

## **Locating Potential Partners and Currently-Funded National Institute of Food and Agriculture Projects:**

The Current Research Information System (CRIS) provides documentation and reporting for ongoing and past agricultural, food science, human nutrition, and forestry research, education and extension activities for the United States Department of Agriculture. Projects funded by NIFA included in CRIS are conducted by government research agencies, state agricultural experiment stations, land-grant universities, other cooperating state institutions, and private sector laboratories. The following are guidelines to help you use the search tools of this database to find appropriate partners funded by USDA for a PEER proposal:

To access and search the CRIS system please follow this link: <http://cris.csrees.usda.gov/>

1. Click “**Assisted Search**” under the “Search CRIS” section on the left side of the screen
2. Use this search page to locate potential partner projects for the PEER Program
3. Suggestions for using this search function:
  - a. To limit the results to a certain subject, use the section called: “**Search CRIS full text**”. One word usually brings up thousands of results so it is recommended to have a search term in the first category (full text terms) and a second one in the “and these” section. A comma between two words in the “full text terms”, “and these”, and “not these” sections means “or”. Without the comma, means these two words must be in the text as a phrase. Some appropriate phrases might be “climate change”, “watersheds”, “water quality”
  - b. To limit the search to fewer results, you may want to search by Individual Data Fields.
    - i. **Project type:** limit the search NIFA-funded research and extension grants, regardless of the funding type.
    - ii. **Project status:** “Active” are all projects that have not submitted final reports so does include some that are nearing their end. We recommend limiting the search to “New”.
    - iii. **Grant year** is another way to limit the search to newer grants.
    - iv. If you are interested in collaborating with a particular **investigator, institution, or state**, you can list that information
    - v. **Key words** can be useful and may find grants that your Full Text search missed. This can also be useful if the Full Text search brings up too many projects. **For example, for Cycle 7, the PEER project relevant search words can be: climate change, food security, or water/sanitation.**
  - c. When you click on “search”, you will get the number of projects that meet your search criteria. If it is more than 50 and you want to see them all, increase the number in the drop-down menu for “Max Records to Display”.
  - d. Then click on “display results” to pull up the titles and investigators. Click on the “more” button to the right of each entry to read the full description of the project, including progress reports if the project is more than one year along.
4. The investigator and performing institution will be listed in the top section of each report. Use this information to find the contact information of the investigator.