2-2000

ARD News February 2000

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Comments from the Dean

Dear Colleagues:

I continue to be very pleased with the progress made in our overall research program. During fiscal year 1999, ARD faculty obtained more than $21 million in grant funds. This represented 46.6% of all research grant funding obtained by UNL. Total expenditures for research exceeded $57.8 million, an all-time high for ARD. We have also managed to lower the proportion of the “hard dollar” budget spent on salary, wages, fringe benefits and GRA stipends to less than 85% — a long-term ARD goal. When all sources of funding are considered, only about 64% is spent on salaries, wages, fringe benefits and GRA stipends. This indicates that increasing amounts of funds are available for supplies, equipment, travel, etc.

Outputs from our research program remain high with significant increases during the past year in publication of books and book chapters and in the number of M.S. and Ph.D. students graduating. In addition, the number of cultivar and germplasm releases nearly doubled from the previous year.

In reading the Annual Reports of Faculty Accomplishments, I have been struck by the quality of research that is being conducted and the recognition that many of our faculty are receiving. Most of our research projects are truly on the cutting edge of science and making tremendous contributions to the knowledge base as well as solving practical problems.

Although you are doing well collectively, we have room for improvement. UNL currently ranks 87th among U.S. universities in acquisition of federal research funds. This is an important criteria for maintenance of our membership in the Association of American Universities and continuing to be ranked as a Carnegie Research I University. Increasing grant funding not only enhances the individual’s research program but adds to UNL’s stature. I am asking ARD faculty to be very aggressive in preparing individual and team proposals for submission to federal agencies. Help with proposal preparation is available from the ARD and Vice Chancellor for Research offices. I also recommend that all ARD faculty be alert for opportunities to obtain industry funding. Industry funding is a growing proportion of our total grant funding and many opportunities exist for collaborations with companies.

Darrell W. Nelson
Dean and Director

CSREES Appropriation for FY 2000

The CSREES appropriation was passed by Congress and signed by the President in late October. Included in the appropriation language was a provision that required all agencies to reduce the appropriation by 0.38%. It has taken USDA until now to decide how the budget reduction was to be accomplished. In the end all reductions within the CSREES research budget were taken from large state-specific special grants. A quirk in the appropriation language allowed funding for the Fund for Rural America ($60 million) and the Initiative for Future Food and Agricultural Systems ($120 million). The Secretary of Agriculture has allocated the Fund for Rural America money. We can expect to receive a RFP for the Initiative for Future Food and Agricultural Systems in the near future. Most of the other parts of the CSREES budget were level funded from FY 1999. Listed on the next page are the CSREES budget allocations for FY 2000 (in thousands of dollars):
In passing the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Reform Act of 1998, Congress created a new account (Section 406) that mandates integrated activities in specific program areas. In the FY 2000 appropriation, Congress moved some research-specific and extension-specific programs into an Integrated Activities account that mandates joint research and educational programs to address the issues. CSREES will soon issue a RFP that will outline the expectations for grant proposals in these program areas. Listed below are the Section 406 program areas and the FY 2000 funding in thousands associated with each:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 1999</th>
<th>FY 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Funds:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hatch Act</td>
<td>180,545</td>
<td>180,545</td>
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<tr>
<td>McIntire-Stennis</td>
<td>21,932</td>
<td>21,932</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Health</td>
<td>5,109</td>
<td>5,109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>207,586</td>
<td>207,586</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Research Initiative:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant Systems</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>41,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Systems</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition, Food Quality &amp; Health</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources &amp; Environment</td>
<td>20,500</td>
<td>20,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processes &amp; New Products</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>8,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markets, Trade and Rural Development</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>4,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
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<td>119,300</td>
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<td>National Special Grants:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Issues in Pest Control</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expert IPM Decision Support Systems</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pest Management Alternatives</td>
<td>1,623</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPM &amp; Biocontrol</td>
<td>2,731</td>
<td>2,731</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor Crop Pesticide Clearance</td>
<td>8,990</td>
<td>8,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pesticide Impact Assessment</td>
<td>1,227</td>
<td>Moved*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Use Animal Drugs</td>
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<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Impact Assessment</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>254</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Safety</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>Moved*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Development Centers</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>523</td>
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<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>3,461</td>
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<td>Global Change, UV-B Monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
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<td>16,048</td>
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<td>State-specific Special Grants</td>
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<td>Other Research:</td>
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<td>Critical Agriculture Materials</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>450</td>
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<td>Aquaculture Centers</td>
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<td>Sustainable Ag Research &amp; Education Program</td>
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<td>8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental &amp; Alternative Crops</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994 Research Grants</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Administration</td>
<td>10,688</td>
<td>14,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>24,038</td>
<td>28,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Grand Total</td>
<td>428,688</td>
<td>432,670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moved*, funding moved to Section 406 Integrated Account

