

FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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

FROM DOUG'S DESK

Doug Steele, Vice President

Since my arrival at APLU 5½ years ago and a professional introduction to life “inside the beltway,” I have had unique opportunities in leading the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) education and advocacy efforts.

Working through the many layers of Congress has brought new meaning to the expression “Hurry Up and Wait.” According to Wikipedia, this phrase refers to the situation in which one is forced to hurry in order to complete a certain task or arrive at a certain destination by a specified time, only for nothing to happen at that time (often because other required tasks are still awaiting completion). The phrase may have originated in the US military in the 1940's as many service members considered “hurry up and wait” to be synonymous with military culture.

As we have a very real potential of a generational federal investment in the Research Facilities Act (RFA), we are actively acquiring current information, determining potential paths forward in education and advocacy, and trying to “see around the corner” to determine our strategies and effective advocacy messaging.

As we continue to mobilize the national land-grant university network in support of RFA funding, we will be reaching out to the Board on Agricultural Assembly members, section and committee leaders, and our Council on Agriculture Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) citizen advocates to assist in our efforts. It might begin to seem like a “hurry up and wait” becomes the phrase for the day but we must be able to act quickly to address an opportunity that is truly generational.

Your voice, support and engagement will be critical to our success.

Doug

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington Update

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

- **FY 2025 Appropriations: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture/FDA Markup Advances FY 2025 Bill**
 - On June 11, the House Appropriations Agriculture/FDA Subcommittee held its markup for its fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations bill and advanced it to the full Committee on a party line vote. The [bill text](#) has been released along with accompanying summaries from both [Republicans](#) and [Democrats](#).
- **Farm Bill: Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Boozman Releases Farm Bill Framework**
 - Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR) released his own [Farm Bill framework](#). Listed among the Republican framework's "[key priorities](#)" is, "[Jump-starts Chronically Underfunded Agricultural Research Programs and Facilities, Allowing the U.S. to Reclaim Our Rightful Place at the](#)

Forefront of Innovation.”

- **Farm Bill: House Agriculture Committee Holds Markup of the 2024 Farm Bill; Passes with Some Democrat Support**
 - On May 23, 2024, the House Agriculture Committee held a markup of H.R. 8467, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the Republican Majority’s proposal for the 2024 reauthorization of the Farm Bill. Following an [over twelve-hour markup](#), the House passed the bill out of Committee by a vote of 33-21.
 - The complete LBA write-up and summary can be found at: [Land Grant Priorities Included in House Farm Bill Markup.pdf](#)
- **Funding Opportunity: USDA and FFAR Releases Solicitation for Innovation Challenge: “Nourishing Next Generation Agrifood Breakthroughs”**
- **EPA, FDA, and USDA Unveil Unified Plan for Biotechnology Regulation**

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

Scoops of Science: Celebrating Dairy and Agriculture Research on Capitol Hill

With the support of the House Agriculture Committee, APLU hosted a creamery reception on Capitol Hill on June 4, 2024 to celebrate with Congress the role of public and land-grant universities and the vital contributions of agriculture research to society. Fourteen APLU member universities showcased their ice cream flavors, cheeses and preserves with policymakers.

House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson (R-PA) spoke on the importance of universities educating the agriculturalists of tomorrow and reinforced the need for a Farm Bill with strong support for agriculture research, including investments in research facilities.

Through robust agricultural research and innovation, public and land-grant universities support farmers, reinforce the food supply, and strengthen U.S. national competitiveness. [Learn more about the dairy and agriculture research taking place on the campuses of the universities in attendance!](#)

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Supporting the Pacific Islands' Land-grant Universities

For the first time ever, the Pacific Islands' Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences convened a conference, which provided opportunities to advance their unique roles in agricultural sustainability, nutrition, positive youth development, and meeting the needs of their people.

Dr. Doug Steele, APLU's Vice President for Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources, participated in the four-day conference on **U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Land Grant Programs for USAPI (US-Affiliated Pacific Islands) and FAS (Freely Associated State) Colleges** in Koror State, Republic of Palau.

According to Dr. Steele, *"This conference provided a unique occasion for APLU members in the Pacific to come together to discuss topics of mutual importance for their region with federal funding partners. The ability to identify issues for agricultural research, academic programs and outreach will strengthen opportunities for the future."*

By leveraging the integration of research, education, and Extension, land-grant universities tackle complex challenges by developing and implementing effective solutions.

[Read the full press release.](#)

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John Dole Named New Director of the Food Systems Leadership Institute

John Dole, a longtime professor and leader at North Carolina State University, has been named the Director of the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI), following the retirement of Director Sam Pardue.

Dole, professor of horticultural science in NC State's College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALS) and former interim dean of the college, has been a member of the NC State faculty for more than two decades. He previously served as associate dean and director of CALS Academic Programs, head of the Department of Horticultural Science for five years and director of graduate programs for the college for eight years.

Pardue said Dole brings a wealth of management experience to FSLI, which offers leadership development to upper-level leaders in higher education, government and industry.

