

Roundtable Discussion – Issues by Category of Representation

A. National Farm Organization

Trade is critical to the prosperity of the entire agricultural sector and support for trade should continue to be a priority for USDA.

B. Farm Cooperatives

- Cooperatives have become too large
 - through mergers they have closed many small town cooperatives
 - eliminated competitive prices by these mergers, putting smaller independent grain, milk, livestock buyers out of business
- Cooperatives have become unresponsive to the needs of their members
 - small to mid-size farmers cannot purchase many of the items they need locally. Either the coop doesn't carry them anymore or hardware stores that did were pushed out of business
 - big cooperatives are investing member money in foreign production/ processing facilities that lowers prices for coop members.
- cooperatives, as they merge and grow, appear to be managed and function like corporations--- (kind of like Orwell's Animal Farm)
 - DFA price-fixing to lower milk prices
 - CEO's paid tremendous salaries
 - farmer dividends reduced
 - talk of eliminating one member one vote principal

C. Food Animal Commodity Producer

Research on Antibiotics and Antibiotic Resistance to Preserve both Human and Agricultural Utilization of Antibiotics (Short term of immediate concern)

1. Studies to analyze and assess disease prevention uses of antibiotics at therapeutic doses. Assess animal health (including clinical and subclinical disease), animal welfare, and food safety outcomes arising from prevention uses of antibiotics versus not having these uses available for target bacterial pathogens and by antibiotic class and formulation.
2. Studies to analyze and assess mass (e.g. whole group) antibiotic administration via feed or water versus individual parenteral antibiotic administration to optimize animal health and public health. Assess herd health, herd welfare, environmental exposure, food safety, meat quality, and worker health and safety outcomes of mass (feed- or water-based) versus individual animal parenteral antibiotic administration for select bacterial pathogens by antibiotic class and formulation.

3. Studies to characterize and assess the environmental fate of antibiotics, antibiotic metabolites, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and antibiotic-resistant genes on farms. Include assessment of the fate and transport in soils, surface water runoff and/or leaching to groundwater when manure is applied to land in accordance with best management practices and manure management plans.
4. Exploration of strategies to protect herd health and minimize the need for antibiotics. For example, strategies may include alternative feed- or water-based therapeutics, vaccination, environmental controls, etc.
5. Encourage collaboration on the research and the publicity of work funded to avoid redundancy as well as look to industry for support with research priority setting.

Research and Education to Ensure Food Security

1. Invest research effort and educate on technologies and approaches that work to prevent animal disease and foodborne disease.
2. Areas to focus on are: disease prevention through animal vaccination, increased biosecurity guidance, development of better surveillance and epidemiological tools to detect and track animal disease, and technology advances that result in a safer end product.

Producer Freedom to Farm and Consumer Freedom to Choose

1. Provide and support scientific research on new technologies and energies, production systems and types so that food producers can utilize the latest advances and technologies in agriculture practices to create efficient, sustainable farms, scientific based rules and regulations, and freedom in production type and methods.
2. Support food producers in providing consumers options in choosing their food source rather than lessen the freedom of consumer choice through policies, rules, and regulations. Keeping choice in perspective and making sure lower income consumers have access to wholesome, safe food that is not financially punitive based on perceptions of the food elite.

D. Plant Commodity Producer

The implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) continues to be a concern amongst plant commodity producers. There is concern about misinformation about the rule and how it will be formally implemented throughout the food supply.

E. Aquaculture Organizations

F. National Food Animal Science Society

Food animal production systems have progressed over time due to advances in research and technology; however, the efficiency of animal production will have to be further improved in the next three or four decades to meet animal product demands of a growing global population. There is a general consensus among food animal scientists that federal funding available for animal agriculture research has not been adequate, and they recognize that it is critical to maintain continued dialogue among all stakeholders, including federal agencies, educational institutions, industry, and more importantly, consumers, in order to muster the required public support for increased appropriations. The American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), a principal national food animal

science society, has identified the following areas as grand challenges that all stakeholders will have to jointly confront to ensure food security for the future:

- Animal Health
- Agricultural Animals and Climate Change
- Food Safety
- Global Food Security
- Animal Well-Being
- Quantity and Quality in Agricultural Animal Production
- Training the Future Workforce

G. National Crop, Soil, Agronomy, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, or Weed Science Society

- Arsenic in rice grown in the USA.
- New insecticides to manage pests in horticultural crops, i.e., blueberries, peaches, strawberries, grapes.

H. National Food Science Organization

- Communicating science, and doing it well.
- Improvement of safety in research universities (current initiatives from APLU and AAU).

I. National Human Health Association

J. National Nutritional Science Society

The Nutrition Societies are concerned about the need for nutrition research to receive higher priority within the research and program agendas at USDA.

K. 1862 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities

- Ensuring the proper balance between stakeholder needs and science needs. We really exist to help people in so many critical ways. To do that, we must have ongoing and thorough dialogue with a wide array of entities (stakeholders). At the same time, however, we can only be effective if we constantly have high standards for quality of science from discovery to application. The balance between the two viewpoints needs our ongoing attention.
- Establishing and nurturing a much greater alliance/partnership with other advisory groups across government and beyond is a huge task that will require lots of time and effort but will, in the long run, best serve the needs of our individual constituencies. Maybe it's time to formalize this effort.

L. 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities

As part of the 125th year of establishment of 1890s, it was proposed to establish three Centers of Excellence: 1. Virtual Center to Motivate and Educate for Achievement-1890 MEA Center 2. Center

of Excellence and Innovation for International Engagement and Development 3. Innovation Center for Sustainable Small Farms, Ranches, and Forest landowners.

\$10 million was requested under the President's 2017 budget but didn't go thru Congress. This is a major concern of the 1890s.

For general discussion, the Zika virus is of concern to many and there is a concern about the lack of expertise in the 1890s.

M. 1994 Land-Grant Institutions

- Disparities in research funding between the various land-grant institutions. Tribal Colleges and Universities typically receive less research funding than the other categories.
- Extension challenges in the Tribal Colleges and Universities and the need for capacity building.

N. Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture

Addressing the upcoming workforce to be well-versed in current techniques in agriculture (rather than teaching them techniques used 25-30 years ago). This spans all disciplines within agriculture – including, management, agronomy, animal science.

O. Hispanic Serving Institutions

The information provided by USDA offices: ARS, NIFA, ERS, and NASS in the April, 27 Webinar on REE International Activities Webinar was very interesting. While it is exciting to hear about initiatives taking place in Africa, South Asia, Rome, the Middle East, and many other countries. I cannot recall one international research program specifically sponsored for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) specifically. Therefore, the following are relevant issues to the HSIs:

1. The Department of Agriculture needs to recommend to the President and to Congress, through its annual budget submission, the funding of the various HSACU's accounts. To date, USDA has only requested funding in one account; this is, the Endowment account. The request by the Administration was for \$10 million, but it has not been funded. The other accounts showed:
 - a. Equity Grants: \$0 requests
 - b. Capacity Building \$0 requests
 - c. Basic & Applied Research \$0 requests
 - d. Training Hispanic Agriculture Workers Grants \$0 requests
 - e. Extension Grants \$0 requests
 - f. National Resources Leadership Program \$0 requests

The Department of Agriculture needs to support this designation of eligible HSIs and access to the resources and support that are available to those schools.

2. There must be an increase in the funding request for the USDA Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program. The account has been frozen at \$9.2 million since FY 2010 while the number of HSIs has grown by more than 120 institutions in that span of time.
3. There should be an increase in the number of USDA-HACU sponsored student internships.
4. There should be a marked increase in the percentage of Hispanics in the USDA labor force. In the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Fourteenth Annual Report on Hispanic

Employment in the Federal Government for Fiscal Year 2014 (released October 2015), the Department of Agriculture continues to underperform when compared to the rest of the federal government: 7.1% (USDA) and 8.4% for the permanent federal civilian workforce respectively. Of note, the rate of Hispanic employment in the civilian labor force (18%) continues to be double that of the federal government (8.4). This still widening gap, taking into account the growth in the number of Hispanics who enter the labor force each year, continues to be the largest for any racial or ethnic group in the United States.

The Webinar left some of us with the following questions, which I recommend for further discussion:

- How can USDA become more actively engaged in global research if only a few land-grant institutions or private research universities have the funding to sponsor their Faculty and students international research efforts? How is USDA planning to support the role of new science without the contribution of colleges and universities that have the talent and willingness to contribute to world justice and collaborations, but lack the necessary funding and opportunities to develop and implement the initiatives that will contribute to such science and global engagement?
- How does USDA see the role of universities, in particular, HSI's in international research and global engagement?

P. American College of Veterinary Medicine

There are many issues of concern/importance to the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), of which there are 30 colleges in the U.S.:

- Infectious and zoonotic diseases in our livestock
- Antibiotic resistance and the use of antibiotics as growth stimulants
- Food safety/meat inspection system
- Animal Health Industry and the development of new vaccines and pharmaceuticals
- Shortage of large animal veterinarians in rural areas

Q. Transportation of Food and Agricultural Products

How reducing waste/shrinkage/spoilage through the global food supply chain may be done through enhanced use of temperature control, thereby improving efficiency and sustainability.

For example, if crop yields are normally reduced by 30% due to spoilage from lack of temperature control, what land water and other resource use reductions could be gained simply by reducing the loss of product between harvest and consumer. In theory it ought to be a 1:1 reduction, thereby freeing up the necessary resources to sustain population growth.

R. Food Retailing and Marketing Interests

S. Food and Fiber Processors

T. Rural Economic Development

As farmers in rural areas across our country attempt to diversify or start new farms, there are barriers across all of agriculture preventing successful expansion or start up. This is especially prevalent in extremely rural areas without existing infrastructure (i.e. certified kitchens, distribution systems, etc.) for specialty crops. The potential for scaling up rests in the ability of the smaller markets to find a path forward. And it is also going to rest in our ability to find a viable path for extremely rural populations. There needs to be feet on the ground in these markets that are specifically addressing the 'how to' and it needs to include everything from crop science, water, pollinators, and infrastructure needs. Several critical factors exist:

- Extension in very rural areas
- Education for new and existing farmers
- Soil and water research for specialty crops
- Relationships between commodity agriculture and specialty crops

U. National Consumer Interest Group

Financial vulnerability of low to moderate income populations has a direct effect on food insecurity.

There can be challenges with policies established by federal agencies that are theoretically sound but don't consider the context or environment in which the consumer has to adhere to the policy. For example, the recent rules regarding able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) essentially states that ABAWDs can only get SNAP for 3 months in 3 years if they do not meet certain special work requirements. This is called the time limit. To be eligible beyond the time limit, an ABAWD must work at least 80 hours per month, participate in qualifying education and training activities at least 80 hours per month, or comply with a workfare program. Workfare means that ABAWDs can do unpaid work through a special State-approved program. For workfare, the amount of time worked depends on the amount of benefits received each month

(<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawds>).

Working is not a bad thing and the Food and Nutrition Services website states that most adults on SNAP do work. However, for many adults, there are barriers in their environment that makes the prospect of obtaining a job extremely difficult. Those barriers include a lack of transportation, especially in rural areas. If the adult has a criminal record it can prevent someone from getting a job, even if they have advanced education. In addition, many employers use a person's credit history as part of the criteria in obtaining a job, which can prevent a person from obtaining gainful employment. Then there is the basic challenge of living in areas plagued by chronic poverty where unemployment is high because of a lack of jobs and a local infrastructure that has been unsuccessful in attracting industry and jobs. These are realities that must be addressed if the policy is to meet its objective or the policy will result in the unintended consequence of increasing food insecurity

among populations that were already economically vulnerable. I believe SNAP was created with the financially vulnerable in mind.

V. National Forestry Group

Following are the *Grand Challenge Priorities* in forestry and related natural resource fields, as identified in a Delphi process by the APLU Board on Natural Resources (BNR) and Board on Oceans, Atmosphere and Climate (BOAC) with input and authorship on all chapters from members of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP). These priorities are outlined in the 2014 APLU-BNR-BOAC publication, *Science, Education and Outreach Roadmap for Natural Resources*.

1. Sustainability; optimize productivity and conserve landscapes with particular attention to water, food and energy demands.
2. Water; restore, protect and conserve watersheds for biodiversity, water resources, pollution reduction and water security.
3. Climate Change; understand impacts re: disease transmission, air quality, water supply, ecosystem function, fire, species survival, pest risk. Develop comprehensive strategy for adaptive management.
4. Agriculture; a sustainable, profitable and environmentally responsible industry.
5. Energy; identify new and alternative renewable sources and improve efficiency
6. Education; at all levels for an informed-engaged citizenry, leaders, professionals

There are several recurring themes that cross these major areas of Grand Challenge:

- Interplay of human and natural systems
- Need to optimize resource productivity while maintaining environmental quality
- Conservation and management of natural landscapes while meeting increasing human demands for NR
- Ensure sustainable agriculture in concert with NR
- Promote NR stewardship
- Communicate-increase scientific literacy to: K-12, general public, policy makers, public

W. National Conservation or Natural Resource Group

Note: The issues presented by the Forestry Category are equally related to natural resources groups and organizations.

- Jurisdictional issues for state waters
- Justification that BMP's remain voluntary and not mandatory

X. Private Sector Organizations involved in International Development

The biggest issue that is impacting international development for many developing and emerging markets is the lack of access to information.

The USDA provides a huge amount of information to farmers, food processors, logistics providers and retailers. However, when one goes to other countries that infrastructure does not often exist or if it does exist, it is difficult to locate it or even more difficult to access it. In this day and age of

information being power, managing by matrices and the widespread use of the internet, could this be an issue that USDA would want to lead by example and help other countries join the digital information highway?

Y. National Social Science Association

- The wicked problems of food, where science interfaces with more complex social dimensions like economic equality/distribution of wealth, value systems, and longer-term community development issues.
- The challenge of maintaining data. Much of the economic and other social science research agenda has been formed based on the expectation that some publicly held data will always exist. And, some of these data have long time series which, if discontinued, would make long term impact analysis challenging even if ever reinstated.