
POLICY AMENDMENT FORM

1
2 Amendment to: Section 14 Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education
3 (Policy Title)
4

5 Section Number /Title to Be Amended: all sections under consideration
6

RD-5

7
8 Subject of Amendment: Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education
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10
11 Submitted By_ Commissioner Roger Johnson
12 (Name)

North Dakota
(State)

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14
15 Amendment Text (Please write legibly):
16

17
18 See attachment – Section 14 Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education
19

20
21 Also See Policy Revisions Key
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26 Signature submitted electronically

Date 8/31/2007

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29 Adopted _____

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31 Adopted w/ Amend. _____

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33 Not Adopted _____
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14. Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education

Last Updated: January 25, 2007

- 14.1 Introduction

Agricultural research is a critical pillar to sustaining a thriving food and agriculture industry. The impact of these research efforts have helped U.S. agriculture adapt to changing dynamics in the domestic and global marketplace and lead the world in innovation and production. This research also helps protect natural resources such as soil, water and air while building and educating the families that are stewards of the land. These advances improve the quality of life of our citizens and consumers worldwide, while leaving the next generation a world that can continue to sustain a vibrant agriculture.

~~The Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act (the 1996 Farm Bill) began the process of fundamental change in agriculture. The seven year phase out of commodity programs which the legislation initiated, emphasizes the need for greater global competitiveness in agriculture. This increases the demand for sound, progressive agricultural research.~~

~~In the p~~Past, public investments in agriculture research have paid large dividends to society, and ~~t~~The global, high-tech, environmentally-sensitive era we have now entered requires support of public research. U.S. agriculture today faces greater global competition than ever before, thus increasing the need for sound, progressive agricultural research. The nation's land grant universities must remain a strategic resource for agriculture and the general public. They must be used wisely and fully to support the needs of an ever expanding domestic and worldwide population.

- 14.2 Publicly-Funded Research

The past several years have seen an erosion of public support for agricultural research. While private contributions to the research effort have been on the increase, federal research support funding has been eroded by some 20 to 30 percent during the past five years declining. This is a trend that must be stopped. Food and fiber are essential to all people, and we must ensure our productive capacity is secure.

Publicly funded research is needed to ensure society's goals are achieved. ~~While~~ The combination of private and public research are ~~is~~ complementary. ~~However,~~ private research is more narrow and short-term; while ~~P~~public research can be more speculative, broader and longer-term. ~~Public funding ensures that needs voiced by concerned citizens are achieved. Items such as~~ Issues including a safe and secure food and fiber system, a healthy and well-nourished population, harmony between agriculture and the environment, global competitiveness, and general economic development can be better addressed ~~better with~~ by publicly funded research. ~~All of these factors help provide the quality of life desired by each of our citizens. Our citizens desire and deserve that these quality of life issues receive proper consideration.~~

Incentives need to be established to encourage regional cooperation around research and extension in order to best utilize limited funding.

1 • 14.3 The Land Grant System

2 Our forefathers provided the framework needed to achieve public agricultural research goals.
3 The land grant system provides the basic needs of extension, teaching and research. Program
4 direction and funding is provided by long standing programs such as the Hatch, Smith-Lever and
5 other formula-based funding authorities. ~~Now is the time to enhance these programs and help~~
6 ~~secure the future of our citizens and those of the world.~~

7
8 Land Grant Universities and their faculties should prepare our nation's students in agriculture
9 and related fields to function in today's society and meet the needs of our food, fiber, and fuel
10 systems. Land Grant Universities should also evaluate the increasing administrative overhead
11 costs and their impact on agricultural research and education.

12
13 • 14.4 Research Needs

14 Agricultural research must be multi-faceted ~~and give consideration to a number of concerns to~~
15 address numerous issues that affecting the public's welfare. ~~No single role can be given~~
16 ~~precedence over another. They~~ All research sectors must be equitably addressed ~~in total~~ to
17 ensure society's needs ~~both the short and long term needs of our society~~ are met.

18 U.S. agriculture must be highly competitive, not just in the domestic market, but in the global
19 economy. To be competitive, research must contribute to U.S. farmers and agribusiness ~~must be~~
20 ~~profitable and they must continue to improve their~~ profitability and increased productivity. New
21 trade channels must be developed to provide the markets for domestic products, and products
22 must be developed that suit the changing demands of consumers.

23 The American public is increasingly concerned about the safety and security of the food and
24 fiber system. Consumers worry about environmental factors related to foodborne disease. In
25 response, detection, surveillance and reporting of these diseases must be improved. The ultimate
26 goal is the reduction and elimination of environmental risk factors that contribute to foodborne
27 disease. It is essential that our food production, processing and distribution system remain
28 secure.

29 Research that shows how agriculturalists can meet changing trends in food choice and still meet
30 world nutritional goals should be maintained. ~~In order to reach this goal, we must identify the~~
31 ~~nutritional needs of an ever changing population.~~ We must understand the factors that influence
32 food choices, and develop food products desired by consumers and ~~still meet their nutritional~~
33 needs identify and meet the nutritional needs of an ever changing population.

34 Today, much of the focus is on the relationship of agriculture to the environment. Research is
35 necessary to develop rational, balanced approaches for the use and management of natural
36 resources. The productive capacity of our natural resources must be improved and protected.
37 We cannot let immediate needs outweigh the long-term protection of these critical resources.

