Proposed Reorganization of USDA Trade Functions and the Creation of an Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (TFAA) and Elevation of Rural Development
Role and Responsibilities

• Support the Director and NIFA leadership; provide advice regarding Congressional relations/legislative issues.

• Develop/maintain effective working relationships with various audiences.

• Review Congressional correspondence for factual and policy accuracy.
Role and Responsibilities (cont.)

- Draft testimony (for authorizing committees) for NIFA officials for testifying before Congressional Committees.

- Handle and respond to Congressional inquiries on NIFA programs and policies, as well as coordinate NIFA’s responses to Technical Assistance requests from Congressional staff.
Farm Bill – Items of Interest

• Most of NIFA programs are Farm Bill related and need to be reauthorized.

• Last Farm Bill done on time was in 2002.

• Both Agriculture Committee’s Leadership is committed to getting the 2018 Farm Bill done on time (before 2014 Farm Bill expires on September 30, 2018).
Farm Bill – Items of Interest (cont.)

• House Farm Bill version failed by a vote of 198 yeas to 213 nays on May 18, 2018.

• House will take another vote on their 2018 Farm Bill on June 22, 2018.

• Senate Agriculture Committee may consider their Farm Bill version as early as first week in June.
Wrap-up

Q&A

Thank you!

• Additional questions:
  Josh Stull, Congressional and Stakeholder Affairs Officer
  Cell #: 202-603-9344,
jstull@nifa.usda.gov
Tell your story with NIFA Impacts

Falita Liles
Impacts Manager
Dianne Bell
Web Manager
NIFA’s publicity channels

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NIFA Twitter: [@USDA_NIFA](@USDA_NIFA)
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Partner with NIFA to highlight your discoveries and accomplishments!

FOLLOW @USDA_NIFA & TWEET YOUR STORIES USING #NIFAIMPACTS

E-MAIL IMPACTSTORIES@NIFA.USDA.GOV

OR CALL THE IMPACTS COORDINATOR: 202-720-6133

impactstories@nifa.usda.gov
Questions? Contact us!

Falita Liles, Impacts Manager, Fresh from the Field Editor, 202-445-5601, fliles@nifa.usda.gov or impactstories@nifa.usda.gov
Dianne Bell, Web Manager, 202-720-8188, Dianne.Bell@nifa.usda.gov

Get email updates - bit.ly/NIFAsubscribe
NIFA web page: nifa.usda.gov
NIFA Twitter: @USDA_NIFA
NIFA Fresh from the Field: https://nifa.usda.gov/fresh-field
NIFA’s Performance Measurement Partnership

Karl D. Maxwell, Ph.D.
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
USDA
Science Emphasis Areas ("Portfolios" n=9)

- Carry out NIFA's science goals
- Comprised of grant programs
- Each managed by a National Program Leader
- Each Institute has at least one
- Covers all NIFA programs
- Tracked by Knowledge Areas

- Sustainable Ag Production Systems
- Bioeconomy-Bioenergy-Bioproducts
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Education
- Environmental Systems
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Food Safety
- Human Nutrition
- Youth Development
What Does NIFA *Really* Want to Know?

1. **RELEVANCE**
   Are we investing in the right things?
   (stakeholder feedback, NPLs)
   Controlled internally

   **Relevance Indicators:**
   - Scope
   - Focus
   - Emerging Issues
   - Stakeholder Input

2. **QUALITY**
   Are we effective?
   (NIFA partners)
   Controlled externally

   **Quality Indicators:**
   - Significance of Results
   - Usefulness of Results
   - Integration
   - Interdisciplinary Balance
   - Methodology

3. **PERFORMANCE**
   Are we approaching it correctly?
   (processes, SOPs)
   Controlled internally

   **Performance Indicators:**
   - Productivity
   - Comprehensiveness
   - Accountability
   - Leadership
   - Management
What Do We *Really* Want to Know?

