

## FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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

### FROM DOUG'S DESK

*Doug Steele, Vice President*

February and March mark the beginning of advocacy season in Washington, DC. Meetings are scheduled for the:

- Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS), *February 20-22*;
- Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) and BAA Leadership (including Administrative Heads), *February 25-28*; and
- Academic Programs Section (APS) and Non-Land-Grant Agriculture and Renewable Resources Universities, *February 28-March 1*.

Each meeting has a primary focus on advocacy and effective messaging. Registration can be found in the [meetings section](#).

The Lewis-Burke monthly advocacy update provides a snapshot of what is happening and anticipated in DC as the FY24 appropriations budget, Farm Bill and FY25 appropriations budget all continue to move forward in this new year.

Finally, we are planning our regional summer meetings and section meetings. More details will be in future Focus updates as Congress makes decisions on appropriations and the Farm Bill.

We look forward to hosting many of you in DC for the advocacy meetings and, as proven in the past, bringing forth a consistent, unified voice that represents our national network and member universities.

*Doug*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Washington Update

*Prepared for the Board on Agriculture Assembly by Lewis-Burke Associates*

**FY 2024 Appropriations Update:**

Congress has reached a new agreement on funding allocations for each of its 12 fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills. Congress had already agreed to the \$1.66 trillion discretionary spending level (consistent with the Fiscal Responsibility Act) and to defense and non-defense topline, and now funding has now been distributed to each of the 12 appropriations subcommittees, though the subcommittees have not released information on those final allocations. Some are reporting that the agriculture appropriations allocation is level with or slightly above the FY 2023 level.

**Farm Bill Outlook:**

The House Agriculture Committee announced a hearing on February 14th for the purpose of receiving testimony from USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. The Senate Agriculture Committee will hold a similar hearing in late February. The hearings are likely to tackle the Administration's

priorities for FY 2025, Farm Bill, and how funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and Climate Smart Commodities is being used.

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

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## 2024 BHHS Leadership Fellows Program Applications Open

Applications are now being accepted for the Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS) Leadership Fellows program. We are seeking faculty or Extension specialists who have an interest in becoming administrative leaders in human sciences fields and would welcome the opportunity to work closely with the BHHS, its leaders, and its members in developing their administrative leadership skills. Information on the program can be found in the [2024 Leadership Fellows Brochure](#).

Selected fellows will be awarded up to \$3000 to support their projects and will be assigned mentors to support their activities as fellows. Project funds (including travel stipends) will be awarded to the fellows for a period of one year, to begin immediately following the BHHS annual meeting and to culminate in attending and presenting at the following BHHS annual meeting. [Learn more about the program.](#)

[Applications due February 16, 2024.](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

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## Food Systems Leadership Institute Cohort 20

The Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) is now accepting applications for the new Cohort 20 beginning in the fall of 2024. FSLI is a national executive leadership development program of APLU with a mission to create a cadre of leaders who are dedicated to developing broader, more integrated and collaborative food systems focused on healthy humans, environments, communities, and economies.

FSLI provides Fellows with strategies to handle the leadership challenges and opportunities for the future. The FSLI experience develops or reinforces a series of core leadership competencies

identified by a team of top-level leaders including university presidents and chancellors and leaders from industry and the non-profit sector who understand the requirements of food systems leadership.

If you have questions, please contact either Sam Pardue, FSLI Director ([slpposc@ncsu.edu](mailto:slpposc@ncsu.edu)) or Sarah Kotzian, FSLI Program Manager ([sehardis@ncsu.edu](mailto:sehardis@ncsu.edu)).

- [View the FSLI recruitment packet](#)
- [Apply here by March 24, 2024](#)

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## AWARDS

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### **APLU Food Systems Leadership Award Nominations Open**

The APLU [Food Systems Leadership Award](#) annually recognizes a leader who has made an extraordinary impact on the food system through leadership and service. 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 the "*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 251 university memberships within APLU and administrators from USDA and FDA. The recipient will also be invited to address the current cohort of FSLI Fellows during one of the webinar sessions.