"Outstanding leadership is essential for the well-being of institutions, communities, and nations," Pardue said. *"The COVID crisis demonstrated the value of visionary leadership. I am confident that John Dole will successfully guide FSLI into its third decade of developing a new generation of great leaders."*

[Read the full press release.](#)

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Avian Flu Threats: The United States needs to prepare and prevent mutations that could spread among humans

Public and land-grant universities are at the forefront of research, education, and Extension efforts to prevent or minimize Avian influenza outbreaks and associated efforts.

See the [BAA Avian Influenza toolkit](#) for:

- Background
- Recent timeline
- Map of Avian Flu spread (UC Davis and University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources)
- Information on National Animal Health Laboratory Network
- Many examples of universities' work

For the latest updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), please visit the [new Extension Foundation H5N1 Resources website](#).

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USDA NIFA Grants Modernization Initiative Stakeholder Survey

You're invited to take part in a [short survey](#) to assist with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Grants Modernization Initiative (GMI). Your participation in this survey is a crucial component in ensuring that the GMI is successful and that NIFA can work to improve your experience over time. This survey is designed to take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

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USDA Publishes Request for Information to Support Next Steps in Implementing the Growing Climate Solutions Act

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking information from the public on protocols that may be considered for inclusion in a new Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program, the main program of the Growing Climate Solutions Act. The input is being collected through a [Request for Information](#) and will be considered in the preparation of a proposed rule to establish the program.

[Read the full press release.](#)

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AWARDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Programs Section Spring 2024 Innovative Teaching Award Winners

The Board on Agriculture Assembly's Academic Programs Section (APS) named winners of its 2024 Spring [Innovative Teaching Awards](#). In their tenth year, the biannual awards are intended to bolster innovation in the post-secondary teaching of agriculture and related fields. Awardees share up to **\$5,000 per project, plus \$2,000 in matching funds**. The awards program encourages:

- New faculty to expand their scholarship of teaching and learning by creating projects with more senior faculty from their own and other institutions.
- Adoption of innovative teaching and learning experiences for students.
- Institutional collaboration that expands the impact of creative projects to more institutions and students.
- Motivation to seek additional funding for the scholarship of teaching and learning from additional sources.

“This may be the junior faculty’s first monetary award which, when combined with the mentoring by working with senior faculty on the project, boost their abilities as both a teacher and a researcher,” said Wendy Fink, Executive Director of APS.

The 2024 Spring winners are:

- *Using Agricultural Simulations to Increase Students' Ethical and Critical Thinking*
Dr. Barry Boyd, Texas A&M University
- *AI-Enhanced Agricultural and Natural Resources Communication: An Exploration of Tools, Skills, and Teaching Practices to Prepare Professional Science Communicators and Scientists in the AI Age*
Dr. Jamie Loizzo, University of Florida and Dr. Jacqueline Aenlle, Kansas State University

[Read the full press release.](#)

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AgriProspects Mini-Grants Launched to Address Extension Adult Workforce Development Needs in the Agricultural Sector

The AgriProspects Workforce Development Network, a collaborative effort of the Extension Foundation (EXF), the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) Economic & Workforce Development Program Action Team (Workforce PAT) and USDA-NIFA, aims to bolster the Extension system's capacity to meet the evolving workforce demands within the food and agriculture sector.

To further its mission, AgriProspects is seeking proposals for Round 1 of its Mini-grant Program. Round 1 Mini-grants are aimed at developing adult, ag sector focused workforce development capacity within the Cooperative Extension System. All land-grant colleges & universities are invited to apply for mini-grants ranging from **\$25,000 to \$100,000** for projects spanning up to two years.

[See more information and apply.](#)

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking nominations for four positions on the [Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#). Any

interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals for membership, including self-nominations. The **12-member Committee**, which first convened in March 2022, is part of USDA's efforts to increase support for urban agriculture and innovative production. Members of the Committee provide input on policy development and help identify barriers to urban agriculture as USDA works to promote urban farming and the economic opportunities it provides in cities across the country.

Nominations are due July 7, 2024. [See more information and apply.](#)

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MEETINGS

2024 BAA Summer Leadership Meeting

Formerly known as Joint COPs

July 16-18, 2024 | Providence, Rhode Island

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.

Invitations were sent to the above groups in late May. If you did not receive your registration information or have any other questions, please contact Suzette Robinson at srobinson@aplu.org.

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2024 Regional Summer Meetings

The Regional Summer Meetings present opportunities for the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) and Administrative Heads Section (AHS) to conduct regional business, engage with one another and other BAA members, and go on tours to see the activities of local research and Extension offices. We encourage you to attend.

Western Regional Meeting: June 25-27, Fairbanks, Alaska

- [Registration](#)
- [Hotel](#)

Southern Regional Meeting: July 26-28, Lexington, Kentucky

- [Registration](#)
- [Hotel](#)

North Central Regional Meeting: August 4-6, East Lansing, Michigan

- [Registration](#)
- [Hotel](#)

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2024 APLU Annual Meeting: Our Public Purpose

Join us at the 2024 APLU Annual Meeting on November 10-12 in Orlando, Florida for an unparalleled gathering of thought leaders and innovators in public higher education. The theme of this year's meeting is *Our Public Purpose*, which will celebrate and explore the value proposition and mission of public research universities in a moment filled with vast challenges and opportunities.

Together we will discuss the issues facing public research universities across North America while reaffirming our commitment to serving the public good through education, research, and engagement.

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

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RESOURCES

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.

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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