**Internal**

NIFA National Program Leaders

1. *Sample Activities/Outputs:*
   - RFA development
   - Grants management
   - Human capital
   - Stakeholder feedback
   - Priority-setting
   - Communications
   - Budgeting/funding
   - Data collection and reporting
   - Policy development
   - Technology
   - Partnerships
   - Intramural research

**External**

2. *Sample Activities/Outputs:*
   - Research results
   - Patents
   - Publications
   - Training
   - Technologies
   - Partnerships
   - Projects
   - Methods
   - Strategies
   - Regulatory actions

3. *Sample Outcomes:*
   - Increased knowledge
   - Improved quality
   - Increased efficiency
   - Improved environment
   - Behavior change
   - Increased enrollment rate
   - Improved health outcomes
   - Reduced carbon footprint
   - Increased yields
   - Adoption of models
   - New methods implemented
Contact Information

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Evaluation Team Leader
Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff
Office of the Director
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
800 9th Street, SW, Rm. 1314 | Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 690-1297
Fax: (202) 720-7714
KMaxwell@nifa.usda.gov
Sustainable Agricultural Systems

• New RFA for 2018 in the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative
• Progression of the Challenge Areas to new multi-disciplinary systems-level work
• SAS is soliciting creative and visionary project applications that:
  – use transdisciplinary approaches
  – integrate research, education, and extension activities
  – promote convergence of science and technology
  – solve present and future food and agricultural production system challenges
  – result in societal benefits.

• Coordinated Agricultural Projects and Strengthening CAP Grants
Sustainable Agricultural Systems

• Applications must address one or more 25-year goals:
  – Increase agricultural total factor productivity growth from the current 1.5 percent to 2 percent per year and agricultural production by 2 percent annually in all U.S. regions, providing models for similar agro-ecological niches;
  – Improve water and nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient use efficiency by 50 percent;
  – Reduce crop losses due to environmental stress and pests, or diseases by 20 percent;
  – Produce 50 billion gallons of biofuels and 50 billion pounds of biobased chemicals and bioproducts; and
  – Reduce food-borne illnesses down to 8.5 cases per 100,000.
Sustainable Agricultural Systems

• Up to $10 million per systems-level Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) or FASE Strengthening CAP with project periods of up to five years
• $80 million in funding available
• Integrated Projects only (must include all three: Research, Education, and Extension)
• Letter of Intent deadline: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 5pm Eastern Time
  ➢ LOI is required
• Application deadline: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 5pm Eastern Time

nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-sas
Overview of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Integrated & FASE Opportunities

Mark A. Mirando, Ph.D.
National Program Leader, AFRI Science Coordinator
mmirando@nifa.usda.gov
Organization of AFRI

• Aligned with the 6 Farm Bill priorities

• Three Requests for Applications (RFAs)
  1. Foundational and Applied Science
  2. Education and Workforce Development
  3. Sustainable Agricultural Systems
Foundational and Applied Science:
Program Areas directly aligned with the Farm Bill Priorities for AFRI

- Plant health and production, plant products
- Animal health and production, animal products
- Food safety, nutrition, and health
- Bioenergy, natural resources, environment
- Agriculture systems and technology
- Agriculture economics and rural communities
- Cross-cutting initiatives – CARE, Exploratory
Foundational and Applied Science: Program Areas with Integrated Opportunities

• Plant health and production, plant products
• Food safety, nutrition, and health
• Bioenergy, natural resources, environment
• Agriculture systems and technology
• Agriculture economics and rural communities
• Cross-cutting initiatives – CARE
Education and Workforce Development

• Postdoctoral Fellowships – individual applies
• Predoctoral Fellowships – individual applies
• Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU) – institution applies for a group of fellowships
• Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Education Professionals – training and continued education of K-14 ag teachers
Sustainable Agricultural Systems

• New RFA for 2018

• Progression of the Challenge Areas to new multidisciplinary systems-level work

• Up to $10 million per systems-level Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) grant
AFRI Grant Types

• Standard Grants
• Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAP)
• Conference Grants
• Food and Agriculture Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants
  – Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants
  – Strengthening Grants – several types
  – New Investigator Grants
Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants

Goal:

• Help institutions develop competitive projects, and attract new scientists and educators into careers in high-priority areas of national need in agriculture and food environmental sciences
FASE Grants

Types:

• Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowships

• Strengthening
  – Strengthening Standard Grants
  – Strengthening CAP Grants
  – Strengthening Conference Grants
  – Seed, Sabbatical and Equipment Grants

• New Investigators
FASE Grants

Project Director (PD) Eligibility:

- **Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowships** –
  - Citizens, Nationals, Permanent Residents
  - progress toward or completion of degree (see RFA)
- **Strengthening** – PD located at degree granting institutions
  - in EPSCoR states
  - at Small to mid-size institutions
  - at Minority-serving institutions
FASE Grants

Project Director (PD) Eligibility:

- **New Investigators**
  - First 5 years of first career-track position
  - Limited publication record
  - No previous Federal funding other than a pre- or postdoctoral fellowship or AFRI seed grant
FASE Grants

- Institutional eligibility is restricted:
  - Strengthening Standard Grants
  - Strengthening CAP Grants
  - Strengthening Conference Grants
  - Seed, Sabbatical and Equipment Grants

- PD eligibility is restricted:
  - New Investigator Grants
  - Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowships
What To Do If You Have Questions?

