



Experiment Station  
Committee on Organization  
and Policy (ESCOP)

## 2017 Priorities and Chairman's Initiatives

### Bret Hess, Chair

The Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy is the executive governing body of the Experiment Station Section (ESS) that formulates policy and acts on behalf of the Section.

The Experiment Station Section is a member of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources (CFERR), Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA). Members are research administrators in colleges of agriculture, environment, natural resources, and human sciences of the Land-grant University system. Members represent five regional associations including: Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD), Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA), North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA), Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD), and Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD).

### Priorities

- The ESS unanimously supports the efforts to increase the top line allocation to USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). If successful, these additional funds will bolster capacity programs for research, Extension, competitive grants and academic programs.
- In the next Farm Bill, the ESS seeks to:
  - Increase capacity funds;
  - Increase AFRI to its authorized level;
  - Fully fund all grants programs as authorized;
  - Reduce the number of budget lines by combining small grants programs into AFRI; and
  - Support additional partnerships outside NIFA.
- The ESS supports the educational efforts of its Communications and Marketing Committee and the work of kglobal and the Agriculture is America initiative ([www.agisamerica.org](http://www.agisamerica.org)).
- ESCOP is implementing its Science Roadmap for Agriculture ([www.escop.info/docs/scienceroadmap.pdf](http://www.escop.info/docs/scienceroadmap.pdf)) and is working with colleagues representing other sections of BAA to address high priority initiatives including Water Security, Crop Protection, and Healthy Food Systems Healthy People.

### Chairman's Initiatives

- Engage with USDA-NIFA and other agencies to increase the value of agricultural research
- Expand alliances with national partners(e.g., NC-FAR, ECOP, APLU BAA)
- Engage fully in the ESS-CES-AHS Communications and Marketing Project
- Enhance the visibility of agricultural research programs and projects by communicating through [www.landgrantimpacts.org](http://www.landgrantimpacts.org)
- Increase organizational multicultural awareness and inclusivity
- Encourage continued excellence of all ESCOP committees, task forces, and work groups