

## **CSREES Report to the North East Region, July14, 2008**

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**Deputy Administrator for Natural Resources and Environment, and Interim Deputy Administrator for Families, 4-H, and Nutrition**

### **CSREES staffing**

George Cooper, Deputy Administrator for Science and Education Resources Development (SERD), retired from CSREES and begins July 16, 2008, as President of South Carolina State University. Frank Boteler, Deputy Administrator for Economic and Community Systems, is Interim DA for SERD.

Interviews for the Deputy Administrator of Competitive Programs are scheduled for July 28-31. There are two internal and two external candidates.

## **DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS MEETS EACH WEDNESDAY. FIRST AND FOREMOST PRIORITIES ARE THOSE PROVISIONS THAT HAVE DEFINITE TIME REQUIREMENTS. FOR CSREES THIS WOULD BE THE SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE WHICH PROVIDES \$30 MILLION DOLLARS BUT MUST BE AWARDED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2008. FOR REE THE START OF A ROADMAP WHICH IS REFERRED TO LATER. FOR THE DEPARTMENT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS THAT ARE MANDATED, ETC. EACH AGENCY HAS PRESENTED A LIST OF EACH PROVISION THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PER THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITIES WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A VERY FEW PROGRAMS. THEY SET A TIMELINE FOR WHAT IS NEEDED AND HOW THEY PLAN TO PROCEED TO IMPLEMENT EACH PROGRAM THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR. BASICLY THERE IS A SIX WEEK AND A SIX MONTH CALENDER.

### **IN REALITY NOT TOO MUCH OF A CHANGE IN PROGRAMS**

- FIRST AND FOREMOST WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE PROGRAM ALL PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED BY CSREES WERE REAUTHORIZED....SO NATIONAL PROGRAM LEADERS SUCH AS I WILL BE CONTINUING TO DO THE JOBS WE HAVE BEEN DOING THE PAST FIVE YEARS

- FOR EXTENSION THE SMITH-LEVER FORMULA FUNDING PROGRAM WAS REAUTHORIZED
- FOR RESEARCHERS THE HATCH FORMULA FUNDING PROGRAM WAS REAUTHORIZED.
- IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR PROGRAM REAUTHORIZED OR REPEALED IN TITLE VII OF THE NEW FARM BILL THAT DOES NOT MEAN IT IS GONE IT JUST MEANS YOUR PROGRAM DOES NOT REQUIRE REAUTHORIZATION
- THE ONE PROGRAM THAT WAS NOT REAUTHORIZED WAS THE INITIATIVE FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (IFAFS) WHICH HAD NOT BEEN FUNDED BY APPROPRIATORS FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. THIS PROGRAM WAS MOVED INTO THE NATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE
- THE NRI AND IFAFS COMBINED WILL BE RENAMED THE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI) AND WILL BE THE CORE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND EXTENSION....BEGINNING IN FY 2009 RESEARCH FUNDING WILL BE SPLIT 60% TO FUNDAMENTAL AND 40% APPLIED...WITH \$700 MILLION AUTHORIZED EACH YEAR. IMPORTANT FOR EXTENSION...NOT LESS THAN 30% OF THE FUNDS FOR THIS PROGRAM WILL BE FOR INTEGRATED PROJECTS. THE 406 PROGRAM AUTHORITY FOR INTEGRATED RESEARCH WAS ALSO REAUTHORIZED.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

- ALL PROGRAMS CURRENTLY ADMINISTERED BY CSREES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO A NEWLY NAMED NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA). THIS NEWLY NAMED AGENCY WILL HAVE A POLITICALLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR A SIX YEAR TERM WITH A SECOND SIX YEAR TERM POSSIBLE. THIS DIRECTOR WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE SECRETARY OR A DESIGNEE WHICH WOULD LIKELY BE THE UNDER SECRETARY WHICH IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATOR NOW REPORTS....SO THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BEING THE AGENCY WILL BE LEAD BY A POLITICAL APPOINTEE INSTEAD OF A CAREER FEDERAL EMPLOYEE. THIS IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AND IN FORCE UNTIL THAT OCTOBER 1, 2009 DATE
- THE ROLE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS IS BOOSTED AS THE FARM BILL CALLS FOR THIS UNDER SECRETARY TO SERVE AS USDA'S CHIEF SCIENTIST. THE

ROLE OF THIS CHIEF SCIENTIST AND HOW IT RELATES TO OTHER AGENCY'S RESEARCH PROGRAMS IS STILL BEING DISCUSSED.

