

FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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

FROM DOUG'S DESK

Doug Steele, Vice President

Springtime in DC is also the beginning of “advocacy season” at the Capitol. The Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET), along with the Administrative Heads Section (AHS) conference had over 300 participants that heard the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) advocacy priorities and took that message to the “Hill” for meetings with congressional offices and committee staffers. National 4-H Conference was also in town and had a huge impact with their congressional breakfast and congressional office visits. Finally, the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) hosted their annual Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) in April with over 220 in attendance, where participants learned and practiced advocacy leadership skills, held meetings with federal partners and explored national priorities and funding streams. Another great opportunity to carry the message of Land-Grant Universities forward and advocate for federal funding priorities.

I realize that we are an acronym heavy association, but the reach and unified voice we bring to the Hill are critical to telling our story and justify support for federal funding. I invite you to check out our website at land-grant.org for more information on our advocacy efforts and Ag Is America (<https://agisamerica.org>) which is an initiative of APLU's Board on Agriculture Assembly that highlights how public and land-grant universities are advancing agriculture to feed our communities and the world, discover climate-smart solutions, strengthen our rural and the national economy, and safeguard public health. Increased federal investments in agricultural research, education & Extension is critical solve today's challenges and create a bright future.

In this edition:

- [Washington Update from Lewis-Burke Associates](#)
- [Research Facilities Act Stakeholder Sign-on Letter](#)
- [Welcome New NIFA Director, Manjit K. Misra](#)
- [Board on Health and Human Sciences Leadership Fellows Program](#)

- [1890 Cooperative Extension Impact Publication](#)
- [AAAS R&D Competitiveness Report Released](#)
- [NIFA Award Nominations Open](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
 - [2023 Joint COPs Summer Meeting](#)
 - [2023 New Administrators Orientation](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington Update

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

Capitol Hill has been moving along at a brisk pace this Spring. The House and Senate have both been holding substantive budget hearings, along with getting prepared to hold appropriations markups. However, the primary focus thus far has been addressing the debt ceiling. Speaker McCarthy and House Republicans have passed legislation to suspend the debt ceiling until the end of March of 2024 and then raise the ceiling 1% annually thereafter. The proposal would also reset federal discretionary spending (non-defense agencies) back to fiscal year 2022 levels beginning with the next passed appropriations bills in an attempt to limit government spending. All House Democrats voted against the measure. At this time, there are no plans for the Senate to take up the package and support for it is very unlikely, but negotiations will continue throughout the next month.

In Farm Bill news, the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research held a hearing to discuss federal nutrition assistance programs in the Farm Bill. Subcommittee Chair John Fetterman (D-PA) opened the hearing by acknowledging the current debates on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and expressing his hope that Congress would better empower the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prevent and address SNAP benefits theft. Subcommittee Ranking Member Mike Braun (R-IN) emphasized his intent to limit federal spending where possible but expressed his goal for SNAP to encourage recipients to find employment and thereby escape from poverty. The witnesses and subcommittee members discussed the importance of continued bipartisan collaboration as the issue of SNAP benefits, work requirements, and eligibility remains a high-profile discussion as part of both debt limit and Farm Bill negotiations.

The House Agriculture Committee continues to hold listening sessions across the United States. Chair Thompson held the latest session in Newberry, Florida and was joined by Representative Kat Cammack (FL-03) and other members of Congress. These sessions provide the Chair and the Committee with insight and opinions from constituents from all over the country on the Farm Bill.

In agency news, USDA announced the new Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Dr. Misra is coming from Iowa State University, where he has been the Director of the Seed Science Center at Iowa State University for over 30 years. He has served in a number of federal advisory roles including on the USDA National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC). Dr. Misra earned his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture Engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His position at NIFA will begin on May 8, 2023. Dr. Dionne Toombs, who has been serving as Acting NIFA Director will also be taking up a new role as Associate Director for Programs. USDA's press release can be found at: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/04/24/usda-announces-new-national-institute-food-and-agriculture-director>.

Research Facilities Act Stakeholder Sign-on Letter

On April 24, APLU and 340 national, regional, and state agriculture, food, and forestry stakeholder groups sent a [letter](#) to congressional leadership urging House and Senate agriculture committee leaders to fund the Research Facilities Act (RFA) in 2023 Farm Bill at \$5 billion in mandatory funding over the life of the legislation.

Funding for the RFA would address the research infrastructure needs at U.S. public colleges of agriculture, where, according to a [report](#), an estimated 70 percent of buildings are at the end of their useful life and the cost to replace the dilapidated facilities sits at \$38.1 billion. This investment would also contribute to the critical need for agricultural workforce development and recruitment of students at 1862, 1890, 1994, insular land-grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture.

Welcome New NIFA Director, Manjit K. Misra

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced](#) the appointment of Manjit K. Misra as the new Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Dr. Misra will start his new role on Monday, May 8, 2023. Prior to joining USDA, Dr. Misra served as a Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University. For more than 30 years, he

was Director of the university's Seed Science Center. The center has administered the National Seed Health System, authorized by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, since 2001. Dr. Misra also was founding Director of the Iowa State's Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products.

APLU released a [statement](#) praising the appointment of Manjit K. Misra as NIFA Director. "The public and land-grant community congratulates Manjit K. Misra on his appointment as Director of the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture," said APLU Vice President for Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Doug Steele. "Dr. Misra brings a unique and distinguished background to the role as a researcher, inventor, and administrator at a land-grant university focused on addressing the broad array of challenges facing agriculture. The partnership between our nation's land-grant universities and NIFA is critical for the nation. We look forward to working with Director Misra as public and land-grant universities work to deepen their partnership with NIFA to support groundbreaking research and outreach to enhance the productivity, viability, and competitiveness of American agriculture."

