

**NCA-1 Meeting
Minutes
23-25 January 2002
USDA-CSREES, Waterfront Center
Washington, DC**

Attending

NCA-1 Members:

Beyrouy, Craig	Purdue University
Buhler, Doug	Michigan State University
Cassman, Ken	University of Nebraska
Echert, Don	The Ohio State University
Fales, Steve	Iowa State University
Gallenberg, Dale	South Dakota State University
Gengenbach, Burle	University of Minnesota
Heichel, Gary H.	University of Illinois
Lowery, Birl	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Mengel, Dave	Kansas State University
Nater, Ed	University of Minnesota
Richardson, Jimmie	North Dakota State University
Russin, John	Souther Illinois University
Schneider, Al	North Dakota State University
Sharp, Robert E.	University of Missouri-Columbia
Stucki, Joseph W.	University of Illinois

Administrative Advisor:

Nelson, Darrell	University of Nebraska
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Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) Representative:

Knighton, Ray	CSREES
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Guests from CSREES:

Bailey, Mark
Cunningham, Gary
Poth, Mark
Rozum, Mary Ann
Wilson, Ted

Absent

NCA-1 Members:

Duke, Stanley	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Hammer, David	University of Missouri-Columbia
Myers, Steve	The Ohio State University

January 23, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dale Gallenberg at 1:30 p.m., January 23, 2002.

Mark Poth, Division Director, Natural Resources and Environment, CSREES, welcomed members of NCA-1 and discussed their program goals and objectives. Ted Wilson, CSREES added words of welcome and encouraged the group to look at the CSREES web page for funding opportunities. He encouraged us to give success stories to our congressional delegates.

Ray Knighton discussed the funding situation at CSREES. He noted that \$120 million had been removed from the CSREES budget when the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS) program was not funded this year. The program was cut because it was funded through mandatory money. The Farm Bill has potential for restoring IFAFS in future. Formula funds are flat again this year. The only increase in funds were for 1890 and 1994 schools. The water quality program, headed by Mike O'Neal, has about the same level of funding. Ray suggested that there may be some funding on greenhouse gas with respect to agriculture research.

Mary Ann Rozum gave an update on efforts in animal waste including CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations). She noted that there is opportunity for some pass-through funds from CSREES.

Mark Bailey was introduced and it was noted that he has oversight for IFAFS. He discussed the future development and techniques being used to get continuation and new funds for IFAFS. It appears there is some hope for the New Farm Bill providing an opportunity for funding. Mark is optimistic that funding will be provided in 2003.

Dr. Gary Cunningham, new Associate Administrator, was introduced and he welcomed members of NCA-1.

Minutes of the January 2001 meeting were distributed by Chairman Gallenberg. Minutes were reviewed and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Gary Heichel with a second by Doug Buhler. Minutes were approved with no corrections.

There was discussion regarding the next meeting time and place. Gary provided a list of the past meeting places and Chairs for NCA-1. They were:

2002	Washington, DC	Dale Gallenberg (SD, Plant and Soil Sci.)
2001	Tucson, AZ	Joe Stucki (IL, Soils - NRES)
2000	Kansas City, MO	Lynn Brun (ND, Soils)
1999	Orlando, FL	Boyd Ellis (MI, Plant and Soil Sci.)
1998	San Antonio, TX	H.H. Cheng (MN, Soils)
1997	Indianapolis, IN	William McFee (IN, Agronomy)
1996	Washington, DC	Kent Crookston (MN, Agronomy and Plant Gen.)
1995	Indianapolis, IN	Gary Heichel (IL, Agronomy)
1994	St. Louis, MO	R. Cantrell (IA, Agronomy)

In 1995 the meeting was joint with NCA-4 and in 1999 it was joint with NCA-14. The dates for the next meeting were: 23 and 24 January 2003 being the first choice and 16 and 17 January 2003 the second choice. We will attempt to meet in Chicago at Argonne National Laboratory.

