

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board

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July 6, 2009

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

At the November, 2008, general meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board (the Board), a focus session was held on the broad topic of Commodity Crops. During this session, stakeholder input was presented to the Board with respect to research priorities and other issues associated with the major commodity crops.

From the presentations and the discussion following the focus session, it was apparent that the breadth of the topic limited the ability of the Board to make specific recommendations. Consequently, the Board has prepared the enclosed report on Commodity Crops. It should be noted that the report is general in nature and lays the foundation for proposed further investigation of the topics identified therein as high priority for different commodities. This paper should be considered a preliminary rather than a definitive report.

I am pleased to provide you with the Board's summary report and recommendations from this Commodity Crops focus session. As always, I remain available to discuss our findings with you if you wish Data for acreages were taken from the 2007 Census of Agriculture. .

Sincerely,



Martin A. Massengale
Chair

Enclosures

cc: Deputy Secretary Merrigan
Under Secretary for REE Shah
U.S. House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations committees/subcommittees
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities