



January 10, 2017

President-Elect Donald J. Trump
Trump-Pence Transition Team, Chairman
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

-and-

Trump Tower
725 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

RE: Support for Increased Investments in Food and Agricultural Science

Dear President-Elect Trump:

The National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research (NCFAR) welcomes the opportunity to work with the Trump Administration to strengthen America's food and agricultural sector, rural communities, and the national economy through advancements in food and agricultural research, extension and education (science).

Increased federal investments in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area in fiscal years 2017 and 2018, and beyond, will lead to advances and breakthroughs in agricultural productivity, improved animal, plant and soil health, and nutrition and lead to healthier citizens, a healthier agricultural economy and a stronger and more globally competitive America.

NCFAR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition (membership list attached) that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural science as a top national priority.

Our nation's competitiveness in global markets is at risk. Federal funding for food and agricultural science has been essentially flat for over 20 years, while investments by our competitors have been growing rapidly. The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) September 2007 Economic Brief titled, "Economic Returns of Public Agricultural Research," shows the average social rate of return to public investment in agricultural research is nearly 50 percent.

NCFAR's support encompasses the entire USDA REE mission area, including extramural programs in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)—such as the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), and capacity funds to support Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension—and intramural programs in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), as well as the U.S. Forest Service research program. NCFAR urges the Administration to fully fund AFRI at the \$700 million authorized level as soon as practicable and to support further increases during reauthorization of the Farm Bill. NCFAR also supports investments in modernizing our nation's aging food and agricultural science infrastructure at USDA labs and universities.

Sincerely,

Andrew LaVigne (American Seed Trade Association), President
Richard Wilkins (American Soybean Association), Vice President
Dr. Barb Glenn (National Association of State Departments of Agriculture), Treasurer

CC: Trump Transition Team

Attachment-NCFAR Membership List



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA)
American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)
American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS)
American Society for Nutrition (ASN)
American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)
American Society of Agronomy (ASA)
American Society of Animal Science (ASAS)
American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)
American Soybean Association (ASA)
American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
Animal Health Institute (AHI)
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
Corn Refiners Association
Council for Agricultural Science & Technology (CAST)
Council for Biotechnology Information (CBI)
Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE)
CropLife America
Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)
Experiment Station Committee on Organization & Policy (ESCOP)
Extension Committee on Organization & Policy (ECOP)
Farm Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS)
Illinois Farm Bureau
Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)
International Food Information Council (IFIC)
Iowa State University-CALS
Kansas State University
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
Monsanto
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG)
National Corn Growers Association (NCGA)
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)
National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA)
National Potato Council
North American Millers' Association (NAMA)
North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA)
Northeastern Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)
SoAR Foundation
Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)
Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD)
Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (SAC)
Syngenta
The Cotton Foundation
The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.
University of Arkansas
University of Idaho
University of Kentucky
University of Nebraska
University of Tennessee
Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

**Dr. Jerry Baker
Dr. Gale Buchanan
Dr. Nancy M. Cox
Dr. William Danforth
Kellye Eversole
Dr. Barbara Glenn
Dr. John Patrick (Pat) Jordan
Dr. Martin A. Massengale
Michael Newman, DVM
Dr. Fred Stormshak**

SPONSORS

**Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Societies
American Bakers Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Seed Trade Association
American Society of Plant Biologists
Bayer CropScience
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
CHS Inc.
Corn Refiners Association
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)
Council for Biotechnology Information (CBI)
Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE)
CropLife America
Dr. William Danforth
Eversole Associates
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Institute of Food Technologists
Michael Newman, DVM
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)
National Farmers Union
North American Millers' Association (NAMA)
Riley Memorial Foundation
Syngenta
United Soybean Board**