

FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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

FROM DOUG'S DESK

Doug Steele, Vice President

What is a C-Suite? I've been reading about the reference to the C-Suite in several leadership and business articles and it's obviously a reference to the top leaders/administrators, but what does it really mean?

The C-suite is deemed the most important and influential group of individuals within a company. Reaching this high echelon typically requires a diversity of experiences and leadership skills. While many C-level executives formerly relied on functional know-how and technical skills to climb the rungs of the organizational ladder, most have cultivated more visionary perspectives needed to make sound upper management decisions. C-level members work in concert to ensure a company's strategies and operations align with its established plans and policies.

With public companies, activities that don't lean toward increased profits for shareholders are routinely corrected under the purview of C-level management personnel. The traditional capabilities mentioned earlier—notably the management of financial and operational resources—remain highly relevant. But when companies today search for top leaders, especially new CEOs, they attribute less importance to those capabilities than they used to and instead prioritize one qualification above all others: strong social skills. ([The C-Suite Skills That Matter Most \(hbr.org\)](#)).

The “social skills” are defined as specific capabilities, including a high level of self-awareness, the ability to listen and communicate well, a facility for working with different types of people and groups, and what psychologists call “theory of mind”—the capacity to infer how others are thinking and feeling. The magnitude of the shift in recent years toward these capabilities is most significant for CEOs but also for other C-suite roles.

So, as you think about effective leadership and organizational structure for maximum results, don't forget about spending a significant amount of time interacting with others and enabling coordination—by communicating information, facilitating the exchange of ideas, building and overseeing teams, and identifying and solving problems. At the end of the day, it is the human element that can drive success and employee satisfaction.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington Update

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

House and Senate Passed Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

Both the House and Senate have been busy working on getting the appropriations process rolling.

- On June 23, the House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The overall bill provides \$27.2 billion in discretionary funding, a \$2.1 billion increase or 8 percent above FY 2022.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The only NIFA program to receive a funding increase in the Senate bill is the Farmer and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, which would receive a total of \$12 million, a \$2 million increase.

READ THE FULL REPORT

Cooperative Extension Names William Hoffman as the Next Executive Director

APLU and Cooperative Extension announced that William Hoffman, former Chief of Staff at University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) and former Chief of Staff at USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA), will serve as the next Executive Director, Cooperative Extension System (CES) and Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) effective July 5, 2023.

As a second-generation Cooperative Extension professional, Bill has a lifelong commitment to Extension and the land-grant university mission.

Beverly Durgan, Dean at University of Minnesota Extension and Karl Martin, Dean and Director at University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension served on the ECOP Executive Director Search Committee. They commented *“We are excited about the hiring of Dr. Bill Hoffman as ECOP’s next Executive Director. Bill brings a collaborative approach, wealth of knowledge, and extensive experience with NIFA and the Cooperative Extension System. His can-do attitude makes him an ideal fit.”*

[Read the full press release here.](#)

Seeking Nominations for the 2023 Seaman A. Knapp Lecture

Each year USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) joins with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to sponsor a lecture presented at the APLU annual meeting. The lecture honors one of the three most important historical figures of the Land-grant University system: William Henry Hatch for research; Seaman A. Knapp for Extension; and Justin Smith Morrill for whom the Morrill Act creating the Land-grant University system is named.

NIFA and APLU are seeking nominations to honor Seaman A. Knapp, the father of the Cooperative Extension concept. In 1906, Knapp initiated the county-agent plan and, to promote the plan, organized boys' cotton and corn growing clubs, followed by a girls' corn and poultry club in 1910. These organizations were the forerunners of the modern 4-H Clubs. In today's rapidly changing world, Cooperative Extension has evolved to meet the shifting local, national and global needs of the people it serves.

We are seeking an insightful topic and a dynamic speaker who can provoke discussion among meeting participants and prepare a formal lecture to be presented prior to the virtual APLU annual meeting in November 12-14, 2023 in Seattle, Washington. While we seek recommendations from those within the Land-grant University system, we also would encourage you to share this memorandum with colleagues outside of the research, education, and Extension system, including stakeholders, foundations, public interest groups or international organizations. Nominations are encouraged from all sources.

