia. The bill would also waive requirements that institutions provide a match of federal funding.

- **In addition to funds for the RFA:**
  - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) would receive \$210 million.



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*Congress approved the Evans-Allen Act of 1977 to provide capacity funding for food and agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant universities and Tuskegee University (the 1890 Institutions) similar to that provided to the 1862 universities under the Hatch Act of 1887. Research conducted under the Evans-Allen Program has led to hundreds of scientific breakthroughs of benefit to both the unique stakeholders of the 1890 institutions and the nation as a whole. The Evans-Allen Program has been extremely important in allowing the 1890 institutions to attract top-notch scientists to their campuses, conduct high-quality and innovative research and become more fully integrated within the land-grant system.*

*Below is an example of an impact from the 1890 research program submitted by scientists at Alabama A&M University.*

## Alabama A&M examines the endocrine control of feed intake

Ghrelin is a hormone secreted primarily by the proventriculus of most avian species. In mammals, increased concentrations of ghrelin stimulate feed consumption and promote adipogenesis. However, in avian species, there is scant and conflictive results on the effect of ghrelin on feed intake.

At AAMU College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences (CALNS), a group of graduate and undergraduate students working under Dr. Jorge Vizcarra and Dr. Martha Verghese are evaluating the effect of a ghrelin receptor agonist (capromorelin) on feed intake and animal welfare.

Broiler chickens and turkeys were used to evaluate the effect of capromorelin doses on animal behavior. Feeding

(number of pecks to the feeder/min), water bouts

(number), sitting (min) and standing (min) were recorded for eight consecutive hours for four days, one week after treatments were applied. Color CCD cameras were used to record videos and digitalized using Ethovision. Subsequently, videos were watched and analyzed by students. In broilers, the number of pecks/minute was increased as capromorelin doses were increased.

However, increased concentrations of capromorelin resulted in decreased number of pecks/minute in turkeys. Other variables such as actual feed intake followed the same pattern. On the other hand, the number of water bouts and the time that birds spent sitting or standing was not different between treatments.

This information is relevant to the poultry industry. Modern-day poultry is characterized by fast growth and high-feed conversion rates. For instance, the selection for growth

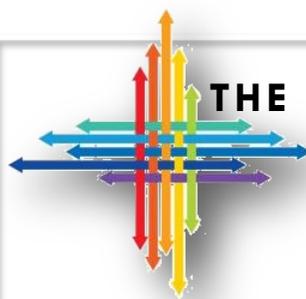
rate in the broiler industry has decreased the time required to produce a broiler chicken from approximately 12 to five weeks since 1955. This dramatic reduction of the interval from hatching to marketing has been coupled with a rigorous growth restriction program for developing the parent stock.

However, prolonged quantitative feed restriction is perceived by many as contrary to present-day attitudes toward animal welfare. Although the dimension of the welfare problem is well recognized in the industry, the constant demand for poultry meat represents a financial incentive to continue the genetic selection in poultry, further increasing the welfare issue.

AAMU's goal is to develop new tools that can be



**Graduate students Nurudeen Toafeek (left) and Katherine Sanmartin are examining a broiler chicken before taking a blood sample.**



## THE 1890 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA: PATHWAYS TO BUILD BACK BETTER

April 2 – 5, 2022 | [Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA](#)

Registration: -Deadline for Early Registration – Nov. 12, 2021— \$550

Regular Registration – Nov. 13, 2021 – Feb. 25, 2022—\$575

Late Registration – Feb. 26 – March 25, 2022—\$625

On-Site Registration - \$650

### REGISTRATION

Pay by purchase order, check or credit card. No funds (Note: Credit card users need to pay an additional fee to cover bank charges). [Register here.](#)

### HOTEL REGISTRATION

[Atlanta Marriott Marquit Reservations](#)

[Hotel Guest Room Rates:](#)

Single and Double Occupancy: \$194

Triple Occupancy \$214 | Quadruple Occupancy: \$234

Tax and Surcharges: Hotel rates are confirmed in 2022 and are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 16.9% plus a \$5.00 per night State of Georgia Hotel Motel fee) in effect at the time of check in. Deadline to book, March 10, 2022.

### ABSTRACTS & POSTERS

[Click for submission form.](#) Deadline – Nov. 15, 2021

### DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS

Each 1890 campus is invited to display a university display at no-cost. Additional exhibits and non-1890 exhibits must pay the fee of \$2,000 by Feb. 11, 2022. All exhibitors, including the 1890s, must submit the Exhibit Registration Form by the deadline of Feb. 8. [To become an exhibitor, click here.](#) [To become a sponsor, click here.](#)

### MORRISON-EVANS & MAYBERRY AWARDS

The application deadline for the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award and the B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award is Jan. 21, 2022. External reviewers, i.e. NIFA National Program Leaders will evaluate the applications. Access the [applications here.](#)

In preparing the submissions, please use the following criteria: 8 1/2 x 11 inch page; Times Roman no smaller than 11 points, 1.5 line spacing, one-inch margins all around.

