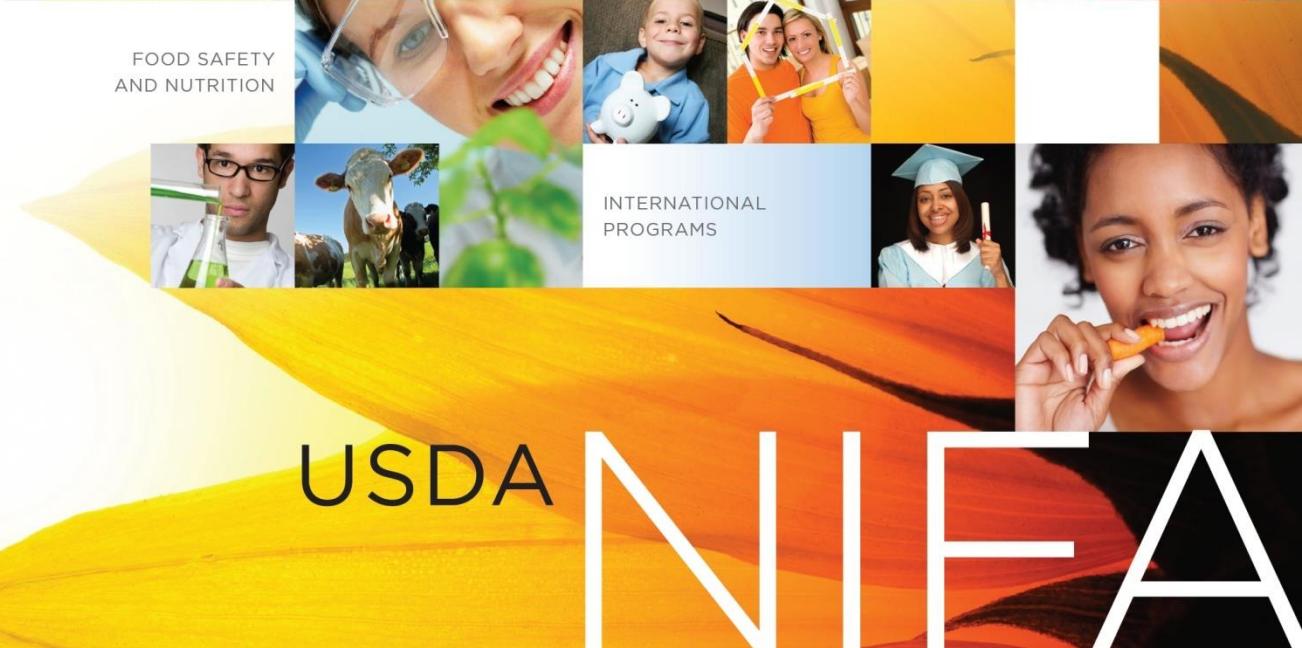


# *National Institute of Food and Agriculture*

## *FDP Meeting MAY 2014*



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

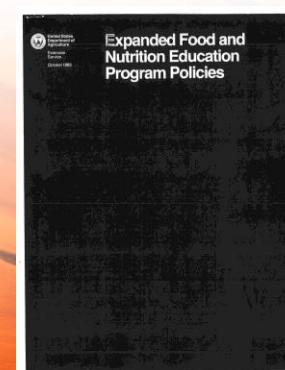
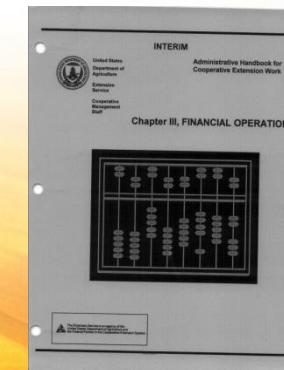
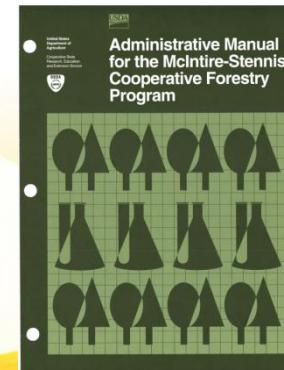
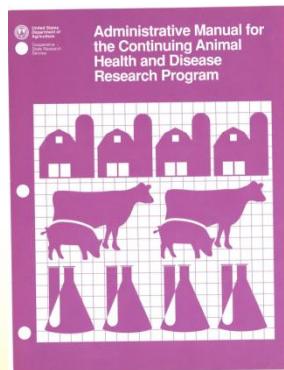
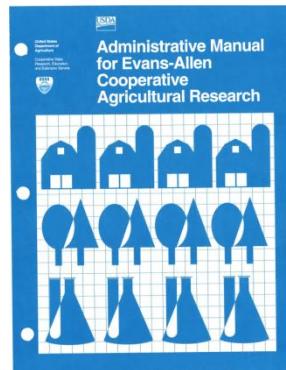
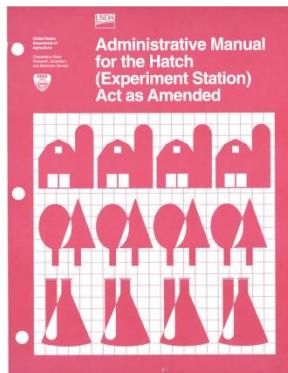
# Overview

- *NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide*
- *Flatten the Award Curve/Streamline Grants Processes*
- *Site Visits*
- *NIFA Fit/Gap Analysis*
- *Transition to New SF-424 Forms*
- *Farm Bill*

# NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide

## (“ NIFA Policy Guide”)

- *Single, comprehensive guidance document for NIFA grantees and staff*
- *Provides guidance for **competitive** and **capacity** grants*
- *Based on laws, regulations, USDA guidance, NIFA guidance, NIFA policy, and Administrative Manuals applicable to NIFA grants, cooperative agreements, endowments, and other financial assistance*
- *Updates and replaces former Administrative Manuals (identified below)*

