

C-FAR CONNECTION

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C-FAR Research and Its Funding

A spotlight shone brightly

As the release of the FY08 C-FAR appropriation and other agricultural-related program appropriations was being sought this past fiscal year, the critical importance of the C-FAR appropriation to Illinois was brought to light. The process of securing the FY08 appropriation reminded us that the C-FAR appropriation's unique attributes are very deserving of being reiterated from time to time. We wholeheartedly embrace these opportunities to brightly shine a spotlight on the remarkable characteristics of this appropriation.

The research arm for Illinois

The C-FAR appropriation is *the only* State of Illinois appropriation that provides a comprehensive and coordinated research program for Illinois' food, agricultural, and related sectors. This was exactly the intent for C-FAR's establishment and the enactment of the Food and Agriculture Research Act (the C-FAR appropriation's enabling legislation). Although there are pockets of other important state research funding for specific purposes, the C-FAR appropriation anchors our state's food and agricultural research program on a holistic basis.

The stated purpose of the Food and Agriculture Research Act very directly captures the C-FAR appropriation's role. It reads: *The purpose of this Act is to put a solid foundation of stable and long-term State support under the important public activity of food and agricultural research while improving accountability and gathering public input concerning that research. This should provide the institutional capacity and program continuity that are required to mount effective food and agriculture research programs and that cannot be achieved with short-term funding.*

A key point: Although there are other funds appropriated to universities by the state for food and agricultural research support, the majority of these funds provide for researcher salaries and infrastructure costs. The C-FAR appropriation, however, is *dedicated to specific high priority research being conducted.*



NELS KASEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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C-FAR Connection

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Chairman's Column

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The economic benefit

Numerous nationally respected analyses have determined publicly-funded food and agricultural research to yield a return of 45% annually. For those of us in Illinois, this significant rate of return is easily understood, considering the unbelievable advancements that have occurred in our state's number one industry over the past several decades. Indeed, advancements enabled by C-FAR appropriations have furthered our realization that high-quality research results in significant improvements in our food and agricultural systems and in an enhanced economy.

Leveraging: an additional economic benefit

Researchers are not just "given" research funding – they must compete for it. Typically, researchers build their research program by submitting proposals for state, federal, or private funding. After they achieve initial success, they are often able to secure much greater funding to enhance their programs. Illinois' researchers have been very proficient in this regard. Case after documented case has shown the C-FAR appropriation to be a highly effective investment for garnering very significant funding from federal and other sources. This dynamic funding process enables highly robust research programs to be anchored in Illinois. An equally important result is our state's economy being further stimulated because of the infusion of these additional dollars into Illinois.

Research personnel

Although most research programs include a physical infrastructure (i.e., laboratories, demonstration plots, computer software), societal benefits of research ultimately come to fruition because of their personnel.

In Illinois, we are blessed with having a superior scientific intellectual capacity. Research teams often include undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students. C-FAR research affords these young professionals an exceptional opportunity to hone their scientific skills while earning their degrees. Talented students often matriculate at Illinois universities because of C-FAR research opportunities, with many of them staying in state to become our next generation of researchers.

The true strength of any research program is reflected by the expertise of the researchers who lead the effort. These professionals are attracted or retained in large part based on the degree to which the state provides a core base of research funding (i.e., in Illinois, C-FAR appropriations). There is a tremendous competition for our nation's and world's top scientists, and Illinois must attract and retain the best. The C-FAR appropriation is a demonstrable factor in this regard.

Illinois' rank

The year prior to the first C-FAR appropriation in FY96, Illinois ranked 26th in the nation for its state investment in food and agricultural research. By FY00, Illinois had increased its rank to 15th. This increase was due almost entirely to the C-FAR appropriation.

While some might suggest that this ranking is not necessarily important by itself, the research capabilities that are inherent in such a ranking do matter. Although Illinois' rank has dropped some in recent years, it is clear the C-FAR appropriation is the mechanism to increase our food and agricultural research capabilities.

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C-FAR RESEARCH FUNDING IS STATE-APPROPRIATED GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS. C-FAR GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE STATE OF ILLINOIS — ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR.


Chairman's Column

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The glue that binds

The vibrancy of the C-FAR membership and appropriation has materialized to meet very demanding needs of our state's food and agricultural industry. In partnership with the State of Illinois and our state's research communities, there has been a highly positive change in the dynamics of our state's food and agricultural research programs. We have learned that, working together, we can nurture research investments that are highly meaningful and practical for Illinois.

Having just scratched the surface, I suggest it is clear why the C-FAR appropriations are critical to our state's number one economic engine.