1 In order for improvement to take place in rural communities, emphasis must be placed on
2 developing local economies. The development of leadership is imperative in order to enhance
3 rural entrepreneurship and encourage small businesses that serve rural and agricultural areas.

4 ~~A major underlying goal for agricultural research and education is the preparation of students to~~
5 ~~function in today's society. In addition, the levels of expectations for these students must equate~~
6 ~~to or exceed those of students in other endeavors. Strategies for education must be modernized~~
7 ~~and students must learn in a real-world environment. Faculties at land grant institutions must be~~
8 ~~prepared and equipped to teach students and prepare them for the future.~~

9 • 14.5 Legislative Needs

10 ~~The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is committed to~~
11 ~~support efforts to enhance and encourage public sector research that benefits agriculture and its~~
12 ~~related industries. NASDA supports legislation at the federal level that serves to address and~~
13 ~~achieve the following goals and objectives:~~

- 14 ~~○ Establish agricultural research, extension and teaching as core components of the~~
15 ~~United States' long-term agricultural policy.~~
- 16 ~~○ Maintain and strengthen base program funding through the Hatch, Smith-Lever~~
17 ~~and other formula-based funding authorities.~~
- 18 ~~○ Increase federal funding of competitive agricultural research and education grant~~
19 ~~programs.~~
- 20 ~~○ Enhance stakeholder-driven priority setting processes stressing grassroots input at~~
21 ~~the local and state levels.~~
- 22 ~~○ Ensure coordination and collaboration between the Agricultural Research Service~~
23 ~~and the Land Grant Universities.~~
- 24 ~~○ Clarify the Cooperative Extension Service as the primary outreach and education~~
25 ~~agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.~~
- 26 ~~○ Increase the overall investment in agricultural research, extension and teaching.~~

27 ~~NASDA recommends increased federal funding in research, extension, and education programs~~
28 ~~for agriculture, bioenergy, fiber, nutrition, food safety, market development, specialty crops, and~~
29 ~~natural resources. Congress should fund competitive grants programs like the Initiative for~~
30 ~~Future Agriculture and Food Systems and USDA's Organic Research Initiative.~~

31 ~~NASDA also urges continued funding of the national Sustainable Agriculture Research and~~
32 ~~Education (SARE) program and organic production and market data collection and tracking.~~
33 ~~USDA should create a permanent National Program Leader for Organic Agriculture within~~
34 ~~CSREES, continue the National Agricultural Statistics Service and state agricultural surveys with~~
35 ~~expansion of questions related to organic and transitional production, acreage, and producer~~
36 ~~characteristics; and collect and disseminate organic price data for sale of commodity crops,~~
37 ~~specialty crops, and retail organic sales.~~

38 NASDA supports expanding the Research, Education and Economics (REE) portfolio to include
39 Minority Serving Institutions that have the capability in food and agricultural programs to

1 address future workforce needs for both the public and private sectors of the agricultural
2 industry.

3 • 14.6 National C-FAR

4 The goal of a National C-FAR is to form a broad-based nonpartisan national coalition of
5 stakeholders in the food, agricultural and natural resource sectors to be named the *National*
6 *Coalition of Food and Agricultural Research*. The ~~two specific~~ objectives are to:

- 7 • Increase and enhance federal investments in U.S. food and agricultural research
8 and extension, ~~by doubling federal funding of food, nutrition, agricultural, natural~~
9 ~~resource, and fiber research, extension and education programs during the next~~
10 ~~five years.~~
- 11 • Expand ~~the stakeholder participation by stakeholders in the development of~~
12 ~~research and funding priority setting and funding priorities.~~

13 ~~Additional resources are needed to adequately fund relevant high quality research and related~~
14 ~~outreach programs in food and fiber production systems, natural resources and conservation,~~
15 ~~expanding agricultural markets, rural economic development, human nutrition and food safety,~~
16 ~~and animal nutrition and feed safety.~~ A National C-FAR will foster public confidence in ~~food,~~
17 ~~agricultural, nutritional and natural resource research through public confidence in food,~~
18 ~~agricultural, nutritional and natural resource~~ the research through public participation in planning
19 ~~and evaluating the process and impact of research activities.~~

20 ~~The goal of a National C-FAR is to form a broad-based nonpartisan national coalition of~~
21 ~~stakeholders in the food, agricultural and natural resource sectors to be named the *National*~~
22 ~~*Coalition of Food and Agricultural Research*. The two specific objectives are to:~~

- 23 ~~• Increase and enhance federal investments in U.S. food and agricultural research~~
24 ~~and extension by doubling federal funding of food, nutrition, agricultural, natural~~
25 ~~resource, and fiber research, extension and education programs during the next~~
26 ~~five years.~~
- 27 ~~• Expand the participation by stakeholders in priority setting and funding.~~

28 ~~The net a~~ Additional funding should be on a continuing basis that will to complement, not
29 compete with or displace the existing portfolio of federal research programs of food, agricultural,
30 nutrition, conservation and natural resources research and extension. Funding would support a
31 balanced portfolio of ~~both extramural and intramural~~ basic and applied research and education on
32 a competitive grant and programmatic basis.

33 NASDA supports ~~the formation of~~ a National C-FAR that focuses on research goals, priorities
34 and outcomes and not research administration, design or procedures. NASDA further supports
35 research that addresses the interrelationship between food, health and medicine.

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37 *For Distribution – September 10, 2007*
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