Comments from NCA-1 Administrative Advisor Darrell Nelson

Nelson reminded the committee that we meet at the direction of the North Central Experiment Directors to review regional research projects. This is the peer review mechanism for these projects as specified by CSREES. This is possibly the last time we will conduct these reviews by paper. It is anticipated that next

year the reviews will be conducted via the web. Project renewals and Administrative Advisors reviews will be done online.

Darrell noted that 25% of Hatch funds should be directed to multi-state projects. Thus, he requested that we pay close attention to the projects to make certain that they are truly regional. He also noted that results from these projects should show the impact of the project for continued support by Congress. There is also a need for more Chairs/Department Heads to serve as Administrator Advisors for regional projects. Guidelines for regional projects can be obtained from <http://www.wisc.edu/ncra>. Reporting must be done by NCA-1 Secretary (incoming Chair) and Administrative Advisor, and for this year it must be done by 22 February 2002.

Darrell indicated that John Nicholaides will not be attending the meeting because he has been asked to resign. He is currently on administrative leave. There has been concern regarding his leadership and vision for well over a year. Considerable discussion followed. It was noted that the person who replaces John should have strong vision and abilities and should be working for the Tri-Societies here in Washington.

Dale Gallenberg, Chair NCA-1

Dale discussed the differences between NC, NCR and NCT projects. He noted that NC are multi-state research projects, and in most states research funds are provided. In contrast, NCR projects are not funded but provide an opportunity for scientists to meet and coordinate information exchange. Travel is paid for NCR project meetings. The NCT committees provide a platform for scientists to write a project. The NCT committees have limited life span, 2 years at most.

There was a question regarding the assignment of reviews for the projects. Dale indicated that he made the review assignments this year based in part on history and his understanding of Chairs/Heads expertise. The NCA-1 group get the majority of the NC projects. Some of the projects are reviewed by more than one group (NCA committee). Ray Knighton noted that there is need for better communication between NCA and CSREES, specifically National Program Leaders.

There was discussion regarding the quality of the projects. It was suggested that the Administrative Advisors need to get more involved and review the projects before they are submitted. There was concern about the review in that not all the members of NCA-1 had a copy of all the projects. It is anticipated that this distribution problem will be solved with the new electronic review process.

There will be a new database online soon called Research Education Economic Information System. This data base will contain information on instruction and extension similar to that for research in the CRIS database.

5:00 p.m. the group recessed for dinner.

8:00 p.m. the group reconvened for three special presentations.

There were three presentations provided in the evening meeting. Bob Sharp made a presentation on Term (Nontenure-Tract) vs Tenure-Track Faculty at Missouri. Burle Gengenbach presented the Minnesota Plan -- to convert faculty from 11 to 9 month appointments. Ken Cassman discussed budget cuts that most institutions are facing.

Following the presentations Ray questioned the value of CSREES reviews since most institutions are not requesting them. He indicated that departments are having academic reviews and the CSREES person is just invited to observe. The committee pointed out that the CSREES reviews are important. Ray requested that this be communicated to CSREES administration.

24 January 2002

Ralph Ott, Deputy Administrator for the Natural Resources Unit of CSREES, visited the with the group and offered the services of the Natural Resources Unit.

The remainder of the day was devoted to project reviews:

NC-7: Plant Germplasm and Information Management and Utilization – lead reviewers Heichel/Gengenbach

There was a question on the leverage of funds. Since this project takes 25% of the regional funds, committee members should at least indicate how they will lever these funds. This group needs to show impact not just the potential for impact to society. The kind of output for the project was questioned. It was noted that there were 60+ publications referenced but they were not cited directly in the list of publications. This suggests that they have products. Their connection to international germplasm was questioned but this was not specifically mentioned in the proposal. We think that there should be some connections to international germplasm. Minutes for committee meetings were not available. It was noted that this project is funded from money taken from all experiment stations and it is in cooperation with USDA-ARS. The inclusion of invasive species as part of the objectives was welcomed. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project.