The [criteria for the award](#) and the directions for submitting, along with the nomination form, can be found on the FSLI Website: [APLU Food Systems Leadership Award – Food Systems Leadership Institute](#). Please review the past awardees to get a sense of the caliber of the person who would be competitive for this award.

**The deadline for submissions is February 29, 2024.**

Please contact Dr. Sarah Kotzian, FSLI Program Manager ([sehardis@ncsu.edu](mailto:sehardis@ncsu.edu)), with any questions.

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## 2024 USDA Teaching Awards Request for Applications

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is accepting nominations for the [2024 USDA Excellence in Teaching Awards](#). To find information about the awards, please refer to this [resources page](#) and the [2024 awards guidelines](#). Nominees may find [this webinar](#) helpful when thinking about how to prepare their [nomination packets](#).

**All nominations must be submitted electronically, and arrive no later than 5:00pm ET on April 15, 2024.**

Please contact Wendy Fink ([wfink@aplu.org](mailto:wfink@aplu.org)) with questions about the nomination process.

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## National Cooperative Extension Award Nominations Open

The Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP), in partnership with USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), offers the following awards:

- National Extension Diversity Award
- Individual Awards for Excellence in Extension
- Team Award for Excellence in Extension

**Online submissions are required by May 1, 2024.** Winning Cooperative Extension professionals from [these land-grant colleges and universities](#) are selected by the end of July and will travel to the APLU Annual Meeting in November to receive their awards. For more information, please visit <https://awards.extension.org/>.

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## WEBINARS

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### Kenya: Extension and Related Activities

March 8, 2024 | 3:00pm ET | Virtual

On March 8 at 3:00 pm, APLU and ECOP will host an information sharing Zoom meeting regarding Extension and related activities in Kenya. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture recently held a trade mission to that country and there is a very positive US agricultural benefit proposition to cooperation in Kenya. [Register here.](#)

Please contact Bill Hoffman ([whoffman@aplu.org](mailto:whoffman@aplu.org)) if you would like to speak about your institution's work in Kenya.

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## MEETINGS

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### **BHHS | CAFCS Joint Spring Meeting**

February 20-22, 2024 | Washington, DC

You are invited to attend the 2024 Joint Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS) and Council of Administrators in Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) Annual Meeting! Join us February 20-22 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year's theme is *Impactful Leadership for Health and Human Sciences*. Through keynote speakers and interactive sessions, we will focus on dialogues that drive sustainable progress in human sciences and highlight the power of multisectoral approaches to ignite innovation.

[REGISTER: BHHS | CAFCS MEETING](#)

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### **CARET/BAA Washington Conference**

February 25-28, 2024 | Washington, DC

Join us for the 2024 Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) / Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Joint Washington Conference. This year's theme is *Investing in Capacity for Impact and Innovation*.

The event will bring together CARET delegates and BAA members to engage in dynamic programming, hear from food and agriculture leaders from across the country, and go to Capitol

Hill to deliver the ask of the BAA. It is also a prime opportunity at which CARET delegates can gather with their associated Administrative Head Section members.

**Please note this meeting is almost at capacity — [register today!](#)**

Please see these materials in preparation for the Washington Conference:

- [CARET/BAA Washington Program](#)
- [CARET Delegate Handbook](#)
- [FY2025 BAA Appropriations Request](#)

*Hard copies of all materials will be available at the registration desk.*

**REGISTER: BAA/CARET MEETING**

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### **APS/NARRU Joint Winter Meeting**

February 28-March 1, 2024 | Washington, DC

Please join us for the 2024 Academic Programs Section (APS) / Non-land-grant Agriculture and Renewable Resources Universities (NARRU) Joint Winter Meeting in Washington, DC! This meeting will focus on employer partnerships and preparing students for post-graduation employment success.

Attendees will hear about the state of the education sector, growth opportunities for colleges, employers' perspectives on the value of a college education, and micro-credentialing. Speakers will also touch on campus programs that provide active and experiential learning opportunities along with partnerships with employers to provide unique learning opportunities.

