



**MISSOURI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**

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September 4, 2009

Dr. Abner Womack, Professor  
Dr. Patrick Westhoff, Co-Director  
Dr. William Meyers, Co-Director  
Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute  
101 Park DeVille Dr.  
Columbia, Missouri 65203

Dear Abner, Pat and Willie:

On behalf of Missouri Farm Bureau, congratulations on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (FAPRI). This is a tremendous milestone and we are extremely proud of your accomplishments and ongoing contributions to agricultural policy in the United States and throughout the world.

Created as a vision by Abner and his colleagues to provide policy-makers with objective, quantitative policy analysis, FAPRI has evolved into an extremely well respected think tank used by members of all political parties. The original concept was brilliant; illustrated by the fact it wasn't long before FAPRI was developing complex econometric models, baseline forecasts and responding to countless requests for policy analysis.

Throughout the years, FAPRI staff economists have developed an excellent reputation among policy-makers, farmers, ranchers and the media. We continue to utilize FAPRI's expertise and your guidance has been invaluable on issues ranging from options to raise commodity prices and the impact of increased demand for renewable fuels to utilization of the Missouri River and the effects of rising input costs on net farm income.

We commend FAPRI for its willingness to collaborate with other academic institutions and across disciplines. It should also be noted that, under your leadership, FAPRI has trained a cadre of agricultural economists who have become ambassadors for the incorporation of quantitative analysis in the decision making process. Over the years, FAPRI has never forgotten the value of teaching and has provided unique educational opportunities for countless undergraduate and graduate students.

On a personal note, I was privileged to serve on the Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Production Agriculture which was authorized in the 1996 farm bill. At the beginning of this endeavor I was thrilled when Dr. Keith Collins, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Chief Economist and one of the most respected agricultural economists in the nation, indicated he would ask representatives of FAPRI to assist the Commission. Dr. Collins made it clear that FAPRI possessed expertise the U.S. Department of Agriculture did not. Commission members soon shared my high opinion of FAPRI and came to rely on the unit's analyses as farm bill options were evaluated.

We are grateful for your support of U.S. agriculture and dedication to providing objective analysis. You and your staff have been an incredible asset to Missouri farmers and ranchers and we wish you continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Kruse  
President