NCR-103: Specialized Soil Amendments, Products, Growth Stimulants and Soil Fertility Management Practices – lead reviewers Mengel/Eckert

This project has been around since sometime in the 1970's. They have published seven information bulletins. Kelling (at Wisconsin) maintains a file covering the country on these products. It was noted that it could be that all this information is on the way out as most of the people involved in it are retiring, and replacement faculty are not interested in this kind of work to the extent that current members are. Results from this work will be put on the web. It was noted that paper publications for NCR committees is very difficult. If the process could be simplified it would be helpful. It was noted that this is one of the best examples of how a NCR committee should function. Some members of NCA-1 have used the products of this committee. But there was concern that future information of this nature is in danger since this kind of research is difficult to get published in referred publications. A question was raised regarding proper procedures for labeling these products. It was suggested that there are protocol for most of the states in the NC Region. For example, in the state of Ohio, if you call these products fertilizer you will need to provide a list of chemical analysis, but if you call them amendments, chemical analysis is not required. The Administrative Advisor was advised to look at the make-up of the committee to ensure that it remains strong in future. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project.

NC-142: Regulation of Photosynthetic Processes – lead reviewers Sharp/Heichel.

There was a feeling that there has not been a strong case made for this committee. It was noted that similar work was conducted 15 years ago. Members of NCA-1 have strong reservations about this committee as the project is written. We questioned what the committee members would do as a NC committee that they can not do as a NCR committee. Although some of the committee members are getting a small amount of funds, it appears that what they are doing now is not much different from what they could do as a NCR committee. It seems that all they are doing is getting together to exchange ideas. There was a discussion regarding delaying approval and allowing for an extension of a year for writing a new proposal. Based on the guidelines for a multistate project it was suggested that this project be rejected. It was noted that in Nebraska more money is put into this than any other regional project. Following discussion as to how to get the group to improve this project it was decided that the project not be approved but that the group be allowed to rewrite the project by granting a years extension. It was noted that there were no minutes from the committee meetings. Members of NCA-1 Committee

recommend one-year extension of the project for development of a new proposal.

NCR-195: Mississippi River Watershed Nutrient Sources and Control – lead reviewers Eckert/Cassman

This is a good group of scientists and they have developed some good objectives, but it does not look like they have moved much past the objective stage. Apparently there is a web site, but no URL was provided. The committee indicated that the web site is for their own use, yet this is listed as a product of the group. It was suggested that the project be approved with significant revisions. It was suggested that the committee need representation from outside universities and USDA. Examples of other potential committee members include USGS, NRCS, and EPA. Members of NCA-1 agreed that this is a very important area of research. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project.

NC-502: Soybean Aphid - A New Pest of Soybean Production – lead reviewers Gallenberg/Fales
The committee has decided not to request renewal.

NCR-174: Synchrotron X-Ray Sources in Soil Science Research – lead reviewers Stucki/Nater

This group has had difficulty obtaining funds compared to geologists and other scientists conducting synchrotron research. However, they have been successful at obtaining NRI funds. This group is mainly focused on soils and minerals, but there is potential for other agricultural related research, especially in the plant sciences. This group has made some good progress and has helped other soil scientists gain access to the various synchrotrons. It was recognized that this committee is proving that agriculture can participate in cutting-edge research. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project.

NCT-187: Utilization of Animal Manure and Other Organic Residuals in Agriculture – lead reviewers Lowery/Beyroudy

The relationship between this committee and 195 was questioned. It was noted that the committee was scheduled to meet on September 12, 2001, but because of the problems of September 11, 2001, most of the members were unable to travel to the meeting. It was suggested that a committee be formed to focus on all farm related waste (nutrient pest management) with a strong outreach/extension component. Mengel agreed to draft a note for the Experiment Station Directors indicating suggested directions for this committee and we recommended rejection of the current proposal. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend the current project be terminated and a new project proposed.