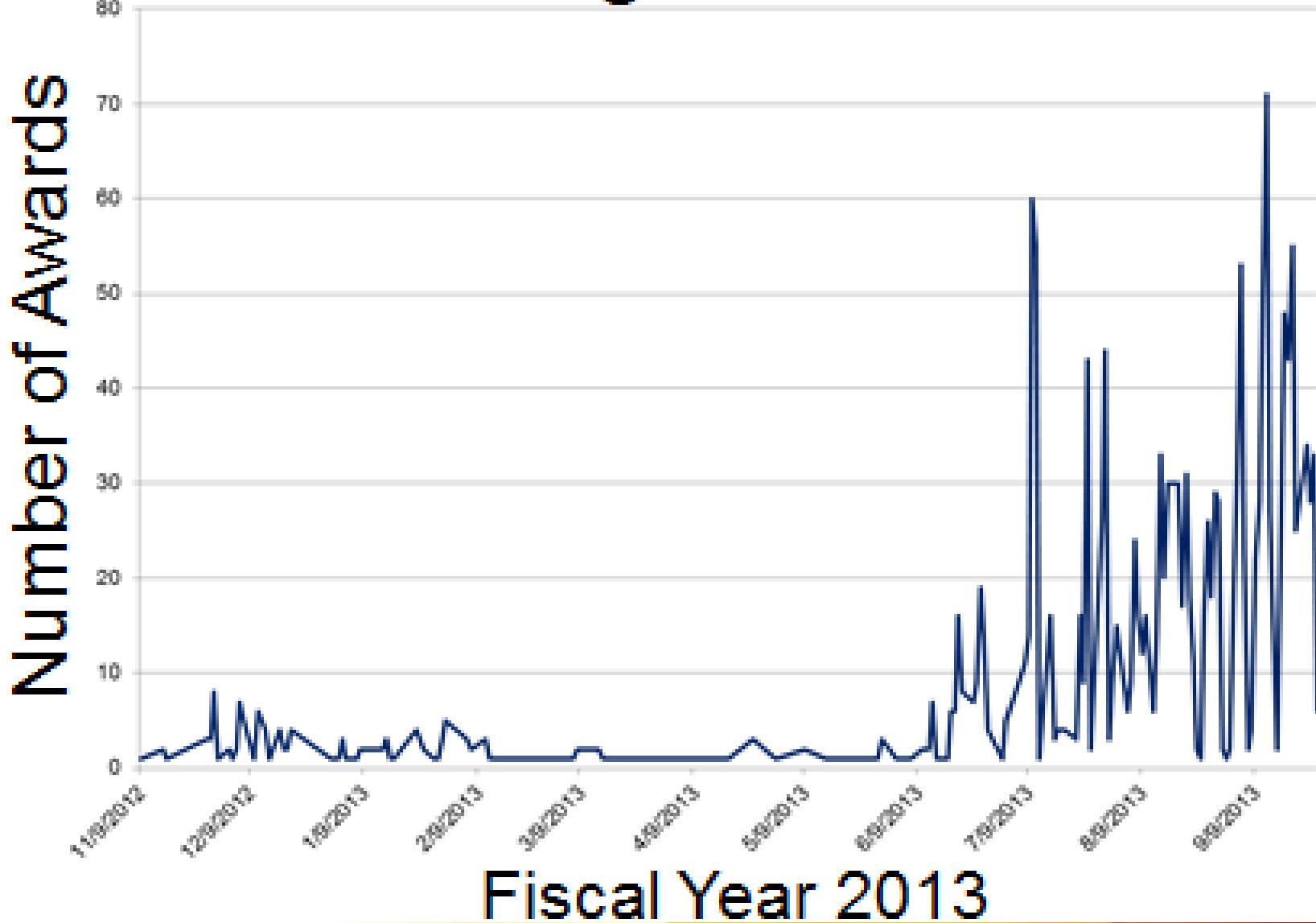


# Policy Guide Development Timeline

## Current Status: Addressing Stakeholder comments

| Date                     | Goal   |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>April 15, 2014</b>    | Comment deadline for Policy Guide stakeholder review and comment.                  |
| <b>May, 2014</b>         | Policy Guide published in Federal Register for <b>45</b> day public comment period |
| <b>June – Sept, 2014</b> | Final USDA and NIFA revisions and review   |
| <b>Oct. 1 2014</b>       | Final Policy Statement published and effective                                     |

# Flattening Award Curve



# Site Visit Reviews

*Mandated to perform six (6) financial site visits each year to comply with the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) and Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA)*

- Desk-top reviews
- “Scale back” the high volume of transaction testing normally performed
- NIFA will be seeking your feedback

# Grants Modernization Initiative

- *Evaluating alternatives*
- *Create a paperless environment*
- *Modernize our systems*
- *Provide transparency and simplification of processes for grantees*

# Grants Modernization Initiative

## Fit/Gap Analysis with the NIH

- Goal of Grants Modernization: to modernize and improve NIFA's grants systems
- Purpose of the Fit/Gap Analysis: to determine if the National Institutes of Health's (NIH's) business processes "Fit" NIFA's needs or if there are too many "Gaps" and we need to pursue other options
- Projected Timeline:
  - June: demonstrations of NIH's grants systems are complete
  - July/Aug: recommendations are drafted and synthesized
  - Sept/Oct: NIFA Director decides to move forward with NIH or to pursue other grants modernization options

# Transition to New Forms

- Currently Testing New Version of SF-424 R&R Forms
- Spring/Summer 2014
  - Updating the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide
  - Creating New FY 2015 Forms Pkgs



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Farm Bill

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