



National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
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# National Institute of Food and Agriculture Fellowship Grant Program

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# **NIFA Mission Statement**

**Leading Food and Agricultural  
Sciences to Create a Better Future  
for the Nation and the World**



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# NRC Report Agrees that Solution of Societal Challenges Requires Investment in Research in Food and Agriculture

*“The lessons of history led the Committee on a New Biology for the 21st Century to recommend that a(n) . . . initiative be put in place and charged with finding solutions to major societal needs: sustainable food production, protection of the environment, renewable energy, and improvement in human health. These challenges represent both the mechanism for accelerating the emergence of a New Biology and its first fruits.”*



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# Research Objectives for NIFA

Focusing NIFA-sponsored activities around thematic areas:

1. Climate change
2. Bioenergy
3. Food safety
4. Nutrition and childhood obesity
5. Global food security



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## **Goal of Fellowship Program**

Develop the next generation of promising young scientific leaders for careers in agricultural fields of research, education, and/or extension.





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# Who are the Next Generation of 'Agricultural Scientists'?

- Classical and advanced agricultural sciences
- Non-agricultural scientists (physicists, chemists, informaticians, nutritionists, biomedical scientists)
- Social, economic, policy making, communications
- NIFA is leading a USDA-wide discussion on education/training/scholarship of next generation



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# **NIFA Fellowship Program FY 2010**

- Agricultural Food and Research Initiative (AFRI)
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Awards



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## **NIFA Fellowship Program** **Priorities**

- Keep American agriculture competitive while ending world hunger
- Improve nutrition and end childhood obesity
- Improve food safety for all Americans
- Secure America's energy future through renewable biofuels
- Mitigate and adapt agriculture to variations in climate





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# **Pre-doctoral and Post-doctoral Fellowship Grants**

- Total Awards - \$6 million
- Post-doctoral Award - \$130,000.00
- Pre-doctoral Award - \$75,000.00
- Award Duration - 2 years
- Non-renewable



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## Project Types

- Research
  - Basic
  - Translational
- Education
  - Training Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's or Doctoral degree students
  - Preparing K-12 teachers and higher education faculty to teach agriculturally relevant subjects



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## Project Types

- Extension
  - Research-based information
  - Science-based teaching techniques
  - Curriculum-based program of informal learning activities
  - Increase community-based agricultural literacy
  - Enable informed decision-making related to agriculture