Contact the Program Staff!!!
Key areas for success:

• Notice of Award/Award Terms and Conditions
• NIFA Policy Guide – 2018 update  
  – Webinars late June
• Updated Final Rule 7 CFR 3419: 1890 and Insular area matching – WEBINAR JUNE 7!
• Documentation standards for personnel compensation (Time and Effort Reporting)
• Identification of funds in financial system
Helpful links

https://nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions

https://nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide

https://nifa.usda.gov/event/webinar-review-7-cfr-3419-1890-matching-final-rule

Contact Information

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ezFedGrants and NIFA

New Extension Directors

May 29, 2018

Elizabeth Ley

Project Lead for eFG at NIFA
Who is using ezFedGrants?

– NIFA
– Animal Plant Health Inspection Service - APHIS
– Agricultural Marketing Service – AMS
– Foreign Agricultural Service – FAS
– Natural Resources Conservation Service – NRCS
– Office of Partnership and Public Engagement (OPPE, formerly OAO)
ezFedGrants use by USDA agencies

NIFA’s Initial Goal:

FY 2017 CAPACITY AWARDS
processed through the USDA grants
management system
ezFedGrants (eFG)

SUCCESS!!
## NIFA Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Extension at 1890 Land-grant Colleges (Section 1444)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions</td>
<td>and University of the District of Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>CES at 1862 Land-grant Institutions (Smith-Lever Special Needs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renewable Resources Extension Act Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evans-Allen (Section 1445)</td>
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<tr>
<td>McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hatch Act of 1887 (Multistate Research Fund)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
By the numbers – FY 2017

• $720 million processed
• 522 Active agreements
• 594 Active amendments
• 500 SF- 425 annual reports submitted
What has NOT changed for NIFA applicants

• Applicants apply through Grants.gov
• Grantees utilize Treasury’s ASAP system to draw funds (location code 01)
• Capacity reporting remains the same in REEreport and in POW
• Competitive awards will not be managed in ezFedGrants until a later date
Crosswalk

Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) Smith-Lever Special Needs, UDC -> 10.511

1890 Extension -> 10.512

EFNEP -> 10.514

RREA and RREA NNF -> 10.515
Access to the Portal for External Users

• One role per individual
• Role is valid for all USDA agreements managed in ezFedGrants for that organization
• Only associated with one organization at this time
• USDA recognizes the challenges caused by these restrictions
SF- 425 submissions - Reports

Search Reports

Search Criteria

Search Results

Report ID | Due Date | FAIN | Report Fiscal Year | Status | Organization Name | Recipient Contact Name | Last Updated | Date Created
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
N171H5IR0000G560- Fi Annual-17 | 12/29/17 | N171H5IR0000G560 | 2017 | Submitted to AGMO | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | | 12/27/17 | 10/1/17
N171H5IP0000G560- Fi Annual-17 | 12/29/17 | N171H5IP0000G560 | 2017 | Submitted to AGMO | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | | 12/27/17 | 10/1/17
N171HR8AP0000G561- Fi Annual-17 | 12/29/17 | N171HR8AP0000G561 | 2017 | Submitted to AGMO | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | | 12/27/17 | 10/1/17
N171HFP0000G563- Fi Annual-17 | 12/29/17 | N171HFP0000G563 | 2017 | Submitted to AGMO | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | | 12/27/17 | 10/1/17
N171HLB0000G563- Fi Annual-17 | 12/29/17 | N171HLB0000G563 | 2017 | Submitted to AGMO | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | | 12/27/17 | 10/1/17
N171HS5FR0000G566- Fi Annual-17 | 12/29/17 | N171HS5FR0000G566 | 2017 | Submitted to AGMO | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | | 12/27/17 | 10/1/17
N171HEEP0000G563- Fi Annual-17 | 12/29/17 | N171HEEP0000G563 | 2017 | Submitted to AGMO | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | | 12/27/17 | 10/1/17
### Financial Report SF-425

1. **Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted:**
   - USDA NIFA

2. **Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency:**
   - NI17RREAFXXXG022

3. **Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code):**
   - **Name:** UNIVERSITY OF GUAM UOG
   - **Number & Street:** UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Outreach to External Users

- NERAOC
- National Council of Research Administrators (NCURA)
- Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)
  - Subgroup meets during the DC sessions 3 times a year
- Gov Delivery
ezFedGrants Client Page

Access for EXTERNAL USERS

www.nfc.usda.gov/ezfedgrants
Customer Support

What do you do when you have an issue with ezFedGrants?