For additional information contact: [Dr. Alton Thompson](#), ARD Executive Director, (336) 285-2955 or [Dr. Orlando McMeans](#) (225) 771-4310.

## Castille makes first trip to Sunbelt Ag Expo, KSU

NIFA Director **DR. CARRIE CASTILLE** made her first trip to the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Ga., in October. Dr. Castille, Stakeholder Affairs Officer Josh Stull and NIFA Communications Director Faith Peppers visited with all the land-grant universities with exhibits at the Expo and with representatives from Fort Valley State University and Virginia State University, which was highlighted as this year's Spotlight State.

"It was a valuable opportunity to see NIFA-funded work on display and all in one location," Castille said. "I appreciate the time and effort that went into these exhibits and the opportunity to meet with faculty and administrators in

person for great conversation."

Later in the month, Dr. Castille also visited the campus of Kentucky State University.

"Over the past year, I've read reports about the impact of their research, Extension and teaching programs, but to be able to see it firsthand and talk to the faculty helps me share your success stories and amplify the great work you are doing," Castille said.



DR. CARRIE CASTILLE

## Smith joins NIFA communications office



LARACHELLE SMITH

**LARACHELLE SMITH** joined NIFA communications in October as a communications manager. Bringing almost 20 years of marketing and communications experience to NIFA, she will be working closely with the internal NIFA community

and stakeholders across the nation to ensure a strong line of communication to agency programs and opportunities. LaRachelle currently serves as the Association

for Communications Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences president. She will also be the NIFA liaison for the Western Region Land-grant University Steering Committee.

Smith joined the agency after serving as the marketing, communications and IT director at Prairie View A&M University in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences in Texas. Her expertise in digital marketing, experience working in the land-grant university system, and numerous leadership roles on boards and committees representing the Southern Region will strengthen the NIFA communications unit and leadership.



## Reddy ... from page 1

allows us to focus on the blessings and the freedoms we enjoy. For the opportunity to live in a country where freedom is guaranteed by our Constitution and reinforced in our daily lives, I say thank you. For the practical and visionary leadership provided by each of the 1890 research directors, I say thank you. For maintaining an enabling environment by always working to create the best conditions to support innovation in the academic and research enterprises, I say thank you. For the financial investment provided primarily by NIFA, I say thank you.

As Thanksgiving approaches and given that November is Native American Heritage Month, I am also reminded of the truth about Thanksgiving. The Native Americans in attendance at the first 'Thanksgiving' were Wampanoag, a people with a sophisticated society who had occupied the region for thousands of years. They had their own government, their own religious and philosophical beliefs, their own knowledge system and their own culture. They were also a people for whom giving thanks was a part of daily life.

The quintessential Thanksgiving feast of turkey, cranberry sauce and mashed potatoes (*foods we still enjoy today*)

would not exist if not for the knowledge and ingenuity of the Wampanoag and other Native people of the Americas. And, unlike the image of the first Thanksgiving as a friendly gathering of two diverse groups trying to understand each other's culture, this gathering had much more to do with political alliances and diplomacy.

This is a much different story than the idyllic scene depicted in countless texts and tales, but tells us so much more about the event and helps us understand the significance of the gathering far beyond eating turkey on the fourth Thursday of November.

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, ARD acknowledges the many contributions of First Americans to the land-grant system and to America. The land-grant system will only improve if we learn from our history.

Finally, the ARD community celebrates the ARD Veterans, and all Veterans, who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. We appreciate your service and immense sacrifice to our great country."

# NIFA reporting system updates and enhancements

The NIFA Reporting System (NRS) team has continued to update the application in collaboration with our land-grant university (LGU) partners and make enhancements to the system infrastructure. Over the next few weeks, users will begin to see additional features and updates to existing features. Recently, the team has hit major milestones including:

- **Initiation of New Capacity Programs in the NRS** – Last month, three other capacity programs moved to NRS— Animal Health and Disease Research, Renewable Resources Extension and McIntire-Stennis. All capacity projects and programs will initiate new projects and complete reports in the NRS, a major milestone in NIFA’s effort to build a single, more streamlined system. Guides are available on [the NRS website](#).
- **Accession number** – The accession number is now displayed within the project information in the NRS and the exportable version.
- **Usability interviews** – The NRS team recently met with several users to discuss user needs and provide feedback on potential enhancements. Meeting directly with users helps us create more tailored and efficient solutions in the NRS. Additional user sessions will be held.

## Features in Progress

- **Notifications** – NRS users will be pleased to know that we are currently working on a notification system to alert users when a project’s status changes. In conjunction with this, a log of project changes will also soon be available.

- **Filtering and export enhancements** – The NRS team has identified additional filtering options for the program/project view that will make it easier for users to tailor their view within the dashboard.
- **Co-Project Director listing** – We are finalizing the details of how co-PDs will be listed in the application and what information will be collected. Once in hand, we will add this to research project initiations.
- **Reporting results** - In September, REEport issued automated reminders regarding due dates for final technical and financial reports. The NRS team would like to remind our users that all projects or programs ending in FY 2021 will have their final reporting activities performed in REEport. Projects that are active in the NRS will report results as soon as the form is available.
- **Financial Reports (REEport) for FY2021** - After further internal discussion, financial reports for all projects that were active in REEport in FY2021 will be filed in REEport. Projects that were initiated and approved in NRS in FY2021 will receive additional information shortly.