- THE UNDER SECRETARY'S OFFICE WILL ALSO HOUSE SIX NEW PROGRAM OFFICES TO COORDINATE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. THE SIX DIVISIONS INCLUDE 1) RENEWABLE ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENVIRONMENT; 2) FOOD SAFETY, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH; 3) PLANT HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND PLANT PRODUCTS; 4) ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS; 5) AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY; AND 6) AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES. IT IS EXPECTED THESE SIX DIRECTORS WILL BE IN PLACE BY OCTOBER 15, 2008. THEIR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN THE BEGINNING WILL BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A ROADMAP FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION....TO IDENTIFY MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS....RECEIVE STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS....INCORPORATE OTHER ROADMAPS...AND RECOMMEND FUNDING LEVELS. THIS ROADMAP IS MANDATED TO BE STARTED BY OCTOBER 15, 2008 AND COMPLETED 270 DAYS AFTER OCTOBER 15, 2008. WORK IS STILL BEING COMPLETED ON THE METHOD TO BE USED TO FILL THESE SLOTS.

## **NEW FUNDING**

NEW MANDATORY FUNDING IS PROVIDED FOR SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL OF \$230 MILLION WITH \$30 MILLION FOR 2008. THE RFA FOR THIS PROGRAM HAS JUST RECENTLY BEEN RELEASED. IN THE 2009 THROUGH 2012 SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE \$50 MILLION EACH YEAR IS PROVIDED.

Specialty Crop Research Initiative RFA was released July 11, 2008. All information is now posted on Grants.gov. As expected, there is a relatively short deadline - the due date is August 14, 2008. Applications are sought for six types of projects: (1) Standard Research and Extension Projects (SREPs); (2) Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs); (3) Regional Partnerships for Innovation (RPIs); (4) Science Delivery Projects (SDPs); (5) eXtension Projects; and (6) Research and Extension Planning Projects

The RFA which can also be accessed at the link below.

[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/08\\_specialty\\_crop.pdf](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/08_specialty_crop.pdf)

- FOR THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE THE FARM BILL LETS \$3 MILLION MANDATORY FUNDING STAND THEN PROVIDES \$18 MILLION MANDATORY FUNDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2009 AND \$20 MILLION MANDATORY IN EACH OF FY 2010 THROUGH 2012. (\$78 MILLION TOTAL MANDATORY).

- FOR BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS PROGRAM \$18 MILLION IN MANDATORY FUNDING IS PROVIDED IN 2009 AND \$19 MILLION IS PROVIDED 2010 THROUGH 2012 FOR A TOTAL OF \$78 MILLION

## **OTHER PROVISIONS OF INTEREST**

- EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM HAS ITS AUTHORIZATION LEVEL RAISED TO \$90,000,000 PER YEAR. SETS A FLOOR ALLOCATION OF \$100,000 PER RECIPIENT INSTITUTION; CREATES FORMULA FOR 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS TO RECEIVE 10 PERCENT, INCREASING TO 15 PERCENT ABOVE THE FY 07 LEVELS; AUTHORIZES UDC TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM.
- ESTABLISHES NEW PROGRAMS INCLUDING ENDOWMENT, EQUITY, CAPACITY, EXTENSION AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. THE LATTER THREE PROGRAMS ARE COMPETITIVE.
- AMENDS MCINTIRE-STENNIS COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ACT TO INCLUDE 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS
- NEW AUTHORITY ALLOWS THE AGENCY TO MAKE AWARDS FOR UP TO TEN YEARS

## **THINGS TO KNOW**

- THERE MAY BE SOME DELAYS IN RFA'S BECAUSE THE FARM BILL MADE CHANGES THAT OPEN THE PROGRAMS TO NEW POSSIBLE RECIPIENTS.
- THE FINAL NIFA ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE APPROVAL. THEREFORE THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY ON THIS SPECIFIC ISSUE REMAINS WITH THE SECRETARY
- THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE 2501 GRANT PROGRAM FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED AS THE FARM BILL CREATED A NEW OFFICE OF OUTREACH FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND THIS OFFICE MAY TAKE OVER ADMINISTRATION OF THIS PROGRAM.