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## FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

### APLU's Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR) UPDATE

April 5, 2022

#### **FROM DOUG'S DESK**

**Doug Steele, Vice President**

Advocacy in Action. At the most recent national events I've attended (Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching/Administrative Heads spring meeting, Board on Human Sciences spring meeting, Extension Committee on Organization and Policy national meeting, and the Joint Council of Extension Professionals sponsored Public Issues Leadership Development), a major portion of the agenda has been on advocacy. In today's highly politicized atmosphere, we are hearing more about advocacy than ever before. For this reason, it is important that we take the time to understand what the term means and why it is important.

Advocacy can be defined as any activity by an individual or group that aims to influence political, economic, social, and institutional decisions. Another definition describes advocacy as the act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending. Both definitions lead to the question, 'why is advocacy important?'

In a democratic society, advocacy is incredibly important for impacting federal priorities for funding and program support. In many instances our "advocacy" is actually educating decision-makers and stakeholders on the value of our mission areas. In the months to come as we continue to focus on effective advocacy messaging, there will be professional development opportunities, zoom webinars, and website resources to amplify our national focus, justify our federal funding support, and expand our external relationships to support our FY23 appropriations requests.

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## APLU BAA Update: FY2023 President's Budget Request

**QUICK TAKE:** The FY 2023 NIFA budget request offers relatively stable funding levels in comparison to FY 2022 enacted levels. However, some smaller programs would receive outsized funding increases. Although the total increases are small, the budget request signals an ongoing commitment to minority-serving institutions (MSIs) and women and minority-serving programs. Climate related programs continue to be a priority. For the full report from Lewis-Burke Associates LLC in collaboration with the BAA, please contact Caron Gala at [cgala@aplu.org](mailto:cgala@aplu.org).

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## Relaunch of the BAA Communications & Marketing Committee VOTE

Because of computer glitches experienced with the first ballot vote on the Board on Agriculture Assembly on the Communications and Marketing Committee becoming a standing committee of the Policy Board of Directors, it has become necessary to relaunch the vote and send out a new voting link. This is BAA's first major ballot amendment vote in the last five years and the FANR office has been working diligently in moving to an electronic voting system, verifying voting eligible members, and ensuring that all institutions are aware that under the Rules of Operation they have six voting delegates. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we improve the voting process and value the voting rights of our membership.

The Board on Agriculture Assembly's Policy Board of Directors recommends that the Communications and Marketing Committee become a Standing Committee of the BAA. The "Rules of Operation" may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the BAA's voting representatives. [View more details here.](#)

If you are a BAA voting member, **PLEASE VOTE!** You should receive the ballot and information via email on April 6th, 2022. **The voting period end on April 20, 2022.** Please send comments or questions to Doug Steele ([dstele@aplu.org](mailto:dstele@aplu.org)).

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## Call for Nominations for APLU Food Systems Leadership Award

## Deadline: April 29

The Association for Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Food Systems Leadership Award annually recognizes a leader who has made an extraordinary impact on the food system through leadership and service and who exemplifies the core principles established by the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI), including personal leadership, organizational leadership, and food systems leadership. The award also recognizes the leadership, innovation, engagement, and service that APLU promotes through its programs.

The APLU Food Systems Leadership Award will be presented at "A Community of Scholars Honoring Excellence" award program at the APLU Annual Meeting held in November. The award program honors awardees for regional and national excellence in Food and Agricultural Sciences from colleges and universities across the United States. The meeting is attended by top level administrators from the 216 university memberships within the APLU as well as administrators from USDA and FDA. The recipient will be invited to address the current cohort of FSLI Fellows at one of their residential sessions.

The criteria for the award and the directions for submitting along with the nomination form can be found at [www.FSLI.org](http://www.FSLI.org). To get a sense of the caliber of person who would be competitive for this award, please visit the FSLI website on the Leadership Award page [here](#).

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## EVENTS

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### **2022 National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC)**

April 10 – 13, 2022

St. Louis, MO

### **Southern Region Mini Land-Grant Meeting**

May 16 – 19, 2022

Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center, College Station, TX

### **2022 Joint Committees on Organization and Policy (COPs) Summer Meeting**

July 19 – 21, 2022

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC

[View the draft agenda.](#)

## **Joint ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting**

September 25 – 28, 2022

Marriott Waterfront Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland

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## **IMPORTANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

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### **USDA NIFA Releases [FY 2022 AFRI Sustainable Agricultural Systems RFA](#)**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a request for applications (RFA) for the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS) program. The SAS program aims to transform U.S. food and agricultural systems to support increased production while addressing environmental sustainability challenges to ultimately bring about societal benefits and improved quality of life. The FY 2022 SAS solicitation focuses on local and regional climate-smart products; nutritious, safe, and accessible foods; and rural economic development. Applications must address one of the following areas: climate-smart agriculture and forestry, strengthening the bioeconomy, or food and nutrition security. Anticipated Funding: \$80,000,000. Letters of intent are due April 27, 2022 at 5:00pm ET, and applications are due July 28, 2022 at 5:00pm ET.

### **[USDA Announces American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment to Benefit Underserved Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Landowners](#)**

The primary goal of American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment Program is to ensure improved understanding of and equitable participation in the full range of USDA programs and services among historically underserved farmers, ranchers, forest land owners and operators through supporting the organizational delivery of technical assistance projects and establishment of technical assistance networks. More information is [here](#).

### **[Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#)**

On Feb. 7, 2022, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest \$1 billion in partnerships to support America's climate-smart farmers, ranchers and forest landowners. The new Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities will finance pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forestry products

that use climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective ways to measure and verify greenhouse gas benefits. USDA is now accepting project applications for fiscal year 2022.

Grant deadlines are:

- **April 8, 2022, for the first funding pool (proposals from \$5 million to \$100 million)**
- **May 27, 2022, for the second funding pool (proposals from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999).**

More information, including how to apply, is here: [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#)

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## INFORMATIONAL

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

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### **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Seeks Qualified Candidates**

NIFA is hiring! Please see the [NIFA Career Opportunities](#) page for a current listing of career opportunities.

### **USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Calendar**

See application deadlines here: <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants/upcoming-request-applications-calendar>

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### **APLU Member Job Postings**

APLU has a [job board](#) on which member institutions may list available positions for which they are recruiting.

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**FOCUS** is an update from the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources office of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to provide timely, relevant information and actions items to the membership of the Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources (CFERR) and its member boards and sections.

If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, please ask them to email Suzette Robinson at [srobinson@aplu.org](mailto:srobinson@aplu.org) with their contact information.

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*Doug*

**Douglas L. Steele**

Vice President, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources

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