In the FY2000 CSREES appropriation, Congress permitted mandatory funding for the new Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems to go into effect. This may be the only year that the $120 million program will be funded. Thus, it is imperative that faculty take advantage of this opportunity to receive large, multi-year grants in specific areas of interest to USDA. CSREES is currently working on the RFP for the program. We anticipate that a short turnaround time will be allowed for submission of proposals after the RFP is published. It is our expectation that the RFP will call for proposals that are multi-functional, multi-disciplinary and multi-state addressing the subject matter areas:

- Agricultural genomics and biotechnology risk assessment
- Food safety and role of nutrition in human health
- New uses for agricultural products including biomass fuel
- Natural resource management
- Pest management
- Precision agriculture
- Farm efficiency and profitability with emphasis on small and mid-size farms

As few as 12 or 14 grants may be provided, which indicates that the grants will be very large. Please consider brainstorming with your colleagues to arrive at innovative approaches to address these subject matter areas. IANR has terrific faculty expertise in each of these targeted areas. We need to take advantage of this expertise by preparing excellent proposals with our colleagues in other states.

We encourage faculty groups to take advantage of the funding opportunities afforded by the funding provided in the Initiative for Future Food and Agricultural Systems and the new Integrated Activities account. The Initiative will require proposals that are multi-functional, multi-disciplinary and multi-state. Thus, strong teams of faculty will be needed to effectively compete for these funds.

**Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems**

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ARD 113th Annual Report

The 113th Annual Report for ARD was recently published. Although this report is required by legislation establishing the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station on March 31, 1887, it is published primarily as a means to communicate faculty research accomplishments to key decision makers. The publication also serves as a historical record of faculty accomplishments, active projects, faculty and graduate student recognition and outputs from the research program.

The annual report is sent to a wide range of people including the Governor, members of the Nebraska Legislature, the Nebraska Congressional Delegation, University of Nebraska Board of Regents, NU and UNL administrators, state agency directors, USDA officials, ARS collaborators, experiment station directors in other states and selected IANR clientele. Copies of the annual report have been provided to each unit administrator for circulation to faculty. Anyone interested in having a personal copy of the report should contact the ARD office at 2-2045.

Grants and Contracts Received
December 1999 and January 2000

Agronomy
- Graef, George — United Soybean Board $33,544
- Graef, George — University of Illinois 23,611
- Mackenzie, Sally — NSF 50,000
- Specht, James — USDA 40,000
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 34,400

Animal Science
- Beck, Mary — Nebraska Game & Parks Commission 25,000
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 36,427

Biochemistry
- Banerjee, Ruma — American Heart Association 75,000
- Chollet, Ray — NSF 54,308

Center for Grassland Studies
- Massengale, Martin — Arthur W. Sampson Fellowship — via UN Foundation 17,000

Entomology
- Mayo, Z B — Nebraska Department of Agriculture 15,000
- Meinkne, Lance — USDA/ARS 14,000
- Siegfried, Blair — Monsanto 24,930
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 22,400

Food Science & Technology
- Benson, Andrew — UN Foundation 63,000
- Bullerman, Lloyd — Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center 15,000
- Taylor, Stephen — American Dairy Association of Nebraska Research Fund — via UN Foundation 67,875
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 60,906

Family & Consumer Sciences
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 7,472

Horticulture
- Coyne, Dermot — Michigan State University (AID) 80,510
- Read, Paul E. — Richard P. and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation 49,653
- Read, Paul E. — Lee H. Sapp 24,000
- Shearman, Robert — National Turfgrass Evaluation Program 32,933
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 17,148

