



National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy

National Center for Food and Agricultural Economics 2025 Annual Report

Overview

FY 2025 was a building year for NCFAP as it was the first full year under the leadership of Board Chair Dr. Mike Martin, following years of leadership under Dr. Stanley Johnson and Dr. Maureen Kilkenny. Various Board members met with a variety of stakeholders throughout the year to reflect on future directions. An overriding goal was to foster more policy-relevant output and to bring more visibility to NCFAP through research and analysis. To this end, in addition to an annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, a meeting of Senior Fellows was convened.

Only requisite overhead expenses were incurred.

Ongoing Projects

Three new Senior Fellows were appointed in 2025, following the appointment of two Senior Fellows in 2024. The Board agreed to provide the 5 new Senior Fellows members, along with another Senior Fellow, a small stipend to encourage their policy-relevant analysis that will be featured in professional meetings, journals, and posted on NCFAP's website. Output associated with this project will be forthcoming in 2026. Dr. Jim MacDonald and Dr. Keith Fuglie are coordinating a special policy issue of the *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* featuring the work of NCFAP Senior Fellows. Dr. Mary Muth and Dr. Michele ver Ploeg are coordinating a theme issue in *Choices* focused on the significant changes to the U.S. food system and nutrition programs.

In August 2025, The NCFAP established a Cooperative Agreement with the USDA Agricultural Research Service to investigate the "Return to Investment to Agricultural Commodity Research in the United States." The study will examine how public and private investments in R&D contributed to productivity gains across a range of crop and livestock commodities. NCFAP Senior Fellow Dr. Keith Fuglie is the principal investigator on the project.

NCFAP Board members Dr. Mary Ahearn, Dr. Steve Halbrook, and Dr. Willi Meyers co-organized several sessions with Sections of the Agricultural Applied Economics Association (AAEA) to be presented at the 2026 AAEA meetings in Kansas City, MO. The presenters include several Senior Fellows to discuss contemporary policy issues. In addition, an AAEA session was organized in honor of recently deceased NCFAP leader, Dr. Maureen Kilkenny. Participants in the session include regional economists who collaborated and admired Dr. Kilkenny for her research and professional contributions. Another session was organized as a follow-up to a previous session organized by Dr. Kilkenny on Ukrainian agriculture, with NCFAP Senior Fellows, Dr. Willi Meyers and Dr. Joe Glauber.