



# C-FAR Connection

Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research

## 2002 C-FAR Membership Retreat

In the beautiful wooded setting of Eagle Creek Resort and Conference Center in Findlay, Illinois, members of the Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR) convened in February for a two-day retreat to chart the course for future C-FAR-funded research initiatives. At this special event, 200 industry stakeholders and researchers shared their insights and experiences to help prioritize the research needs for Illinois' food and agriculture industry.

Duane Noland, an Illinois state senator, provided opening remarks at the retreat. Senator Noland emphasized the importance of C-FAR and how Illinois must "strategically plan what is ahead for us in agriculture." Since Senator Noland is nearing retirement, the C-FAR membership took this opportunity to recognize him for the instrumental role he played in the passage of the Food and Agriculture Research Act (C-FAR's enabling legislation).

The retreat was led by a team of facilitators who thoroughly understand both how C-FAR functions and the scope of its research programs. Joseph Coffey, who currently provides administrative leadership to

the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research, was the general facilitator for the retreat. In addition, a facilitator was assigned to each of C-FAR's five working groups: Terry Wolf, expanding agricultural markets; Larry Fischer, rural economic development; Lyle Roberts Jr., agricultural production systems; George Fahey Jr., human nutrition and food safety; and Anthony "Tony" Young, natural resources. These facilitators led brainstorming sessions to examine and revise C-FAR's research focus areas and to identify potential new research initiatives.

During the two-day retreat, C-FAR members spent many hours sharing their thoughts on the research needs most critical to Illinois' food and agricultural industries. Working group participants revised previously identified research objectives and subobjectives according to current and future industry needs. At the end of their sessions, the working groups identified the following new research objectives and main subobjectives. (For complete information, visit the C-FAR research focus areas web page at [www.ilcfar.org/research/focus.html](http://www.ilcfar.org/research/focus.html), or contact the C-FAR office.)

### Expanding Agricultural Markets

The primary objective of this research is to enhance profitability by identifying demand, and developing and advancing technologies to expand markets for Illinois agricultural products. The following are revised research priorities:

- Develop new uses for grain and livestock processing by-products
- New and expanded markets and uses for existing Illinois agricultural products
- Consumer-driven product development (including services)
- Grow Illinois livestock industry
- Bringing research to commercialization

*(continued on page 3)*



DR. GEORGE FAHEY JR. FACILITATES DISCUSSIONS DURING A HUMAN NUTRITION AND FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP SESSION AT THE MEMBERSHIP RETREAT

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**C-FAR Connection**

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Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research

C-FAR funding provided by the State of Illinois, George H. Ryan, Governor

**Only in Illinois**

When the Food and Agriculture Research Act was enacted in 1995, I suspect very few of us could have envisioned what this legislation would really mean to our food and agricultural industries. Those members of the Illinois General Assembly who helped shape and pass this legislation were pioneers, as were the industry-based stakeholders who helped create C-FAR in 1993. The partnership of the State of Illinois, the food and agricultural industry, and our state universities and related research entities was unprecedented. We have yet to find such a vibrant partnership anywhere else in our nation—it exists only in Illinois.

The vibrancy of this partnership was clearly evident in the first few months of 2002. In January, 200 industry stakeholders, elected and appointed officials, and university researchers convened for our All Working Group Meeting. A month later, 200 representatives met once again for our Membership Retreat. These meetings demonstrated how a coalition like C-FAR can bring together a myriad of interests and perspectives to formulate a comprehensive guide for our food and agricultural industries. In March, 120 C-FAR members met once again, over the course of five days, to review and prioritize proposals to fund via our External Competitive Grants Program. This level of participation is remarkable—what a tremendous testimony of support and interest in our food and agriculture research programs.



KRAIG A. WAGENECHT  
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

The Food and Agriculture Research Act indicates that the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) shall provide general administrative oversight; the act further states that the IDOA shall do so “with the assistance and advice of duly appointed representatives of the Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research.” Today, assistance and advice are provided by representatives from 69 industry-based organizations. The depth, breadth, and diversity of these organizations serve our state extremely well.