Northeast Research & Extension Center
- Shapiro, Charles — Applied Crop Production Research 13,000
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 8,500

Nutritional Science & Dietetics
- Schnepf, Marilyn — ConAgra, Inc. 13,300

Panhandle Research & Extension Center
- Baltensperger, David and Nelson, Lenis — Pioneer Hi-Bred International 11,145
- Blumenthal, Jurg — Anna Elliott Fund via UN Foundation
- Reece, Patrick — Sampson Range & Management Fund 10,000
- Wilson, Robert — AgrEvo USA Company 17,500
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 66,900

Plant Pathology
- Dickman, Martin — USDA/BARD 36,000
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 6,250

School of Natural Resource Sciences
- Blad, Blaine — USDA/ARS 20,000
- Hygnstrom, Scott — National Pork Producers Council 27,100
- Kamble, Shripat — Michigan State University 29,960
- Shes, Patrick and Comforth, Steve — Kansas State University/EPA 20,421
- Spalding, Roy — Nebraska Department of Agriculture 40,000
- Verma, Shashi — NIGEC 26,500
- Vitzthum, Ed — USGS 20,000
- Willhite, Donald — DOI 17,000
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 18,091

Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences
- Cirillo, Jeffrey — Center for Indoor Air Research 131,185
- Cirillo, Jeffrey — California Pacific Medical Center 79,613
- Duhamel, Gerald — Novartis 22,279
- Hungerford, Laura — Arizona State University 49,000
- Jones, Clinton — Elsa U. Pardee Foundation 58,487
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 57,601

West Central Research & Extension Center
- Wicks, Gail — Washington State University 25,000
- Miscellaneous grants under $10,000 each 15,422

Grand Total 1,719,371
New or Revised Projects

The following station projects were approved recently by the USDA Current Research Information System:

NEB-11-119 (Biological Systems Engineering)
Analysis of Sorghum Wax Quantity and Quality
Investigator: Curtis L. Weller
Status: New Hatch project effective October 1, 1999

NEB-12-002 (Agronomy) Improvement and Evaluation of Oats and Barley
Investigator: P. Stephen Baenziger
Status: Revised Hatch project effective October 1, 1999

NEB-14-107 (Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences)
Theoretical and Applied Molecular Biology of Porcine Gonadotropins
Investigator: G.B. Sherman
Status: New Hatch project effective September 1, 1999

NEB-91-Q51 (Nutritional Science & Dietetics)
Assessing Managerial and Work Force Development in Foodservice Management
Investigator: Fayrene L. Hamouz
Status: New Hatch project effective August 1, 1999

Undergraduate Honors Research Program

Funds for the FY 2000 Undergraduate Honors Student Research Program have been allocated to units for support of student research projects. This program is open to junior and senior University Honors Program students proposing to work with a faculty research mentor who has an ARD appointment. Twelve proposals were received; nine were funded; and two are being revised. The following students have received funding:

Alana Cent (Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication) $5,000
Researchers: Drs. Norman Schneider and Rita Schmitz
“Exploring Parental Collaboration in a National Early Childhood Development Program”

Kristyn M. Harms (Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication) $2,500
Researcher: Dr. Susan Fritz
“Pragmatic & Professional Impact of Character Education”

James P. Rhea (Animal Science) $2,500
Researcher: Dr. Chris Calkins
“Correlation of Beef Longissimus Muscle Tenderness at the 5th Rib and 12th Rib Locations”

Brenda M. Chrastil (Biochemistry) $2,500
Researcher: Dr. Donald Weeks
“The Role of Plasmids in the Degradation of the Herbicide, Dicamba, by Pseudomonas maltophilia, Strain DI-6”

A. Mark James (Biochemistry) $2,500
Researcher: Dr. Ray Chollet
“Evaluation of the Reversible Phosphorylation of Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxylase in Leaves of the C4 Plant Maize by Polyclonal Antibody Assays”

Russell A. Miller (Biochemistry) $2,500
Researcher: Dr. Lori Allison
“In vivo Functional Analysis of a Novel Chloroplast Gene Promoter”

