

# Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

I am sure many of you read articles recently about the funding concerns at NIH as they relate to minority applicants and/or applications from MSIs. This brought about an investigation about the fairness of the AFRI award process by the USDA Administration. It was found that in AFRI (the NIFA competitive grants program) only 1.5% of the awards go to 1890 universities. This study is very incomplete because some 1890s are receiving AFRI funding but are not the lead institutions; thus that funding was not counted in the preliminary study. However the concern for the 1890s is that our campuses are submitting only ~ 1% of the AFRI proposals as lead institutions. There are certainly explanations why so few proposals are being submitted, but NIFA, with very good intentions, established new funding programs, particularly to entice the MSIs and small institutions to submit proposals and have a better chance of getting an award. By submitting only a limited number of proposals, the assumption may soon be made that this funding opportunity is either poorly communicated or unwanted. The former is most likely the case. Nevertheless, when the door of opportunity is opened to us, we must walk through it or face the possibility that the door of opportunity may soon be closed. The ARD is working with NIFA to find better ways to highlight and announce the set-aside opportunities since distinct RFA notices are not provided. **Please see page 2 for current announcements.**

These special funding opportunities are the Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement and Experimental Program (FASE) & the EPSCoR Program. Information about them can be found at [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri\\_fase\\_epscor\\_program.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_fase_epscor_program.html). The enhancement programs are 10% of the AFRI budget and can be used for sabbatical grants, equipment grants, seed grants, and strengthening standard and coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAP) which are available during each funding cycle to ensure that underrepresented campuses can receive a portion of the AFRI funds. Colleagues, we must take advantage of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dyremples Marsh, ARD Chair



### *Hold the Date*

#### *The AEA 2012 Conference in Memphis, TN*

**June 23—June 28, 2012. Conference Theme: 1890 Extension System: Visible, Accountable and Viable.**

*Conference Goals:*

1. *To provide participants with an increased understanding of effective communications, marketing, and brand imaging.*
2. *To provide participants with an enhanced understanding of the importance and requirements to develop and deliver quality and impactful programs that are measurable and relevant.*
3. *To provide participants with the knowledge and skills to derive practical and innovative solutions that address emerging issues based on stake holders' needs.*

### *Meeting Reminder*

***APLU Annual Meeting in San Francisco—Nov. 13-15, 2011.*** Please obtain registration information and agenda at <http://www.aplu.org/page.aspx?pid=1462>. Tentatively the ARD meeting will be Monday evening (Nov. 14). For those of you on the Executive Committee of the 1890 Task Force, that meeting will take place from 9am—noon on Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

# ARD UPDATES



Visit <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/recentReleasedGrants.cfm>  
for recently released grants



**Please go to the above website** to determine granting areas appropriate for your campus strengths. The areas below are **examples** of those with FASE (i.e. strengthening grants) eligibility - <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html>

### ***Development and Sustainable Production of Regionally-appropriate Biomass Feedstocks. Program code area A6101***

- Letter of Intent is due October 25, 2011
- Due Date is December 15, 2011
- See page 16 of text RFA for FASE component information
- Contact Dr. Wm. Goldner at [wgoldner@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:wgoldner@nifa.usda.gov)

### ***Impacts of Regional Bioenergy Feedstock Production Systems on Wildlife and Pollinators***

- Program Code Area—A6123
- Letter of Intent deadline is October 25, 2011 to [bioenres@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:bioenres@nifa.usda.gov)
- Application deadline—December 15, 2011
- Program Area contact is Dr. Daniel Cassidy at [dcassidy@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:dcassidy@nifa.usda.gov)

### ***Socioeconomic Impacts of Biofuels on Rural Communities***

- Program Code Area—A6124
- Letter of Intent due October 25, 2011 to [bioenres@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:bioenres@nifa.usda.gov)
- Due date is December 15, 2011
- Program area contact is Dr. Fen Hunt at [fhunt@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:fhunt@nifa.usda.gov)



### **Funding Opportunities: *NIFA Fellowships Grant Program***

Letter of Intent Deadline: November 8, 2011

Application Deadline: January 19, 2012

[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/12\\_afri\\_nifa\\_fellowship.pdf](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/12_afri_nifa_fellowship.pdf)

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The Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has released its Calls for Proposals for the 2012 On-Farm Research Grants. Proposal submission deadline is Nov. 15, 2011. On-Farm Research Grants are for those interested in conducting on-farm research or marketing projects related to sustainable agriculture. Applicants must work with at least one farmer/rancher on the project to conduct on-farm research in sustainable agriculture. On-Farm Research Grants may be funded up to two years for a project maximum of \$15,000. Log on to <http://www.southernsare.org/Grants/Apply-for-a-Grant> to download the current Calls for Proposal. For more information on Southern SARE, log on to <http://www.southernsare.org>