At present, we are temporarily confronted with budget concerns—concerns that will affect every Illinois citizen. Still, the long-term future of our partnership is bright. The C-FAR coalition, in partnership with the State of Illinois and in cooperation with our university-based research community, will continue and expand upon our efforts to ensure that Illinois’ food and agricultural industries are the recipients of the very best research in the nation. No one individual or group can take the credit for our past accomplishments, and no one individual or group will be able to take the credit for future achievements, as our approach has been and continues to be one of partnership. In the Land of Lincoln, we can proudly say this is taking place—and only in Illinois.

### **Rural Economic Development**

The objective of this research is to discover and develop products, enterprises, and alternative practices of Illinois food and agricultural systems, including policy analysis, that facilitate sustainable resource use and economic vitality for healthy rural and urban communities. The following are revised research priorities:

- Research on economic and regulatory barriers
- Alternative agricultural products research and development—value-added and value-enhanced
- Business opportunities for farmers—listing of potential agriculture-related options on and off the farm
- Create replicable integrated models which develop agricultural systems and enterprises that will foster the stewardship of existing and future natural resources, providing healthy foods and agricultural products and related economic benefits
- Value-added processing and marketing opportunities for Illinois' five major commodity groups—corn, soybeans, beef, pork, and dairy

### **Agricultural Production Systems**

The objective of this research is to increase the capacity of Illinois' agricultural production systems to address changing world food and agricultural demands for plant systems, animal systems, and other systems. The following are revised subobjectives:

#### **Animal Systems**

- What models or marketing systems will likely be profitable in Illinois over the next 10 to 15 years?
- Identify siting factors for livestock facilities and research solutions—

- use of by-products from operation
- What is the comparative advantage for livestock production (existing and new)?
- Improve economic and business environment for livestock (new and existing)
- Novel innovative approaches to disease control in livestock (could include antibiotic research)
- Research best management practices (BMPs) for animal welfare issues (economic and alternative systems)
- Alternative fuels by-products use in livestock industry
- Tools to keep producers profitable

#### **Plant Systems**

- Soybean production systems
- Expanding fruit or vegetable production systems in Illinois
- Production systems for corn
- Future “environmental change” response from agriculture
- Reevaluate crop responses to fertilizer and removal
- Strategies for wheat diseases
- Bioterrorism—possible impact on agricultural systems
- Improve nitrogen test
- Research viability of alternative crops in Illinois
- Expand “green” industry in Illinois
- Improve soil quality

#### **Other Systems**

- Improve renewable or alternative fuels production
- Strategic biotechnology research for inputs or outputs to increase farmer profitability and consumer acceptance
- Improve strategies for global positioning systems (GPS), variable-rate technology (VRT), and geographic information systems (GIS) for management
- Research needs for label of origin

- or preference for specific products
- Increase utilization of agricultural products “in state” through value-added endeavors
- Assessing competitive and comparative production systems (all foreign)

### **Human Nutrition and Food Safety**

The objective of this research is to enable consumers to make informed and healthful dietary choices from a nutritious, high-quality, safe, and secure food supply. The following are revised research priorities:

- Determine and enhance the nutritional quality, safety, and human health benefits of food products, and develop interventions for hazard reduction
- Identify and study matters related to food production through consumption that will ensure safe and high-quality food for consumers
- Develop and test effective methods to modify and improve dietary behaviors to enhance community and individual health
- Determine the health impacts of physiologically active animal- and plant-based components in health



LYLE ROBERTS JR., AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS WORKING GROUP FACILITATOR, LEADS RESEARCH PRIORITIZING DISCUSSIONS

- and disease at all stages of life
- Evaluate the nutritional quality and safety of foods grown and produced under varied production systems such as, but not limited to, biotechnological, nonbiotechnological, organic, no-till, hydroponic, and free-range
- Investigate issues and develop effective methods to communicate nutrition, food quality, and food safety information to producers, consumers, educators, food handlers, and health care professionals
- Assess and develop foodborne illness prevention, detection, and outbreak management systems

