



National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

***FDP Meeting  
MAY 2014***

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,  
AND ENVIRONMENT

YOUTH, FAMILY,  
AND COMMUNITY

FOOD SAFETY  
AND NUTRITION

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

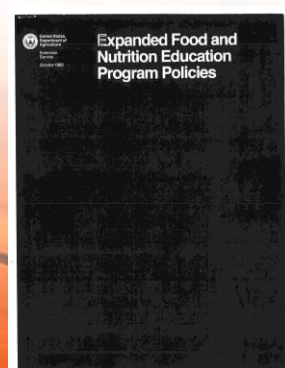
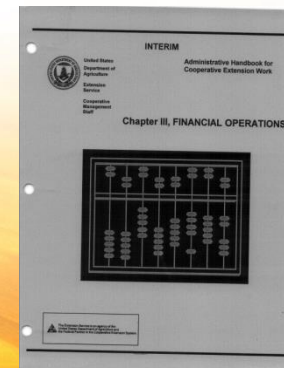
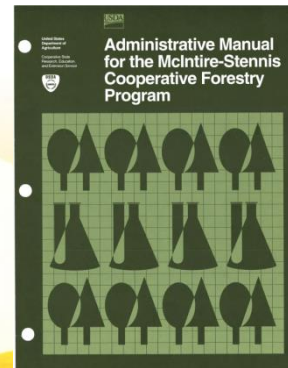
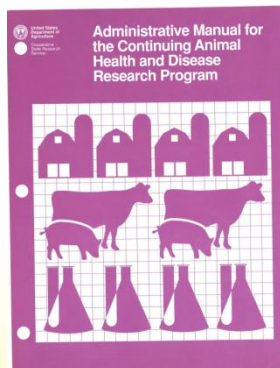
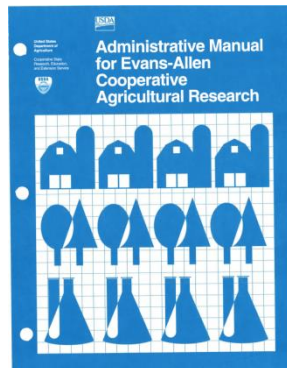
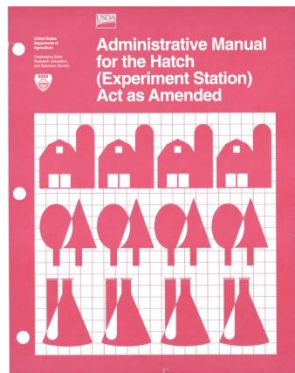
National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# 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)*



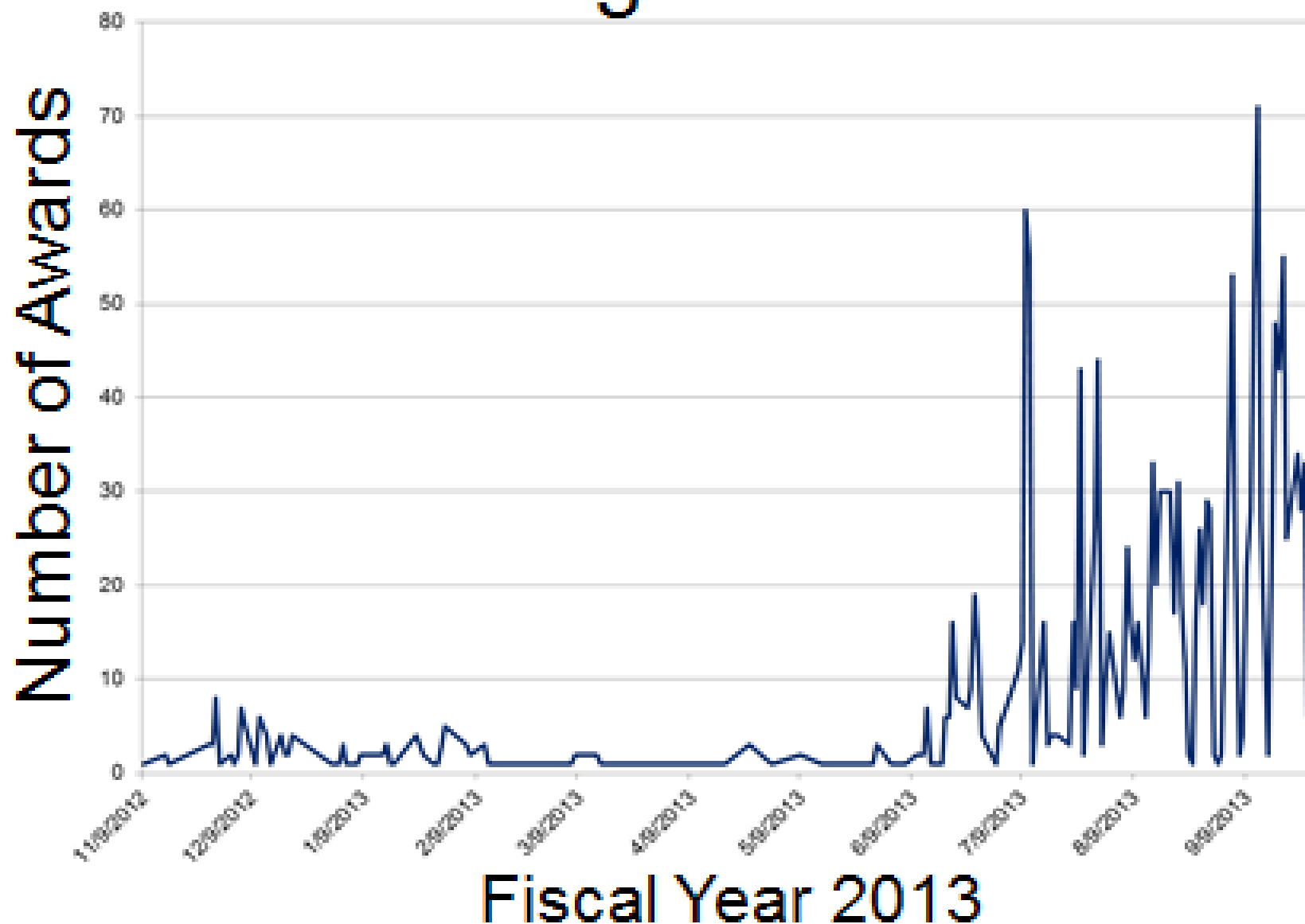
# Policy Guide Development Timeline

**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 day</b> 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





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# 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



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Grants Modernization Initiative

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



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# 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





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# 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

*Erin Daly*

*Senior Policy Advisor*

*Office of Grants and Financial Management*

*National Institute of Food and Agriculture*

*U.S. Dept. of Agriculture*

*800 9<sup>th</sup> Street – Waterfront Centre, Room 2252*

*Washington, DC 20024*

*(202) 401-3319*

*Email: [edaly@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:edaly@nifa.usda.gov)*