Nels Kasey
Chairman of the Board

C-FAR Celebrates its 15th Anniversary

This year, C-FAR is proudly celebrating its 15th anniversary. Hand in hand with the State of Illinois and the state's research community, the dynamics of Illinois' food and agricultural research program has been significantly and positively changed. Founded in 1993, C-FAR was established with precisely this lofty aspiration in mind. In addition to making our state's research program much more viable, the result has strengthened Illinois' largest industry and enhanced the health and welfare of Illinois citizens.

The forming of a unique partnership

In 1993, foresighted industry, government, and university leaders understood the importance of and potential for a statewide partnership to bolster publicly-funded, cutting-edge food and agricultural research – keeping Illinois at the forefront of the industry. The following meetings and developments were critical to C-FAR's establishment.

March 20, 1993 – the University of Illinois College of Agriculture Alumni Association adopted a resolution to increase state funding of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station so that the state investment would be among the top 10 in the U.S.

April 27 – a task force developed a plan that called for formation of a steering committee to provide coordination and leadership in developing an organization with the mission of increasing state funding for food and agricultural research and engaging the public in directing these funds.

July 16 – the steering committee held its first meeting. Soon after that meeting, the committee met with the director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture to discuss the importance of a major new dynamic to support Illinois' top industry.

September 21 – A meeting was held at the Illinois Department of Agriculture to discuss a Memorandum of Organization and to outline C-FAR's mission and objectives.

December 27 – C-FAR's official date of establishment per the granting of not-for-profit corporation status from the Illinois Secretary of State's office. C-FAR subsequently received 501(c)(5) exemption status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Efforts to build the C-FAR coalition

In early 1994, efforts commenced to define C-FAR's structure. Meetings of professionals from industry, government, and higher education were critical to identifying common ground: the agreed-upon protocols for pursuing sound, research-based information to strengthen Illinois' food, agricultural, and related systems.

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An initial C-FAR membership meeting was held on June 17, 1994, to appoint leadership of the organization. At this meeting, Jack Norman, one of several leaders engaged in nurturing C-FAR's birth, very aptly shared, "This is a bountiful land, and agriculture is graced with hardworking and caring people. Much that we have been doing we should want to have continue. But we also need to prepare ourselves to adapt to whatever changes come our way, whether they be in climate, in genetics, in markets, or in understanding how the world works. We will have to work together. And so we are embarked on building a community – a C-FAR."

Funding from the State of Illinois

State of Illinois officials, just like the private sector and Illinois' research entities, embraced the establishment of C-FAR. The Food and Agriculture Research Act (the C-FAR appropriation's enabling legislation) was enacted in March 1995. This legislation became effective July 1, 1995, and provided for the first appropriation in FY96.

Illinois' elected and appointed officials envisioned several benefits being realized from C-FAR and a dedicated appropriation for food and agricultural research. A few of these highly desired benefits included

- *A unified voice and organization.* Rather than constantly being approached by individual organizations regarding their respective research needs, C-FAR allowed a single entity to represent this myriad of food and agricultural research needs before the State legislature and executive branch.
- *Accountability significantly enhanced.* Rather than a disjointed and incomplete accountability of research initiatives and their funding, C-FAR presented the opportunity for accountability to be greatly improved through a centralized process.
- *An informed partner.* Rather than research funding decisions being based on emotions and/or being made without professional review, C-FAR was an organization that brought to the table the potential to develop a number of programs to meaningfully engage the private sector and its research partners. Doing so would elevate to a never-seen-before level sound and informed research investment decisions being made.
- *Public access to research results.* Rather than the results of State of Illinois funded research being very difficult, if not impossible, to disseminate for the general public's consumption and benefit, C-FAR was envisioned to be a key mechanism in making these research results widely available through a number of outlets.

At that time, all of these aspirations for what C-FAR *could do* had no precedents. No other state had embarked on such a revolutionary organization; there was nothing even close. These aspirations have, however, materialized to levels that have in many cases surpassed even what the founders envisioned. Today's aspiration, 15 years later, is for a continued drive for improvement that each of the C-FAR partners can nurture, just as they did at C-FAR's birth.

Important Leadership Opportunities Approaching for Members

Are you interested in taking on a greater role within C-FAR? If so, highly important leadership opportunities within C-FAR are fast approaching. Leadership positions on both the Board of Directors and within C-FAR's working groups will be up for election this coming year. Many of these positions will be open seats due to current leaders reaching their term limitations. The elections for these meaningful positions will be held during the 2009 Annual Meeting in February.

Board of Directors

- The board is comprised of seven members elected at-large by the C-FAR membership (specifically by the voting delegates of Organizational members).
- Four board seats are slated for election this coming year. A minimum of two of these positions will be open seats, as the current directors are ineligible for reelection because of term limitations.



