

## FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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

#### FROM DOUG'S DESK

*Doug Steele, Vice President*

For many, the Memorial Holiday weekend is a “passage” event as we move into the summer months. A time to relax with family and friends, enjoying time together with food and fellowship, and in many parts of the country a cook-out, BBQ, or picnic.

However, let's don't forget the significance of Memorial Day itself, a day to remember and honor those who have lost their lives in military service. The national holiday reflects on those lost in service through many historic battles, including the Civil War, World War II, and more recent conflicts.

On Mother's Day, May 8th, our service flag was placed back in our front yard indicating our son was deployed overseas as a member of the United States Air Force. Please remember our military, first responders, and others whose careers put them at risk every day. And to those who have served, are currently serving, or families who have lost a loved ones, we are eternally indebted to you for your sacrifices on behalf of our freedoms.

President Harry S. Truman said it best, “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Joint Committee on Organization and Policy meetings this July in Washington, DC. Have a safe summer.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **Request from USDA Secretary Vilsack: Phytosanitary Lab Equipment for Ukraine**

Secretary Vilsack, USDA, and its Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission have been in close connection with Ukraine's Minister of Agriculture Mykola Solskyi on a variety of serious challenges. Many programs are not able to operate in a war/conflict environment. Minister Solskyi has requested assistance to accrue phytosanitary lab equipment needed for grain exports. Secretary Vilsack would like to engage with public and land-grant universities on whether they have equipment to donate or connections to entities that might have equipment available to contribute. There is great need and even gently used older versions of equipment would be helpful. Creative solutions are welcomed. If you have older equipment in working order and would consider a donation, please respond directly to Doug Steele at [dsteele@aplu.org](mailto:dsteele@aplu.org) who will send a summary report to USDA. For details on equipment needs, please see [here](#). Any support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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## **Advocacy Updates from Lewis-Burke Associates**

As part of our efforts to provide regular advocacy updates to the system, Lewis-Burke Associates will provide a monthly summary of highlights and key points that will be included with the FANR Focus Update.

The most prominent issues in the last five months have been the passage of fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations in March; the release of the President's FY 2023 Budget Request a few weeks later; ongoing Congressional negotiations on the FY 2023 budget; and the official start of the 2023 Farm Bill process. For the full update, please see [here](#).

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## **USDA Announces Framework for Shoring Up the Food Supply Chain and Transforming the Food System to Be Fairer, More Competitive, More Resilient**

USDA announced a framework to transform the food system to benefit consumers, producers, and rural communities by providing more options, increasing access, and creating new, more, and better markets for small and mid-size producers. Funding is provided by the American Rescue Plan Act and other relief legislation. Details are [here](#). The announcement includes:

- **Up to \$300 million** in a new Organic Transition Initiative.
- **Up to \$75 million** to support urban agriculture.

- For the Food Supply Chain Loan Guarantee Program, USDA has **deployed \$100 million** to make **more than \$1 billion in guaranteed loans** available immediately.
- Deployment of **up to \$375 million** in support for independent meat and poultry processing plant projects.
- Deployment of **\$25 million** through the Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program.
- Investment of **up to \$275 million** in partnership with lenders to address the credit access gap for meat and poultry processing.
- Investment of **up to \$100 million** to support development of a pipeline of well-trained workers and safe workplaces in the processing sector.
- **\$200 million** for Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program for specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses.
- **Up to \$600 million** in financial assistance to support food supply chain infrastructure that is not covered by the meat and poultry processing program.
- Investment of **\$400 million** to create regional food business centers.
- Investment of **\$60 million** to leverage increased commodity purchases through Farm-to-School.
- Investment of up to **\$90 million** to prevent and reduce food loss and waste and an additional **\$30 million** in the Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Program.

These investments build on previous announcements including **\$130 million increase** to the Local Agriculture Marketing Program.

- Increase funding to the Healthy Food Financing Initiative by **\$155 million**.
- An additional **\$50 million** in the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- An additional **\$40 million** in the GusNIP Produce Prescriptions Program.
- **\$25 million** to support SNAP technology improvements.
- **\$100 million** to create a new Healthy Food Incentive Fund.

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## **APLU Announces UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May as Board Chair**

APLU announced University of California, Davis Chancellor Gary S. May as the new Chair of its Board of Directors. May succeeds Rebecca Blank, who resigned as chair after recently leaving her position as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to become president of Northwestern University in July. *“I’m honored to step into this role and represent higher education leaders in service to APLU’s mission,”* May said. *“I’m looking forward to working with the Board of Directors to improve opportunities for student access and success, interdisciplinary research, economic development and public engagement across all of APLU’s member institutions.”* The full announcement is [here](#).

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## EVENTS

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### **American Society of Animal Science Hosted Workshop (ASAS)**

*Contemporary and Emerging Issues Symposium: Public Policy: Infrastructure Needs for Advancing Research in Animal Agriculture*

**June 27, 2022 Oklahoma City Convention Center**

At ASAS' upcoming annual meeting, the Public Policy Committee will host a workshop forum to identify infrastructure priorities for future advancement of animal agriculture. Dr. Doug Steele will provide a keynote introduction that frames the current need for institutional agricultural infrastructure based on historical context and the APLU-commissioned report: *A National Study of Capital Infrastructure at Colleges and Schools of Agriculture*. Meeting registration details are [here](#).

### **Mini Land-Grant (North Central Region)**

*Food, Health, Economy, and Engagement in the Digital Age*

**July 10 – July 12, 2022**

Join your colleagues in the North Central Region for a live, in-person experience. The theme of the conference is Food, Health, Economy, and Engagement in the Digital Age. The conference, hosted by The Ohio State University and Central State University, is open to all faculty, staff, administrators, CARET representatives, and others who support the land-grant mission in the North Central Region. Details and registration are [here](#).

### **2022 Joint COPs Summer Meeting**

*Moving Into The New Normal*

**July 19 – 21, 2022, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.**

Please join us! Details and registration are [here](#).

### **2022 Association of Extension Administrators (AEA) System-Wide Conference**

**July 31 – August 4, 2022, Orlando, FL**

The nation's events of the past three years taught 1890 Extension that we can adapt and continue to meet the needs of our audiences. While technology constantly changes, we know that people want access to information on multiple platforms 24 hours a day. We have the expertise to develop and implement life-changing programs. We know how to deliver timely information. Now we just need you to come to Orlando. Come learn...have some fun...and return home ready to position 1890 Extension for the next generation! Details and registration are [here](#).

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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](#).

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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**

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