

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

Congress is expected to start work on the next Farm Bill in early 2011. Therefore, the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) will begin developing recommendations for reauthorization of programs in NIFA and other USDA agencies. The 1890 University Section of the BAA will be requested to submit its priorities and recommendations for changes. These are the questions posed so far: 1). Which NIFA programs should be reauthorized? 2). Which should be combined? 3). Which should be eliminated? 4). Which should have authorized funding levels increased? 5). Should any authorization language be changed? What and why? 6.) Are there new competitive grant opportunities that should be pursued? 7). Should the current mandatory research programs be reauthorized as currently constructed? 8). What if any legislative enhancements/modifications would you recommend for NIFA and or USDA REE?

Our recommendations are due by July 15, 2010 and our representation on the CLP is Steve Meredith for the ARD and Albert Essel for the AEA. Undoubtedly we want continuation of all of our 1890 authorized programs and should consider what are the most appropriate authorized levels that we want considered, by both our CEOs and the BAA. But we should also think much more broadly and be more innovative. Oftentimes we only think of ourselves as needing to build capacity. We have much to offer citizens, the nation and the world and we should look to the Farm Bill for areas in which we can contribute our unique capabilities and help the U.S. to not miss out on important opportunities and advantages we can provide through our inclusion. I look forward to starting this discussion with you at our upcoming April meeting.



Sincerely,

Orlando F. McMeans, ARD Chair

AFRI RFAs are Posted: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri_rfa.html

AFRI is NIFA's flagship competitive grant program and through the recent reorganization, it has now released most of its seven primary RFAs. ~60% of the funding will be for integrated awards; the CAP awards will be funded at \$25 and \$45 million over five years with priority given to bioenergy projects; the CAPs will be funded year by year to insure progress; over \$6 million funding will be for pre- and post doctoral fellowships; and there are programs focused in the area of strengthening for MSIs and others (see page two for more info). Most of the programs require letters of intent and there will be webinars to explain the program areas in each RFA area. Please be certain to read the RFAs carefully because if letters of intent are required, the full proposal will not be accepted if the letter had not been received.

All RFAs, except the NIFA Fellows program, offer conference grants and Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) grants, i.e. seed grants, sabbatical, equipment and standard grants. FASE eligibility is limited to EPSCoR states and smaller institutions like 1890s. Please do not miss the opportunity on these. Obviously some of the Capacity Building Grants many of you just wrote could also be submitted to AFRI and if funded by both programs, the funding source could be decided after learning of funding eligibility from either. The funding areas will address Climate Change, Food Safety, Childhood Obesity, Sustainable Bioenergy and Global Food Security.

ARD UPDATES



One Solution's REEport

NIFA will deploy REEPort, a critical component of its One Solution reporting initiative. REEport will become NIFA's grant and formula project reporting system, building on and **replacing the existing CRIS web forms system**. REEport implements the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR), a standard progress report format that all Federal research agencies will be required to use. REEport will better address NIFA accountability and reporting needs by supporting limited use of program-specific data fields and the ability to upload documents such as PDF files into reports. REEport will eliminate the need to submit AD-419 data for non-formula grants (AD-419 data will still be required for formula grant projects). REEport will allow Hatch and Evans-Allen projects to be linked to planned programs in the AREERA Plan of Work Information System which will simplify the preparation of State Annual Reports. Deployment of REEport will facilitate the transition to the REEIS system for information retrieval currently hosted by the CRIS system, including REEIS' Leadership Management Dashboard.

Version 1 of REEport will be deployed in the following four stages:

- **Stage A** – New non-formula grant initiation – to be implemented October 1, 2010
- **Stage B** – Progress and termination reports for all new and existing non-formula grants – to be implemented January 14, 2011
- **Stage C** – New formula project initiation – implementation is targeted for October 1, 2011
- **Stage D** – Expenditure, progress, and termination reports for all new and existing formula projects – implementation is targeted for October 1, 2011

Further information about each of these stages can be found on the REEport page on NIFA's web site (under "Managing a Grant" or directly at http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reeport_imp.html) which will include updates and other information as it becomes available. NIFA will send out monthly updates with further information to the new REEportDeploy Lyris email list, which has been created from the CRIS and Plan of Work contacts lists. Bart Hewitt will send a message to all members of the new list confirming membership with instructions for deletion or addition to the list. Interested parties may subscribe to the list by sending an e-mail message to lyris@lyris.nifa.usda.gov. Skip your subject line and type *subscribe REEportDeploy* in the body of your message. Be sure you receive an e-mail confirming your subscription.

Food & Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) GRANTS

FASE Grants are designed to help institutions develop competitive research projects, and to attract new scientists and educators into careers in high –priority areas of National need in agriculture, food and environmental sciences. There are three types of FASE Grants:

1. Strengthening Grants-eligibility to apply is limited to small and mid-sized institutions or MSIs that previously had limited institutional success for receiving federal funds or are from EPSCoR states. The proposals can be single-function and multi-functional as well as seed grants, equipment grants, and sabbatical grants. The work proposed must address a specific program area priority and the application must be submitted directly to that Program Area by the designated deadline.
2. New Investigator Grants-awards available to individuals beginning his/her career, does not have an extensive publication record, and has less than 5 years postgraduate, career-track experience.
3. Pre-and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants are for those who will soon receive or have recently received their doctoral degrees. The award can be for research, education, extension, or integrated activities. This RFA will be solicited separately and the anticipated release date will be found at www.nifa.usda.gov/afri.

As you see above, there are distinct opportunities for funding through AFRI for the 1890 institutions!