BOARD MEMBERS (FROM RIGHT) NELS KASEY, TERRY WOLF AND JACK ERISMAN IN DISCUSSION AT A BOARD MEETING.

Important Leadership Opportunities Approaching for Members

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- Board members are elected to two-year terms, and they may serve three consecutive terms, if so reelected.
- An Organizational member may nominate a candidate for slate consideration by the nominating committee. The nominee must be a current Organizational member representative to C-FAR as the contact person, voting delegate, or representative to one of the working groups. Organizational members may not have more than one representative serving on the Board of Directors.

Working Group Leaders and Representatives to the Research Committee

- C-FAR working groups are formed around five research focus areas: expanding agricultural markets, rural economic development, agricultural production systems, human nutrition and food safety, and natural resources and environment.
- Every odd-numbered year, each of the five working groups elects a chair, a vice chair, and two representatives to the research committee.
- Chairs, vice chairs, and representatives to the research committee are elected to two-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms, if so reelected.
- At least four chair positions will be open seats this coming year due to the current chairs reaching their term limitations.
- A minimum of two vice chair positions will be open seats.
- At least six of the 10 research committee representative positions will be open seats.
- Chair and vice chair nominees must be current designees for an Organizational member, as either the organization's contact, voting delegate, or representative to one of the working groups.
- Research committee representatives can be Organizational or Affiliate member representatives or Individual members.



WORKING GROUP CHAIR JEANNE HARLAND AND VICE CHAIR JIM FRALEY AT A VISIONING RETREAT.

With C-FAR being the research arm for Illinois' food, agricultural, and related industries, these leadership positions are critical to the organization's future vibrancy.

"With the number of new leadership opportunities available this coming year, I certainly encourage the consideration of all interested members to express their desire to serve," says Nels Kasey, C-FAR Chairman. "During the past eight years, I have had the privilege and good fortune of serving as a working group chair, and now as a member of the Board of Directors. It has been the most rewarding volunteer service I have had."

Please direct any questions regarding these C-FAR leadership opportunities to Kraig Wagenecht, C-FAR executive administrator, at 217.244.4232 or via email to wagenech@illinois.edu. Detailed information regarding the submission of nominations for these leadership positions will be provided to the C-FAR membership this fall and early winter.

Research Delivers High-impact Returns for Illinois – Part II

In the spring issue of *C-FAR Connection*, important outcomes resulting from C-FAR research completed during the past year were highlighted. Additional completed research highlights are reported below. Several of the projects have matured into significant initiatives and are being continued through federal, private, and/or other funding.

- The impact of the construction of a high-speed rail-loading facility on area corn prices can be significant. The spot cash bid for corn at the grain elevators constructing high-speed facilities was found to have improved from \$.04 to \$.10 per bushel.
- The development of value-added products made from wheat straw in combination with other fibrous materials has considerable economic and environmental merit. Paperless wallboard materials; high-strength, water-resistant structural materials, and ultra-small straw particle insulation particleboards are being evaluated for potential commercial production.

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Research Delivers High-impact Returns for Illinois – Part II

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- Consumers are increasingly opting for organically grown vegetables. Illinois growers have concerns about applying enough nutrients when using composted wastes. Research has shown vermicompost (worm compost) and traditional compost to be effective soil amendments in the production of organic sweet and hot peppers.
- Researchers examined the economic efficiency of various organic weed-control techniques used on Western Illinois University's Allison Organic Farm. The average net income for organic corn, soybeans, and wheat in 2006 was \$369/acre. This represents an increase of \$206 per acre (or 126%) over the income per acre received during 1998–2000.

An innovative swine manure management system has been developed that separates liquid swine manure into its solid and liquid phases. This research has yielded a separated effluent that can serve as a source of nitrogen for corn production and reduced odor and fly populations within the swine buildings.