### **Natural Resources**

The objective of this research is to foster the sustainable use of natural resources in Illinois. The following are revised subobjectives:

- Evaluate environmental, social, and/or economic watershed consequences from land use and management practices
- Develop integrated production systems that protect and enhance air, soil, and water



NELS KASEY, CHAIR (STANDING), AND ROGER HUBELE, JOHN HUSTON, AND PAUL GEBHART (SEATED; LEFT TO RIGHT), ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING RESEARCH NEEDS DURING THE EXPANDING AGRICULTURAL MARKETS WORKING GROUP SESSION

- Develop methods to reduce adverse effects of pesticides and nutrient inputs
- Develop economic methods that will improve utilization of animal- and plant-production system by-products in an environmentally responsible manner
- Develop and evaluate permaculture land management for long-term sustainable agriculture

At the 2002 semi-annual meeting in August, participants in the five working groups will review these new research priorities to determine if further revisions are necessary.

During the membership retreat, working group members also reviewed C-FAR's current Strategic Research Initiatives (SRIs). They held preliminary discussions on new research initiatives to fund after the current SRIs reach maturity on June 30, 2003.

In addition to setting new research priorities, C-FAR members elected working group chairs and vice chairs to serve in 2002:

#### Expanding Agricultural Markets

**Nels Kasey, Chair** (Paris)

**Phillip Borgic, Vice Chair** (Nokomis)

#### Rural Economic Development

**A.J. Harland, Chair** (LaFayette)

**Karla Hart, Vice Chair** (Simpson)

#### Agricultural Production Systems

**Brent Bidner, Chair** (Monticello)

**Molly Ann Godar, Vice Chair** (Rochester)

#### Human Nutrition and Food Safety

**Karen Little, Chair** (Pleasant Plains)

**Jeanne Harland, Vice Chair** (LaFayette)

#### Natural Resources

**Susan Adams, Chair** (Atlanta)

**Byford Wood, Vice Chair** (Breese)

## **C-FAR Annual Meeting**

The C-FAR Annual Meeting was held on February 14 in Findlay, Illinois, following the Membership Retreat. Terry Wolf of Homer received special recognition at the meeting for his dedicated service to C-FAR. Mr. Wolf served on the C-FAR board of directors from 1996 to 2002, was chairman of C-FAR's board from 1996 to 2001, and is currently president of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research.

At the meeting, C-FAR board members reported on various topics, including FY02 revenues and expenses, the status of the FY03 "Grow Illinois" appropriation request, the activities of the Research Committee, and membership renewals and new members. Carol Keiser, membership chair, announced that "The C-FAR membership has grown to include 69 food, agriculture, environmental, and consumer organizations; 39 state and university entities; and over 140 individual members. The importance of maintaining a strong research program to support our state's food and agriculture industry is emphasized by the commitment of our members, representatives from nearly all industry sectors, who have come together through C-FAR to share their experiences and perspectives."

Another highlight of the annual meeting was the election of three members to C-FAR's board of directors: Larry Fischer (Pittsfield), Carol Keiser (Champaign), and Alan Puzey (Fairmount). While Keiser and Puzey have both served on the board previously, this is Fischer's first term as a board member. Larry Fischer may be new to the C-FAR board, but he already has considerable experience with C-FAR. Fischer was president of the University of Illinois College



2002 C-FAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT) DAVID DOWNS, LARRY FISCHER, JACK ERISMAN, FRED BRADSHAW; (SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT) CAROL KEISER, ALAN PUZEY, CONSTANCE LOCHER BUSSARD.

of Agriculture Alumni Association when that group's board brought forward the concept of C-FAR. He was president of the newly formed University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association when representatives from that organization's board met with Illinois Department of Agriculture officials to prepare a request for state funding for this special initiative and when C-FAR received its first appropriation of \$3 million. Fischer currently serves on the Board of Governors for the Southern Illinois University Agriculture Alumni Society and is Interim Vice President for Instruction at John Wood Community College in Quincy. Fischer, Keiser, and Puzey will each serve a two-year term on the six-person board of directors.