Contact Information

For assistance using the ezFedGrants Portal, please contact ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov.

For questions about specific awards, agreements, or policies, please contact the relevant Agency:

› AMS: ezFedGrants.AMSHelpDesk@ams.usda.gov
› APHIS: ezFedGrants.helpdesk@aphis.usda.gov
› FAS: GrantorHelpDesk@fas.usda.gov
› NIFA: electronic@nifa.usda.gov
› OAO: OASDVFR@osec.usda.gov
› Other Agencies: ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov

www.nfc.usda.gov/ezfedgrants
NIFA Questions / Comments

NIFA Website

NIFA agreement questions – grants specialist or
electronic@nifa.usda.gov

Elizabeth Ley
eley@nifa.usda.gov
Outline: OCS

- Overview: Organizational Structure
- USDA Coordination
- Scientific Integrity
- Senior Advisors/Science Fellows
- Science Communication
- Questions
The role of Acting Chief Scientist is held by the Acting Under Deputy Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE).

Chief Scientist role was established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (Farm Bill) of 2008.

USDA Chief Scientist is responsible for coordination of research, education, and extension activities of the Department.
Office of the Chief Scientist

- Strengthen Science Leadership
- Improve National Coordination
- Enhance Outreach Awareness
- Central office where key science issues and needs are identified, science activities are coordinated and prioritized (ag research, education, and extension).
- Advise the Secretary of Agriculture and Departmental leadership, through the CS on high-priority science issues.
USDA Cross-Department Coordination

- Facilitates cross-Department coordination and collaboration among all USDA agencies
- Informs policy and program decisions to assure that science informs policy
OCS convenes the USDA Science Council to further facilitate scientific coordination and collaboration across USDA
Other OCS Coordination: White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP):

- USDA Chief Scientist is the USDA representative on principal committees making up the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) in OSTP
- OCS tracks which USDA employees are representing the Department on National Science and Technology Council entities
- OCS coordinates review of NSTC documents requiring Departmental clearance by the Chief Scientist
Other OCS Coordination: Stakeholder Activities
Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)

- Authorized by Congress as part of the 2014 Farm Bill, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) operates as a non-profit corporation leveraging public and private resources to increase the scientific and technological research, innovation, and partnerships.
- FFAR Ex Officio Board Members include Secretary Perdue, ARS Administrator Dr. Jacobs-Young, and NIFA Acting Director Shanower
- The REE Under Secretary is delegated by the Secretary to lead the USDA review of proposed FFAR activities to ensure that the FFAR’s work complements, rather than duplicates, USDA activities.
- OCS coordinates review of FFAR proposals for program areas and requests for funding to ensure activities are complementary to USDA activities.
Other OCS Coordination: Stakeholder Activities


- NAREEE is legislatively mandated to review the relevance and adequacy (R&A) of funding of REE research as specified in the REE Action Plan.
- OCS annually compiles agency data and drafts an Executive Summary for the NAREEE R&A committee to use as a guide in their review.
- OCS serves as experts, and advises on USDA policy to the NAREEEAB, as requested.
Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation:

• Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area, USDA 2017 Activities Report

• Annual reporting of significant accomplishments supporting the USDA research goals (REE Action Plan Progress Report)

• Identify and leverage key components of the agricultural research and delivery system to that support the USDA Strategic Goals
Scientific Integrity:

• Promote a culture of scientific integrity as the norm
  – Develop and implement training materials
• Ensure the quality, accuracy and transparency of scientific and technical information supported by the USDA
• Ensure scientific communication free of political interference
• Ensure dispute resolution mechanisms are in place
Vision

- Strengthen Science Leadership: raise the visibility of USDA Science- science seminars, updating website
- Enhance Outreach and Awareness - OCS Roadshow
- Improve National Coordination-working with professional societies.