Please be on the looking for webinar invitation in the forthcoming weeks. If you’d like to be added to the distribution list, please send the request to [pow@usda.gov](mailto:pow@usda.gov). Questions or requests for assistance with NRS can be sent to [pow@usda.gov](mailto:pow@usda.gov). For assistance with REEport, please send an email to [sm.electronic@usda.gov](mailto:sm.electronic@usda.gov).

## LEAD 21 seeks applications for next class

Know someone that you think would be interested or ideal for LEAD21? Applications for LEAD21 Class 18 (2022-2023) is open.

The LEAD21 program is intended to meet the future needs for leadership development of faculty, specialists, district and regional directors, program and team leaders, research station and center directors, department heads and chairs and others in the universities’ colleges of agricultural, environmental, natural resources, veterinary sciences and human sciences and USDA/NIFA. Individuals from land-grant, NARRU institutions and USDA are encouraged to participate.

The primary purpose of LEAD21 is to develop leaders in land-grant institutions and their strategic partners who link research, academics and Extension in order to lead more effectively in an increasingly complex environment, either in their current position or as they aspire to other positions.

### Program goals are for participants to:

- Enhance application of skills and knowledge learned in

four core leadership development areas (change, conflict, communication, and collaboration).

- Develop a peer leadership network in order to enhance personal leadership practice, collaboration, and diversity of perspective. Develop and implement an individual leadership development process.

### Program components include:

- Three sessions
  - Session 1: June 12 - 17 2022; Chicago, IL
  - Session 2: October 3 - 6, 2022; Denver, CO
  - Session 3: February 20 - 24, 2023; Washington, DC

Independent learning experiences

### Program cost:

- \$9,750 (includes lodging, meals, and educational materials for all three sessions)

Limited scholarship available

**Application deadline:** November 30, 2021 for full consideration. [Apply online](#). *Additional Information: Rochelle Sapp, Ph.D., LEAD21 Program Director. Cell: 979-571-3067.*



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(Exec. Director)

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### 1890 Land Grant Universities

[Alabama A&M University](#)  
[Alcorn State University](#)  
[Central State University](#)  
[Delaware State University](#)  
[Florida A&M University](#)  
[Fort Valley State University](#)  
[Kentucky State University](#)  
[Langston University](#)  
[Lincoln University](#)  
[North Carolina A&T State University](#)  
[Prairie View A&M University](#)  
[South Carolina State University](#)  
[Southern University and A&M College](#)  
[Tennessee State University](#)  
[Tuskegee University](#)  
[University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff](#)  
[University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#)  
[Virginia State University](#)  
[West Virginia State University](#)

ARD Updates is published monthly by the Association of Research Directors. To suggest articles, contact Dr. Alton Thompson at [athompson1@ncat.edu](mailto:athompson1@ncat.edu)

## Build Back Better ... From page 1

- Smith-Lever would receive \$80 million.
  - 1994s Extension would receive \$35 million.
  - 1890s Extension would receive \$40 million.
  - 1890s Centers of Excellence would receive \$5 million.
  - Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) would receive \$60 million.
- The bill would provide **USDA Rural Development with \$873 million in Rural Prosperity Development Grants for comprehensive rural development and pre-development** activities and planning and operating and implementing costs. Cooperative Extension is an eligible entity. A fund of \$97 million is included for Rural Prosperity Innovation Grants for capacity building to support rural development. Higher education institutions are eligible to apply for this funding. The funding for both grant programs would be available for 10 years.

Although the APLU Board on Agricultural Assembly is grateful for this proposed RFA funding, we are deeply concerned that not all land-grant universities are eligible. We will encourage the White House and congressional leadership to seriously consider providing *additional funding* to address widespread infrastructure challenges at 1862 institutions as well. This is critical for U.S. agricultural research, Extension and global leadership for decades to come.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY



### Post-Doctoral Diversity and Innovation Scholars Opportunities – University of New Hampshire

The College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire is recruiting two post-doctoral scholars as part of the [UNH Post-Doctoral Diversity and Innovation Scholars program](#).

Two opportunities:

[Post-doctoral scholar in ecology](#)

[Post-doctoral scholar in social science and climate change](#)

## CALENDAR



**ARD MEETING AT APLU**, Nov. 8 | Virtual  
**ESCOPE BUSINESS MEETING AT APLU**, Nov. 12 | Virtual  
**BAA MEETING AT APLU**, Nov. 10 | Virtual  
**APLU ANNUAL MEETING**, Nov. 15-17 | Virtual



**79TH PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFERENCE** | Dec. 5-7 | Virtual | Tuskegee University | “Forging Paths to New Opportunities: Local & Global Perspectives”  
[Call for Student Abstracts](#)  
[Registration deadline](#) is Nov. 30. Through sponsor generosity, PAWNG will waive registration to the first 300 participants.

