

N C-FAR Research Experience

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What is N C-FAR

- Broad based coalition of groups with a stake in food and agricultural research
- Mission: Through education and outreach efforts National C-Far is seeking to sustain and enhance federal funding for food and agricultural research, extension and education to help bring about research outcomes that provide a range of public benefits.
- Original mission: To double federal funding of food and agricultural research and education programs in the next five years. (2001)

Experience

- Membership started at over 100 and has declined to about 60 now
- Searched for strategy to accomplish goals
- Lobbying
- Seminar Series & Success Stories
- Coordination and Clearing House

What have we learned?

- We do not have the resources to do hard core lobbying
- All food and agricultural stakeholders need to have a unified message
- Doing what we have been doing will not be successful.
- There is a perception held by some that publicly funded agriculture research is not of the same importance and quality as that funded by NIH and NSF.

What do I think we need to do?

- Develop a strategic plan to determine the financial needs for food and agriculture research and how to fund them
- Put together a coalition to develop the plan
- Include all food and agriculture stakeholders. It is essential that both Producer groups and Land Grants participate.
- Make sure all publicly funded ag research be top quality and USDA research functions be led by top scientist.