



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting

## September 2014



USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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# NIFA Update

- NIFA Overview
- NIFA Policy Guide
- Farm Bill Implementation
- Request for Applications
- Financial Reporting in REEport
- Contact Information



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# National Institute of Food and Agriculture

- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- One of four USDA agencies that make up its Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area.
- Organizational Structure – see [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/offices/pdfs/nifa\\_org\\_chart.pdf](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/offices/pdfs/nifa_org_chart.pdf)



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# NIFA's Mission

To lead food and agricultural sciences to create a better future for the Nation and the world by supporting research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations.

Provides funding at the state and local level and program leadership .

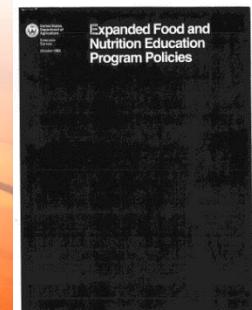
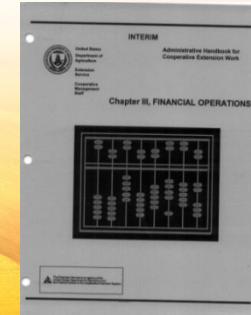
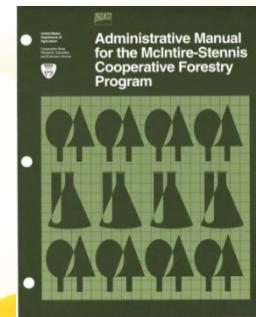
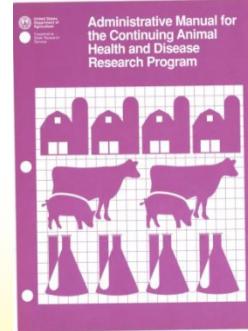
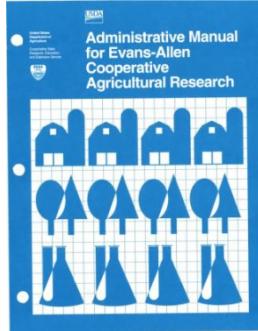


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# Federal Assistance Policy Guide ("NIFA Policy Guide")

- Single, comprehensive guidance document for **competitive** and **capacity** grants
- Based on laws, regulations, USDA guidance, NIFA guidance/policy, and Administrative Manuals
- Will replace Administrative Manuals (*shown below*)



# Policy Guide Development Timeline

## Current Status: Addressing Stakeholder comments

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

# Farm Bill Implementation Update

- **Centers of Excellence (Section 7128)**
  - Synthesizing input from July 2014 webinars
  - FY15 RFAs will provide priority funding across competitive research and extension programs
- **Commodity Boards for AFRI (Section 7404)**
  - FR Notice in coming week invites stakeholder input via Sept. webinars
  - Developing procedures to invite proposals from commodity boards for RFAs on particular issues within AFRI – 100% match required



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# Farm Bill Implementation Update

- **New Matching Requirement of 100%**
  - Guidance pending on covered competitive programs
  - Majority of grantees excepted
    - Non-land grants can be certified, excepted – public with 4 year food and ag science degrees
- **Farm Bill Funded RFAs Pending Release**
  - Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program \$35m
  - Biomass Research Development Initiative \$6m



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# Request for Applications (RFA)

- RFAs already released - see [www.NIFA.usda.gov](http://www.NIFA.usda.gov).
- RFAs to be released in near term
  - Organic Agriculture Research & Extension Initiative (OREI)
  - Organic Transitions
  - Speciality Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)
  - IR-4
  - 15 Capacity RFAs

# RFAs - continued

- RFAs to be released in near term – continued.
  - AFRI
    - Agricultural & Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability & Change;
    - Childhood Obesity;
    - Food Safety;
    - Food Security;
    - Foundational;
    - NIFA Fellowships; and
    - Water.

# Financial Reporting in REEport

- AD – 419, “Funding and Staff Support” from CRIS will be called “REEport Project Financial Report” in REEport
  - Allows NIFA to report to Congress and stakeholders more comprehensively at the project level on funds that support and are leveraged in specific subject areas.
  - Actual data fields are the same
  - Functionality is different
    - Training: Online documentation and webinars (go to [http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/strat\\_plan\\_web.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/strat_plan_web.html) to sign up for webinar email notifications)

# Financial Reporting in REEport

- All FY14 Capacity projects are to use REEport
  - due by Feb 1, 2015
- Non-Capacity Projects is being reinstated (official Memo released last month)
  - This requirement will only apply to awards made beginning October 1, 2014 (modified award terms and conditions will be included in new awards and awards receiving an increment of funding).
- REEport Contact - [reeport@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:reeport@nifa.usda.gov)



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# Contact Information

## Office of Grants and Financial Management

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### Cynthia Montgomery

- OGFM Deputy Director
- Financial Operations Division Director
- FDP Administrative Contact

### Maria Koszalka Policy & Oversight Division Director

### Edward Nwaba Awards Management Division Director

For a full list of OGFM staff and their contact info -

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/awards/fundingcontacts.html>