Following the annual meeting board elections, the C-FAR board of directors elected officers at its February 26 meeting. The 2002 board officers are Alan Puzey, chair-

man; David Downs (Allerton), vice chair and research chair; Fred Bradshaw (Griggsville), secretary/treasurer; Constance Locher Bussard (Springfield), legislative chair; Carol Keiser, membership chair; and Larry Fischer, research vice chair. Jack Erisman (Pana) will serve in an ex officio capacity as past chair. In response to his election as chairman, Alan Puzey remarked, "It is a distinct honor for me to be serving as the C-FAR chairman. The unprecedented levels of engagement in and support of C-FAR will enable this organization to provide critically needed direction to our research portfolio. I look forward to our organization's continued strong partnership with the State of Illinois in ensuring that our food and agricultural industry has a strong research base."

## Welcome

### New C-FAR Members in 2002

A special welcome to new members who joined C-FAR in 2002. We are grateful for your commitment to Illinois food and agricultural research and look forward to your participation in C-FAR events and activities.

#### Organizational Members

DuPage County Farm Bureau

Illinois Aquaculture Industry Association

#### Affiliate Members

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Shawnee Community College

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of ACES – Information Technology and Communication Services

#### Welcome to all Individual members who joined us in 2002!

### New C-FAR Staff

We are pleased to share that Dionne Simmons and Siobhan Rich have recently joined the C-FAR team. Dionne serves as the initial contact person for the office and assists with maintaining C-FAR's financial records. Siobhan provides support to C-FAR events and database management.

## Meet Your C-FAR Leaders

2002 Working Group Vice Chairs



**Phillip Borgic**

**Position:** Expanding Agricultural Markets Vice Chair

**Representing:** Illinois Pork Producers Association

**Residence:** Nokomis

**Family:** Wife, Karen; sons, Mike and Kevin; daughter, Michelle

### **Why is C-FAR important to you?**

C-FAR has enabled the stakeholder in the agricultural industry to have direct input on how research dollars are spent and to set priorities on research projects to pursue. C-FAR has also formed a coalition that works together to obtain additional funds to do more research.



**Karla Hart**

**Position:** Rural Economic Development Vice Chair

**Representing:** University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association

**Residence:** Simpson

**Family:** Husband, Butch

### **Why is C-FAR important to you?**

Being involved with C-FAR gives me a great opportunity to help shape the future for our next generation. I have always wanted to make a difference in agriculture, and working with C-FAR provides another avenue where I can make a difference.



**Molly Ann Godar**

**Position:** Agricultural Production Systems Vice Chair

**Representing:** Illinois Pork Producers Association, Checkoff Division

**Residence:** Rochester

**Family:** Husband, Dennis; daughter, Hannah; sons, Jim, Clay, and Ryan

### **Why is C-FAR important to you?**

C-FAR gives its stakeholders the opportunity to bring into focus the research needs of Illinois agriculture. Input from C-FAR's many diverse members and organizations in cooperation with researchers results in a stronger research network. Relevant and timely food and agriculture research benefits the economy and all of the people of Illinois.

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## **Working group representatives, mark your calendars!**

The C-FAR working groups will convene on August 20 in conjunction with the semi-annual meeting to continue important direction-setting discussions for C-FAR research. The meeting will be held at the Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center in Springfield, Illinois. Working group participants will refine the revisions made to the C-FAR research focus areas at the membership retreat. The research focus areas guide researchers in submitting proposals for all of C-FAR's competitive grants programs. The working groups will also consider potential new research initiatives that could begin as early as July 2003.



## Jeanne Harland

**Position:** Human Nutrition and Food Safety Vice Chair

**Representing:** Illinois Beef Association, Dues Division

**Residence:** LaFayette

**Family:** Husband, A.J.

### Why is C-FAR important to you?

C-FAR offers a unique opportunity for producers like us to give direction to research being done in various fields related to agriculture. No one knows better what challenges need to be addressed than those of us who spend our days—and nights—raising livestock and growing crops.