Recommendations should be submitted at [Seaman A. Knapp Lecture Nomination 2023](#) by **July 31, 2023**. A committee will review submissions and select a speaker.

USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations for four positions on the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. Nominations will be open to public until **July 15, 2023**. More information is [here](#).

APLU / FANR EVENTS

2023 Joint COPs Summer Meeting and 2023 New Administrators Orientation

2023 Joint COPs Summer Meeting

Loew's Kansas City Hotel, 1515 Wyandotte Street
Kansas City, MO 64108 | July 18 – 20, 2023

REGISTRATION DEADLINE TODAY, JULY 6!

Register for The Joint Committees on Organization and Policy (and associated groups) taking place in Kansas City, MO July 18 – 20, 2023 open to elected and appointment leadership from the Board on Agriculture Assembly sections executive committees (Academic Programs Section, Administrative Heads Section, Cooperative Extension Section, Experiment Station Section, International Agriculture Section), The Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS), Council on Agriculture Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) executive committee and liaisons, the Policy Board of Directors and the three standing committees of the Policy Board of Directors:

Budget and Advocacy Committee, Committee on Legislation and Policy {Farm Bill}, and Communication and Marketing Committee.

[VIEW AGENDA](#)

[REGISTER FOR JOINT COPS](#)

2023 New Administrators Orientation

Loew's Kansas City Hotel, 1515 Wyandotte Street
Kansas City, MO 64108 | July 19 – 21, 2023

REGISTRATION DEADLINE SATURDAY, JULY 8!

In addition to the Joint COPS meeting, the 2023 New Administrators Orientation will be held in Kansas City July 19-21. The event will have one-day crossover meetings with Joint COPS so that BAA and BHHS leadership can interact with the new administrators beginning at noon on Wednesday July 19. The New Administrators Orientation is intended for individuals on the Board on Agriculture Assembly and their supporting administrators or faculty, who have entered an administrative position recently; USDA-NIFA personnel who are interested; and any others who would like to learn more about APLU, the Land-Grant University System, the BAA, and USDA.

[REGISTER FOR NEW ADMINISTRATORS ORIENTATION](#)

Joint COPS | Kansas State University Olathe Campus Excursion

Thursday, July 20, 2023 | 10:30am-1:00pm CT

Please join us for an excursion to the [Kansas State University's - Olathe Campus](#). Engage with experts focusing on research, extension, and innovation at the intersections of agriculture, food, and health and participate in a [Sensory and Consumer Research simulation](#).

All Joint COPS attendees are welcome to attend this free event. Transportation and lunch will be provided. Please contact Kelly Dalton at kdalton@aplu.org with questions.

Registration for the Olathe Campus excursion closes July 12.

REGISTER FOR EXCURSION

PARTNER EVENTS

- **SYMPOSIUM & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES: 2023 Rural Renewal Symposium Rural Renewal Research Prize | Nominations Due August 1, 2023 | [Apply Here](#)**
This award honors a world leader in rural renewal research, education, and engagement. The Rural Renewal Initiative is seeking nominations for a distinguished scholar in the area of rural renewal.

Rural Renewal Symposium | November 2-3, 2023 | [Register Here](#)

The Rural Renewal Initiative will host its annual Rural Renewal Symposium at Quartz Mountain Lodge near Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. This symposium provides a unique opportunity for faculty, students and rural community members from across the U.S. and around the world to connect with others and learn about the latest discoveries, trends and approaches for rural renewal.

- **SYMPOSIUM: USDA 2501 Partnership Symposium September 27-28, 2023 | [Save the Date](#)**

Learn about the latest updates from USDA officials on programs, services and resources. This robust networking and informative event is for all 2501 outreach grantees; underserved farmers, ranchers and landowners; veterans; nonprofit and agricultural organizations; tribal organizations; and 1890, 1994, and 1862 land-grant universities.

RESOURCES

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Funding Opportunities

View the [NIFA Upcoming RFA Calendar](#) for the latest timeline for grant programs.

APLU Member Job Postings

APLU has a **job board** on which member institutions may list available positions for which they are recruiting.

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 sign up here: **[FANR Focus Newsletter](#)**

Doug

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