



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Federal Demonstration Partnership

## Federal Agency Updates

August 2012



# USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Update Overview

- Changes in NIFA Personnel
- Changes in Terms and Conditions
- Discussion on No-Cost Extensions
- Grantee Outreach Activities
- Policy Statement
- Communications Assessment & Strategic Communications Planning



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Change in Agency Personnel

## **Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy**

- May 7 – appoint as NIFA Director
- Previously dean of Oregon State University's College of Agriculture Sciences and director of Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station

## **Edward Nwaba**

- August 13 – Director of Awards Management Division
- Formerly Chief of NIFA's Oversight Branch



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Changes to NIFA Award Terms and Conditions

- Deletion of items that are also included in Appendix C, National Policy Requirements (e.g. reporting subawards and executive compensation, requirement to be registered in SAM, etc.)
- Addition of research integrity article and expansion of research misconduct language
- Change in REEport implementation date to FY 2013.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# 2<sup>nd</sup> No-cost Extension Pilot

- Ran from December 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005.
- It explored whether it would be feasible for agency to eliminate the requirement for agency approval on second no-cost extension requests.
- Agency did not pursue expansion of pilot
- The pilot has concluded.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# 1<sup>st</sup> Time No-cost Extension for Multi-year Awards

- The extended date will not be accepted by agency **if** there are overdue annual reports (technical or financial)
- Could be problematic if award expires:
  - May potentially fall in a situation of having to justify “extenuating circumstances”.
  - At risk for ASAP account being placed on “manual review”, which restricts the awardees' ability to draw funds.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Grantee Outreach Activities

- 1890s Conference – Agenda set by LGIs
- Monthly teleconferences with 1890s
- Webinars held with the HSIs
- NIFA Asst. Director-OGFM Contacted 37% of all Tribal College Presidents & calls continue.
- Plan teleconferences with Insular Areas
- Attended Administrators Officers' Conference
- Participating in Regional Conferences

# Contact Information

Bill Bethel, Director, Policy & Oversight Div.

Phone: 202-401-4325

E-mail: [wbethel@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:wbethel@nifa.usda.gov)

Elizabeth Kruman, Policy Specialist

Policy & Oversight Division

Phone: 202-720-5070

E-mail: [ekruman@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:ekruman@nifa.usda.gov)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Statement

The NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Statement is a comprehensive guidance document that updates and expands the current guidance documents and administrative manuals for competitive and formula grants.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Statement

## Sources of Requirements:

- Program Legislation
- Appropriations Legislation
- USDA & NIFA Regulations
- OMB Circulars (as codified)
- Executive Orders
- Government-Wide and NIFA Terms and Conditions
- National Public Policy



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Statement

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| August 2012       | Complete internal NIFA/OGC review  |
| Mid-Sept.<br>2012 | Final Draft with NIFA & OGC comments released for <b>60 day</b> public comment period (published on Regulations.gov) |
| Nov./Dec.<br>2012 | NIFA review and consideration of public comments   |
| Early 2013        | Final Policy Statement published   |



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Next Presentation

Andrew Moses, Manager  
MorganFranklin Corporation

Email:

[andrew.moses@morganfranklin.com](mailto:andrew.moses@morganfranklin.com)

Phone: (703) 564-7525

Communications Assessment &  
Strategic Communications Planning



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Communications Assessment

- Communications assessment an outgrowth of recommendations identified in the Organizational Assessment and organizational/operational goals detailed within OGFM's Vision-Based Strategic Plan during FY11
- Feedback regarding internal/external communications were collected through various methods:
  - Working discussions
  - Group working discussions
  - Online questionnaire of both internal staff and grantees



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Internal and External Communication Plans

- 12 foundational communication strategies developed, 6 internal and 6 external
  - Examples include:
    - Centralized communication coordination
    - Triage of inbound issues
    - Professional development related to communications and customer service
    - More targeted outreach through continued implementation of Grantee Outreach Program pilot
- Strategies designed to create a more positive communication environment through:
  - Strengthened communication
  - Greater engagement/robust dialogue with key stakeholders
  - Increased overall satisfaction amongst internal staff and grantees



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Contact Information

Andrew Moses, Manager  
MorganFranklin Corporation

Email:

[andrew.moses@morganfranklin.com](mailto:andrew.moses@morganfranklin.com)

Phone: (703) 564-7525



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Contact Information

Elizabeth Kruman, Policy Specialist

Phone: 202-720-5070

E-mail: [ekruman@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:ekruman@nifa.usda.gov)

Bill Bethel, Director, Policy & Oversight Div.

Phone: 202-401-4325

E-mail: [wbethel@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:wbethel@nifa.usda.gov)

Andrew Moses, Manager, MorganFranklin

Phone: 703-564-7525

E-mail: [andrew.moses@morganfranklin.com](mailto:andrew.moses@morganfranklin.com)