

National Research Agenda Progress Report 2006 AAAE Conference

Conference participants received a copy of the latest draft of the National Research Agenda for Agricultural Education and Communication with their registration materials. That document provides a list of the 27-member development team and some brief notes about where we are in finalizing this document. This project has been gaining momentum for several years, and at our AAAE conference last year in San Antonio the membership voted to provide \$5,000 to support this initiative. We have also received \$5,000 each from USDA and The National Council for Agricultural Education. The potential outcomes of this project include the following:

- a document that guides our collective research efforts internally (faculty and graduate student research),
- a vehicle for clearly communicating our priorities to external groups and funding agencies,
- greater synergy within the broader profession,
- a focal point for research discussions in AAAE SIGs,
- more focused, programmatic research centered on national priorities, and
- more active research teams in throughout the profession.

The development team, which included faculty and professional/industry representatives, was organized into five smaller teams, with each team pursuing one of five dimensions of the research agenda: agricultural communication, agricultural leadership, agricultural education in community settings, agricultural education in university settings, and agricultural education in schools. The development team included officers and representatives from AAAE, ALE, AIAEE, ACE, NCA-24, and The Council. At the end of our three-day meeting in Orlando last December we had in hand a first draft of a five-year national research agenda. Since that time we have been editing and revising the draft, working toward a professionally presented, four-color piece. We anticipate developing two more drafts of this document before going to the printers in September.

This project is being cast as a collaborative effort of the six organizations mentioned above, and we have asked members of the development team to take the agenda to their respective organizations for endorsement. Specifically, we request from the AAAE membership at this conference an endorsement of the concept and framework of this joint national research agenda. We hope to gain this endorsement from each collaborating organization during its upcoming summer conference. We will then seek endorsement of the final draft from the executive board of each organization prior to printing. We realize that the document is not in final draft form, as more work needs to be completed in background statements and other areas. AAAE members are invited to provide feedback to the development team on the current draft by June 15. The point persons for receiving this feedback are: David Doerfert (Ag Communication), Chris Townsend (Ag Leadership), Bob Martin (Education - Community), Bobby Torres (Education - University), and Greg Thompson – Education - Schools).

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