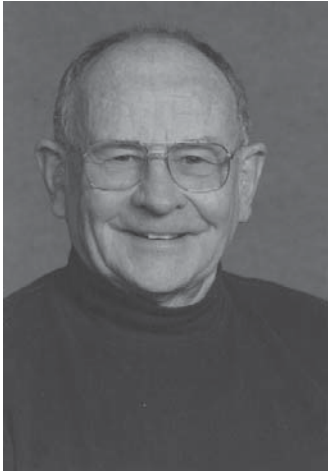
- Modern swine production houses large numbers of pigs in confinement buildings to increase pig performance and improve economic return. The general public's impression of these large confinement-style operations is at times less than positive. Researchers have shown that raising pigs in a hoop structure in southern Illinois may be an acceptable production alternative to conventional confinement systems.
- Composting may provide an inexpensive alternative to animal rendering pickup services for the disposal of butcher wastes and other biological residuals. Researchers found composting can eliminate pathogen (*E. coli* and *Salmonella*) activity, reduce disposal costs, and produce compost suitable for use as a soil amendment.
- The consumption of soy oil has been shown to have cardiovascular benefit by lowering cholesterol in an animal model. The presence of the lipid component appears to have additive cardiovascular benefit.
- Ninety-five percent of organic produce purchased in Chicago is sold through large supermarkets, accounting for over \$60 million in revenue. Only a very small percentage of this organic produce is grown in Illinois. Tools have been developed to assist Illinois' current organic farmers and those interested in transitioning into organic production.
- Fifty-two farm managers completed a recreational leasing survey. Respondents manage a total of 585,000 acres, of which 18,300 acres are under recreational leases. This study is providing farmers, landowners, and professional farm managers with important information about the recreational lease market in Illinois.
- Alternative nitrogen sources, both inorganic and organic, were evaluated for sustainable turf management. Results from this study are assisting turf managers in reducing mineral fertilizer use while maintaining optimum plant growth.



Information above is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not constitute an endorsement, and it does not imply discrimination against similar products.

Get to Know a C-FAR Leader

Byford Wood



In this issue, we are pleased to spotlight Byford Wood. Byford is a highly dedicated and longstanding C-FAR member and has volunteered countless hours to ensure the growth and success of C-FAR. His engagement with C-FAR began at C-FAR's founding. As a representative of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA), Byford was on the ISVMA's Board of Directors when their organization became a C-FAR founding member.

Raised on a farm in southern Illinois, Byford developed a deep appreciation for the sustainability of Illinois agriculture and a particular interest in animal sciences. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he received his Doctor of

Veterinary Medicine degree. Byford specializes as a food-animal veterinarian, having served primarily the dairy industry for 40 years. He currently works part time through his business, Veterinary Services, Ltd.

Being engaged on the boards and various committees of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, Byford has provided valuable leadership, advancing such important issues as veterinary college accreditation, national milk quality standards, and diagnostic laboratory operations. In 1992, he served as Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association President.

Byford provides important leadership to the C-FAR Natural Resources and Environment working group, having served as its chair since 2003. During this time, the working group and its purpose have matured greatly, including the adoption of a new name in 2006.

"C-FAR presents a novel approach for the Illinois citizenry to recognize, identify, direct, and fund sustainable opportunities in the food and agricultural sectors of Illinois," said Wood.

Byford is active in his community through church and school boards and has led efforts to develop disease control and disaster preparedness programs. Byford and his wife Ruth reside in Breese. They have four children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

"Dr. Wood's contributions to C-FAR are multifold," shares Kraig Wagenecht, C-FAR executive administrator. "In addition to being an extremely dedicated representative of the ISVMA and a leader for us, he brings a much-appreciated sense of humor to the table. C-FAR is certainly a richer organization because of Byford's involvement."

Join us for C-FAR Day at WIU!

On November 11, C-FAR members will have the opportunity to visit Western Illinois University in Macomb to hear firsthand from WIU researchers about C-FAR-funded research taking place at the university. C-FAR Day is held each year at a partner university to afford C-FAR members and researchers the opportunity to engage and share information. Details will be mailed to members prior to the event.

Websites to Watch

C-FAR

www.ilcfar.org

Your headquarters for C-FAR news and information on funded and completed research.

NAT TOOLS FOR GOOD HEALTH

www.nat.uiuc.edu

A source for analyzing diet and food choices.

ILLINOIS CENTER FOR SOY FOODS

www.soyfoodsillinois.uiuc.edu

A resource for consumers on soy foods and nutrition.

FARM.DOC

www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu

Provides producers and other agricultural professionals with decision-making information and analysis tools.

MARKETMAKER

www.marketmaker.uiuc.edu

An interactive mapping system that locates businesses and markets of agricultural products in Illinois, which provides an important link between producers and consumers.

MISCANTHUS BIOENERGY RESEARCH

<http://miscanthus.uiuc.edu/>

Provides the latest information on research to investigate the use of Miscanthus (*Miscanthus x giganteus*) as a potential bioenergy resource for Illinois and the nation.

SWINE WASTE ECONOMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

www.sweeta.illinois.edu

An outreach and dissemination arm of the livestock and urban waste (LUW) research team designed to inform stakeholders and transfer technology information to end users.

ILLINOIS TRAILL

www.traill.uiuc.edu

Organizes livestock research, information, and expert services.

C-FAR Connection

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2008-2009 CALENDAR

September 10 **Board of Directors Meeting**
November 5 **Board of Directors Meeting**
January 2009 **Board of Directors Meeting**
February 17 **Annual Meeting (Springfield)**



Please call the C-FAR office or check the calendar on the C-FAR website at www.ilcfar.org for further details.