



Message from the Chair



Dear Colleagues:

As usual, the ARD is very busy. A number of events are receiving our attention and I wanted to remind you of them again in this section of our newsletter:

1. There will be a June meeting of the Symposium Steering Committee in Atlanta, GA on June 28th-29th. Please contact any steering committee member to send comments or ideas you might have to make the 2011 Symposium our best ever. We will be certain to send to all of you the notes from the meeting.
2. Along with the four other regional SAES Chairs, I will be meeting with Dr. Roger Beachy in Washington, D.C. to discuss issues relating to the new RFAs of AFRI and any other issues relating to NIFA. Please feel free to contact me by email if there are issues you want conveyed from the ARD or from your campuses.
3. Our 1890 Presidents and Chancellors will hold their summer meeting in Little Rock, AK June 23-25th. They have requested that presentations be given by Drs. Carolyn Brooks and L. Washington Lyons as they relate to NIFA-related issues, BAA-related issues, and the ARD and AEA respectively.
4. The previously proposed meeting on the new Capacity Building Grants RFA and outcomes from the 2010 cycle is now being planned as a one day meeting in Atlanta on July 27th and July 26th is the travel day. You will soon be receiving detailed information about the agenda so you can determine who will represent your campuses. For logistical reasons, no more than three persons per campus are being invited. It is realized that you, as administrations will probably be the attendees for research and for teaching, and one person is expected to represent Extension. After you receive the agenda items to be discussed by Dr. Ali Mohamed and the issues to be discussed in breakout sessions, you can meet with those on your campus who can best give you the input you need so that you, or your designee, can best contribute to the discussions and receive the individualized information your campus needs.
5. Finally, we are in the home stretch for the hosting of the ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop in Nashville, TN September 27—30th. Registration for the meeting (\$400) and hotel reservations at the Hilton Nashville Downtown can take place through <http://www.umes.edu/ard/ess>. We will still need your input and assistance for the 1890 Presentation I will give as Chair of the ARD and ask that you respond to the email requests that you will be receiving from our Executive Director, Carolyn Brooks.

As you can see, this is a very busy time, but I know many of us will be seeking a little time here and there to get some much needed R&R. I hope all of you will find the time to have those vacations, and I hope they will be just 'what the doctor ordered.'

Sincerely,

Orlando McMeans, Ph.D.

President Obama nominated Dr. Catherine E. Woteki as the next Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics at the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This position has been vacant since Dr. Rajiv Shah became the Administrator of USAID. Dr. Woteki currently serves as Global Director of Scientific Affairs for Mars, Incorporated, where she manages the company's scientific policy and research on matters of health, nutrition, and food safety. We all hope that by the time you receive this *ARD Updates*, she will have been confirmed.

ARD UPDATES



1890 University Success

Recently Dr. Mark Poth of NIFA sent a memo to the 1890 communities saying “We would like the broad 1890 University research and extension community to be aware of the significant opportunities available in AFRI and the competitive advantage 1890 Universities have in seeking these grants. Although the FY2010 programs will not make awards until the end of the calendar year, the FY2011 AFRI Requests for Applications will be released early this fall.” He also was pleased to announce that the 1890s were very successful in the FY2009 appropriations, which included the first Million Dollar Award to an 1890 from AFRI. Dr. Poth and Dr. Diana Jenkins have asked to be able to speak at the next ARD meeting, which will be in Nashville in September to see how they can assist in helping to build more of this kind of success.

Below is the information about the FY2009 1890 Awards from AFRI:

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Program Director</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Total Award</i>	<i>Proposal Title</i>
Food Safety: Epidemiological Approaches	Divya Jaroni	Southern University and A & M College	\$1,077,639	Reduction of <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 in small-scale cow/calf operations using Best Management Practices
Plant Biology: Biochemistry	Violetka Colova (Tsolova)	Florida A&M University	\$125,000	Directing the metabolic Flux towards Overexpression of Flavonoid Nutraceuticals in <i>Muscadinia</i> grape
Plant Biology: Environmental Stress	Suping Zhou	Tennessee State University	\$124,552	Characterization of root proteomes for drought and salt tolerance in wild tomato species
Soil Processes	Zachary Senwo	Alabama A&M University	\$10,000	Strengthening Soil Science Research and Training at 1890 Land-Grant Universities

ESCOP Presents Stakeholder Comments on AFRI

If President Obama’s 2011 budget holds up, AFRI funding would increase from \$262,482 to \$428,845. The agency would fund more Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAP) that are focused and fewer smaller single investigator awards. ESCOP is pleased that NIFA is moving toward focusing on priority issues and encouraging interdisciplinary and integrated teams. However some of the unintentional consequences might be: fewer innovative discoveries that arise from single-investigator awards; focused grants limit broad disciplinary research and there would be gaps in funding for basic, high risk research on agricultural crops, livestock, and food products; and by focusing primarily on national priorities, state and local research programs would fall short and the agricultural clientele would have less buy-in and political support would weaken. ESCOP also suggests that RFA language should allow for capacity building in CAP grants for small institutions, because partnerships across disciplines and institutions require time for systematic approaches and to build trust for successful coalitions.