Marissa Carstens (Biochemistry) $2,500
Researcher: Dr. Gautam Sarath
“Non-symbiotic Plant Hemoglobins”

Katherine Irwin (Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences) $2,500
Researcher: Dr. David R. Smith
“Understanding Cattle Behavior to Maximize Recovery of Food-borne Pathogens”

Research Support from Commodity Checkoff Programs

In recent years, funding from several agricultural commodity checkoff programs has been an important source of support for ARD faculty research. Checkoff programs get funding from the collection of a small tax or “checkoff” at the time of sale of the commodity, normally when sold by farmers to the first purchaser of the commodity. The checkoff fee is then deducted from the proceeds of the sale and collected in a central fund. Since it comes out of sale proceeds, the farmer or producer is the one who pays the tax or fee.

Checkoff programs are organized in many different ways. Some are established by legislation, both state and national. They may be operated on a local, state, regional or national scale. The legislation often stipulates how funds can be used. Overseas and domestic market development and promotion tends to be the major activity supported by many checkoff programs.

Using the checkoff funds to influence farm policy as it relates to commodities is often prohibited by the enabling legislation, although there are some exceptions to this. Most of the checkoff programs include research and education as appropriate activities for use of funds. Checkoff funds are usually administered through a checkoff board or commission consisting of elected or appointed members representing commodity producers or processors. These boards establish priorities, set budgets and allocate funds among many competing needs.
ARD faculty have successfully competed for checkoff funds, obtaining much needed support for a broad range of research. Boards change, problems change, and so do priorities. Most boards operate on an annual fiscal-year basis, so there are annual opportunities for proposals to be submitted. Depending on board priorities, funded research may include diverse activities such as production efficiency, environment, new uses, food safety, marketing and many others.

Examples of commodity programs that have provided research funding to ARD faculty in recent years include:

- Nebraska Beef Council
- Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization and Marketing Board
- Nebraska Grain Sorghum Development, Utilization and Marketing Board
- Nebraska Dry Bean Commission
- Nebraska Pork Producers Association
- National Pork Producers Council
- Southeast Poultry and Egg Association
- National Dairy Board
- Nebraska Soybean Board
- Nebraska Wheat Board
- Nebraska Potato Development Committee
- Western Sugar Beet Growers
- Illinois Corn Marketing Board
- National Livestock and Meat Board

This list is not inclusive but it gives an idea of the range of commodity organizations supporting research they want to see carried out by ARD faculty. In terms of magnitude, the research grant and contract support received by ARD researchers from organizations such as those above totaled over $1,598,000 in FY 1999. This is about 9% of the total grant and contract research funding received by ARD faculty in FY 1999.

Obviously, this is a significant source of research support. The funding isn't the only important aspect in working with these boards, however. The members of the boards are strong leaders in the agricultural industry and can be effective advocates for the university. Having a positive working relationship with the boards enhances this potential. ARD faculty are to be commended not only for doing productive research with checkoff funds but also for strengthening our university linkages with this important stakeholder group.

**Innovative and High Risk Research Program**

Two proposals were submitted for the Innovative and High Risk Research Program during the past six months. This program is designed to provide seed money for very innovative research projects. The objective is to obtain preliminary data that can be used to support requests for grants from federal agencies or companies. Funding will not be provided for projects that continue faculty members' current research programs. The proposals may be submitted at any time during the year. The proposals are evaluated quarterly or on an as-needed basis by a subcommittee of the ARD Advisory Council.

The following proposal was funded by the Innovative and High Risk Research Program effective January 13, 2000.

Milford Hanna, Industrial Agricultural Products Center

"Biodegradable Waterproof Cardboard Box Coating"

Amount Funded: $15,000

**Endeavors**

The sixth issue of Endeavors was recently produced by Communications and Information Technology. This inexpensive eight-page publication is designed to communicate selected research accomplishments to key decision makers and clientele. The publication is written in interesting lay language that encourages recipients to thoroughly read the report. We use this report in communicating with members of the Nebraska Legislature and the Nebraska Congressional Delegation. It is also used in presentations to checkoff boards, commodity organizations and advisory committees.

A supply of Endeavors has been provided to unit administrators for their use. Please contact the ARD office if you would like to have a personal copy of the 1999 issue of Endeavors.