PROJECTS FOR MIDTERM EVALUATIONS

NC-94: Impact of Climate and Soils on Crop Selection and Management – lead reviewers Myers/Lowery

It seems this group is collecting good data, but they are not utilizing it as a committee. It was noted however that the representatives from Kansas were using the data in connection with a tax base project they have with NRCS. This committee should make linkages with climate change researchers. It appears the group has developed a good system for technology transfer. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project.

NC-125: Biological Control of Soil and Residue Borne Pathogens – lead reviewers Cassman/Russin

This is not a very good project and it was suggested that the project be terminated. It seems that there are parts of the proposal that could be regional in nature, but it appears that each member of the committee are doing their own thing with limited interaction. This group could benefit from interaction with other committees working on similar problems. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend termination of the project..

NC-225: Improved Grazing Systems for Beef Cattle Production – lead reviewers Schneiter/Buhler/Stucki

This is an important area and there could be better linkages. The progress report was excellent. There are numerous individual but no group publications. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project.

NC226: Development of Pest Management Strategies for Forage Alfalfa Persistence – lead reviewers Buhler/Myers

Objective number 4 is weak. There was concern raised with respect to objective 2 as well. The committee members are conducting excellent individual research, but the group effort is in need of improvements. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project.

NC-227: Ergot - A New Disease of U.S. Grain Sorghum – lead reviewers Gallenberg/Schneiter

Limited information was available other than the advisors' report and minutes. The committee decided to delay their 2001 meeting until 2002, therefore the report covered only one year. There is a limited pool of individuals working in this area and outside funding is not available. We questioned if ergot is still a problem. We questioned if this should be a regional project. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project with revisions.

NCR-3: Soil Survey – lead reviewers Mengel/Richardson/Hammer

This is one of the oldest NC committees around. It was suggested that other group projects, such as soil hydrology, could be added to enhance the group's activity. Such additions would make this an excellent project. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project.

NCR-31: Ecophysiological Aspects of Forage Production – lead reviewers Gengenbach/Sharp

All agree that this is a good committee. The group has developed a web page which contains four levels of information. They have good evidence of integrated activities. They recently organized a symposium at American Society of Agronomy national meeting. Members of NCA-1 Committee recommend approval/continue project with normal revisions.

Following project reviews the group discussed means whereby we, as a group, could help various committees develop better projects. It was noted that NCR-31 is an example of an excellent project.

Nomination Committee Report

The committee consisted of Joe Stucky and Gary Heichel. They nominated Al Schneiter for Secretary for 2003 and Chair in 2004. With no additional nominations Al was elected on by a unanimously vote.

Site for 2003 Meeting

The time and place for the 2003 meeting was discussed. It was decided that we would meet in Chicago on 23 and 24 January with an optional date of 16 and 17 January.

Administrative Advisor Nelson suggested we consider recommending a new committee on air quality. It was noted that there could be considerable amount funds available for research in this area in a few years.

25 January

Mengel presented his statement on the proposed redirection of NCT-187. His proposal was accepted with some minor modifications.

Station reports were presented and discussed.

The following resolutions were offered by Gary Heichel and accepted and endorsed by the group:

Be it resolved that the members of multistate committee NCA-1 hereby enthusiastically welcome its newest members: Craig Beyroudy, Steve Fales, Ed Nater, Jimmie Richardson, and John Russin, as valued administrative colleagues, and welcome former NCA-1 member Darrell Nelson as its new Administrative Advisor. Now that they have endured the "rite of initiation," we look forward to a future of fertile intellectual stimulation from them, and a long and productive association.

Be it resolved that the members of multistate committee NCA-1 hereby recognize the leadership and organizational skills of Dale Gallenberg as Chair of NCA-1 during 2001-2002. We commend his choice of venue and programmatic development for the 2002 meeting.

Be it resolved that the members of multistate committee NCA-1 hereby conveys its sincere gratitude to Ray Knighton, CSREES representative, for superb local arrangements and for arranging briefings by programmatic representatives and colleagues from USDA.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45.