**REGISTER: APS/NARRU MEETING**

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### **ECOP Spring Meeting**

March 12-14, 2024 | Oklahoma City, OK

Registration is now open for the 2024 Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) Spring Meeting, held at the Sheraton Downtown Oklahoma City.

ECOP Chair, Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University, invites members of ECOP to register to attend this meeting, which includes important topics such as queuing up to establish 2024-2025 annual priorities according to ECOP Strategic Directions and finalizing the 2025 ECOP Assessment regimen.

**Please register by Monday, February 19, 2024.**

**REGISTER: ECOP MEETING**

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## **2024 BAA Summer Leadership Meeting**

*Formerly known as Joint COPs*

July 16-18, 2024 | Providence, Rhode Island

**Save the date!** Plans are to begin on July 16 at 8 am and adjourn at 10:00 am on July 18.

Who should attend: Elected and appointed leaders of all BAA sections; liaisons to sections and the Policy Board of Directors; and members of the Budget and Advocacy Committee, Committee on Legislation and Policy (Farm Bill), and Communications and Marketing Committee.

*More details on logistics and draft agendas will be forthcoming.*

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## **PARTNER EVENTS**

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### **2022 Census of Agriculture Data Release Event**

February 13, 2024 | 12:30pm ET | Virtual

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will announce the results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, spanning millions of new data points about America's farms and ranches



and the people who operate them. The once-every-five-years Census of Agriculture remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data down to the county level.

[See more information and watch here.](#)

## **CASA-Bio Town Halls**

February 15-22, 2024 | Virtual

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is hosting a series of events this month as part of its new [Catalyzing Across Sectors to Advance the Bioeconomy initiative](#). CASA-Bio is the latest federal effort to organize activities across agencies related to biotechnology, synthetic biology, and the bioeconomy. CASA-Bio aims to provide direction to the federal government (including research funding agencies) on which specific priorities within the broad bioeconomy landscape are most pressing and ripe for cross-sector collaboration.

CASA-Bio is hosting a series of town halls in February as an opportunity for stakeholders to provide their perspectives on the most important challenges in this space.

- Thursday February 15, 9:00am ET
- Wednesday February 21, 12:00pm ET
- Thursday February 22, 5:00pm ET

[See more information and register here.](#)

## **USDA NIFA Virtual Grants Support Technical Assistance Workshop**

March 4-8, 2024 | Virtual

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is hosting a Grants Support Technical Assistance Workshop to support prospective applicants and other stakeholders interested in grants development and/or grants management.

- March 4: Accessing NIFA Web Resources on Grants Development and Grants Management
- March 5: Overview of Major NIFA Programs
- March 6: Opportunities for Selective NIFA Applicants (Groups)
- March 7: Learning Moments from Grants Management
- March 8: Reporting and Related Topics

[See more information and register here.](#)

## **National 4-H Conference**

April 19-24 2024 | Arlington, VA

Bringing hundreds of 4-H'ers to the nation's capital each spring, National 4-H Conference is the flagship youth development opportunity of USDA, hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). From April 19-24, 2024, the nationally recognized event is developing the next generation of leaders alongside more federal partners than ever before. Experience unparalleled discovery, learning, professional development, and networking with 4-H'ers from around the world. The event features Conference roundtable sessions, Youth Career Fair exhibitions, special events, assemblies and much more.

[See more information and register here.](#)

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## RESOURCES

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### **Public and Land-grant University Job Board**

The APLU [job board](#) is a free resource available to member institutions. Post your own job or find open positions at public and land-grant universities across North America.

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### **Executive Director, Together We Grow**

Together We Grow (TWG), in partnership with the Colorado State University System, is hiring an Executive Director for TWG to take the organization's newly created strategic plan, launch it to members, and implement it in support of the organization's purpose and to accelerate impact.

This creative and entrepreneurial position requires a leader who is a motivated self-starter, capable of advancing a portfolio of member contacts to achieve engagement results and workforce development objectives, while working effectively with internal and external partners.

[View the job posting.](#)

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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. [Join the FANR Focus Mailing List.](#)*

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