## www.ilcfar.org

Visit the C-FAR website to stay informed about our organization's membership activities and research programs. You will find monthly updates from the executive administrator, a calendar of events, a leadership and staff directory, a listing of funded research projects, reports on research findings, news releases, meeting minutes, and more!



## Byford Wood

**Position:** Natural Resources Vice Chair

**Representing:** Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association

**Residence:** Breese

**Family:** Wife, Ruth A.; children, Jerry, Lou, Vance, and Tracy; grandchildren, Keith, Sarah, Erin, Adrian, and Trina

### Why is C-FAR important to you?

Food and agriculture are basic requirements for the well-being and standard of living currently enjoyed by the citizens of Illinois. In order to sustain the present standards, we must better understand the relationships and balances among societal pressures, ever-increasing population demands, and finite resources. Effective research has the capability to provide some of the facts essential for a better understanding of the interdependency of people and their environment.

## Websites to Watch

### C-FAR

[www.ilcfar.org](http://www.ilcfar.org)

### Information Systems and Technology SRI

[web.aces.uiuc.edu/sriit](http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/sriit)

### Rural Community Development SRI

[www.siu.edu/~i-farm](http://www.siu.edu/~i-farm)

### Swine Odor and Waste Management SRI

[sowm.outreach.uiuc.edu](http://sowm.outreach.uiuc.edu)

### Food Safety SRI

[www.siu.edu/~foodsafe](http://www.siu.edu/~foodsafe)

### Water Quality SRI

[web.aces.uiuc.edu/sriwq](http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/sriwq)

### NAT Tools for Good Health

[www.nat.uiuc.edu](http://www.nat.uiuc.edu)

*For analyzing diet and food choices.*

### farm.doc

[www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu](http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu)

*Provides farmers with decision-making information and analysis tools.*

### Illinois TRAILL

[il-trail.outreach.uiuc.edu](http://il-trail.outreach.uiuc.edu)

*Organizes livestock research, information, and expert services.*

### Interactive Agronomy Handbook

[web.aces.uiuc.edu/iah](http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/iah)

*Databases and online resources complement handbook.*

### Pest Management & Crop Development Bulletin

[www.ag.uiuc.edu/cespubs/pest](http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/cespubs/pest)

*Provides scouting reports, management advice, and decision-aid tools.*

### Illinois IPM Online

[www.ipm.uiuc.edu](http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu)

*An environment for learning about integrated pest management.*

### Illinois Watershed Management Clearinghouse

[web.aces.uiuc.edu/watershed](http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/watershed)

*Helps groups create and implement a plan to address local watershed issues.*

### Illinois World Food and Sustainable Agriculture Program

[web.aces.uiuc.edu/wf](http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/wf)

*Covers world food issues and related agriculture and natural resource implications.*

### Community Development Toolbox

[www.ag.uiuc.edu/~lced/cfarsriit.html](http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~lced/cfarsriit.html)

*Addresses rural needs for data analysis.*

# calendar

## 2002-2003

- July 9 Board of Directors Meeting (Illinois State University)
- August 20 Semi-annual Meeting (Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center - Springfield)
- September 4 Board of Directors Meeting
- November 13 Board of Directors Meeting
- January 14 All Working Group Meeting (location to be announced)
- January 16 Board of Directors Meeting
- February 18 Annual Meeting (location to be announced)
- February 26 Board of Directors Meeting
- March 6 Expanding Agricultural Markets Working Group Meeting
- March 7 Rural Economic Development Working Group Meeting
- March 10 Agricultural Production Systems Working Group Meeting
- March 11 Human Nutrition and Food Safety Working Group Meeting
- March 12 Natural Resources Working Group Meeting

*Location of March WG meetings (to review External Competitive Grants Program proposals) to be announced.*



Please call the C-FAR office or check the calendar on the C-FAR website at [www.ilcfar.org](http://www.ilcfar.org) for further details.