Board on Health and Human Sciences Leadership Fellows Program

Congratulations to the human sciences professionals selected for the BHHS Leadership Fellows 2023 Cohort:

- **Alleah Crawford**, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, College of Human Sciences, *Auburn University*
 - Mentors: **John Buckwalter**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, *Boise State University*; **Laura Jolly**, Dean, Department of Human Sciences Administration, *Iowa State University*

- **Jacqueline Holland**, Department Chair, Family and Consumer Sciences, *Morgan State University*
 - Mentors: **Susan Hubbard**, Dean, College of Human Sciences and Executive Director, Hunger Solutions Institute, *Auburn University*; **Nina Lyon-Bennett**, Assistant Dean for Academics, School of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Human Sciences, *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*

- **Jennifer Margrett**, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, College of Human Sciences, *Iowa State University*
 - Mentors: **Jana Hawley**, Dean and Professor- College of Merchandising, Hospitality, and Tourism, *University of North Texas*; **Lise Youngblade**, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences, *Colorado State University*

2023 1890 Cooperative Extension Impact Publication

The **2023 1890 Cooperative Extension Impact Publication** has been released by the Association of Extension Administrators. The report highlights the 19 1890 historically black colleges and universities in the southern region of the United States. The 2021-22 powerful impacts contained in this **new publication** demonstrate Extension's commitment to finding real solutions to meet communities' most urgent needs.

AAAS R&D Competitiveness Report Released

The annual American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) report "***U.S. R&D and Innovation in a Global Context: The 2023 Data Update***" has been released, covering the state of global R&D and where the U.S. stands among its competition. The U.S. has climbed in a couple statistics: R&D intensity and researchers per 1000 in the labor force. However, the U.S. came in second in total publications, eclipsed by China for the first time, and the U.S. saw a decrease in total patents while China's increased.

AWARDS

Seeking NIFA Hall of Fame Nominations

Applications due May 14, 2023.

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is seeking nominations for the NIFA Hall of Fame, created at the agency's five-year anniversary.

Inductees into the NIFA Hall of Fame have worked, coordinated, or supported activities exemplifying NIFA's synergy of excellence in any combination of research, education, and Extension approaches on local, regional, national or international levels. Inductees have also demonstrated a measurable and positive impact on the lives of citizens and NIFA's mission to invest in and advance agricultural research, education and Extension to solve societal challenges.

Nominations will be evaluated based on three weighted areas: measurable impact on NIFA; synergy of research, education and/or Extension; and endorsements/letters of support. Nominations must consist of a completed nomination form (see [NIFA Hall of Fame Nomination Form](#)) and up to three endorsements/letters of support. The NIFA Hall of Fame Nomination Form and NIFA Hall of Fame background and criteria are located on the [NIFA Hall of Fame Awards website](#). Please email your nominations to AdminOpsTeam.NIFA@usda.gov no later than May 14.

NIFA Partnership Award

Applications due May 14, 2023.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recognizes there are many outstanding contributions that our partners in the Land-Grant Universities and other cooperating institutions and organizations have achieved. To recognize these achievements, the Partnership Awards Program was established in 2007.

NIFA invites all Land-Grant Universities and cooperating institutions and organizations supported by NIFA to submit nominations for the 2023 NIFA Partnership Awards Program. This program recognizes outstanding contributions, aligned with NIFA strategic goals, in support of the USDA mission. Awards for this year will recognize excellence in:

- Mission Integration of Research, Education, and Extension
- Multistate Efforts
- Innovative Programs and Projects
- Effective and Efficient Use of Resources
- Program Improvement through Global Engagement

[See more information here.](#)

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

The Joint Committees on Organization and Policy (and associated groups) is the elected and appointed 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.

2023 New Administrators Orientation

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

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.

[VIEW DRAFT AGENDA](#)

Regional Summer Meetings

- **Northeast Extension Directors (NEED)/Northeast Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) Summer Meeting**
June 5-7, 2023 | Annapolis, MD
- **Western Regional Summer Meeting**
June 20-22, 2023 | Richland, WA

- **North Central Region Mini Land-Grant Conference**
July 10-11, 2023 | Twin Cities, MN
 - **Southern Administrative Heads Section/CARET Summer Meeting**
July 28 - 30 | Knoxville, TN
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Save the Date!

2023 National Extension Directors and Administrators (NEDA) Meeting
October 10-12, 2023

Until the launch of registration next month, visit neda.extension.org for the most recent details of the 2023 NEDA Meeting.

PARTNER EVENTS

- **WEBINAR: USDA Mental Health Awareness Month Workshop Series**
Tuesdays, May 9 - June 6, 2023 | [Register Here](#)
This workshop series convenes farmers and ranchers, technical assistance providers, local leaders, and Federal, state, and university partners to dialogue and discuss mental health challenges, and stressors, and the resources and services to address them.
 - **CONFERENCE: 2023 National Health Outreach & Engagement Conference**
May 22-24, 2023 | [Register Here](#)
Keynote speakers, concurrent and poster sessions will be relevant for professionals who address health, nutrition, youth development, workforce development, and human development.
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RESOURCES

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Resources

- **Careers at NIFA:** NIFA is hiring! Please see the [NIFA Career Opportunities](#) page for a current listing of openings.
- **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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