**NABC Bioethics Institute**

North Carolina State University is hosting the 2000 NABC Bioethics Institute on June 3-8 in Raleigh, NC. The Bioethics Institute is designed to teach faculty how to help students deal with ethical issues in the life sciences, such as the social implications of genetically engineered food, the use of animals for biomedical research, and indigenous peoples' rights to novel genes in unique germplasm. The course aims to provide the knowledge base that will enable faculty to integrate ethics into the life science curriculum by emphasizing active learning skills.

Applicants must be tenured or tenure-track life scientists committed to serious study of moral philosophy. Each participant receives a stipend of $250 for lunches, books and other materials. In addition, participants...
receive a $650 travel and living allowance. Applications are due March 1, 2000. Please contact the ARD Office for more information. Application materials are also available at:
http://www.cals.cornell.edu/extension/nabc/bioethicsinstintro.html

NABC 12 Annual Meeting

The NABC 12 Annual Meeting will be held May 11-13, 2000, in Orlando, Florida. The meeting will be hosted by the University of Florida and is entitled “The Bio-Based Economy of the Twenty-First Century: Agriculture Expanding into Health, Energy, Chemicals and Materials”. The meeting will examine the validity of the NABC Vision Statement that suggests an expanded role for agriculture in the 21st century. Through genetic modification of plants and animals and innovative industrial conversion technologies, agricultural products could be produced that would satisfy much of the energy, materials and industrial chemicals needs of the United States. Plants and animals could also produce vaccines, pharmaceuticals and nutriceuticals that could play important roles in health maintenance. This expanded role for production agriculture would not detract from the primary mission of providing food and traditional fiber products.

We encourage everyone interested in these topics to attend NABC 12. Further information about the conference will be forthcoming from NABC. Faculty who have attended previous NABC meetings have been very pleased with the presentations and workshop sessions that address key issues.

Federal R & D Funding for FY 2000

Other than USDA, science agencies fared reasonably well in the FY 2000 appropriation bills. Overall, federal research and development (R & D) spending in FY 2000 will increase an average of 5% to $83.3 billion. The largest gain was obtained by the National Institutes of Health with an increase of $2.3 billion (14.7%). Total Department of Defense basic and applied research accounts were increased by 6% to $4.6 billion. Department of Defense R & D totaled $42.6 billion or 51% of total federal R & D spending. DOD-sponsored research at universities is in the following fields: engineering, 47%; math and computer science, 21%; environmental sciences, 8%; physical sciences, 11%; psychology, 2%; life sciences, 8%; and other, 2%.

The National Science Foundation appropriation was increased by $240 million (6.6%). Other science agencies received variable percentage increases. The USDA-CSREES appropriation is discussed in another article in this newsletter. Listed in the table below are the FY 2000 appropriations and the percentage increase provided to federal science agencies.

<table>
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<th>Agency</th>
<th>FY 2000 Budget (millions)</th>
<th>% increase vs. FY 1999</th>
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<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
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<td>14.7</td>
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<td>NSF</td>
<td>3,912</td>
<td>6.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASA</td>
<td>6,261</td>
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<td>DOE (Science)</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<td>DOD (Basic research)</td>
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<td>DOC — NOAA</td>
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<td>DOC — NIST</td>
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<td>EPA (S &amp; T)</td>
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NABC Statement 2000 on Agricultural Biotechnology

The National Agricultural Biotechnology Council has issued a document entitled “NABC Statement 2000 on Agricultural Biotechnology: Promise, Process, Regulation and Dialogue”. This document presents a balanced view of the role of biotechnology in agricultural research and world food production. It attempts to present an accurate portrayal of the benefits and risks of agricultural biotechnology and provides a good overview of the regulatory process used to approve use of biotechnology-enhanced plants. The document concludes by offering to sponsor an open dialogue between proponents and opponents of agricultural biotechnology so that significant issues can be discussed and areas of agreement identified. The statement was approved by the NABC representatives from 28 member universities in the United States and Canada.

Copies of the NABC statement are available in the ARD office. Please contact Dora Dill at 2-2045 if you would like to have a copy.

Diane says

Raise your hat to the past and take off your coat to the future.