



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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NIFA Funding Opportunities for Statisticians

Jason Boim

Program Specialist

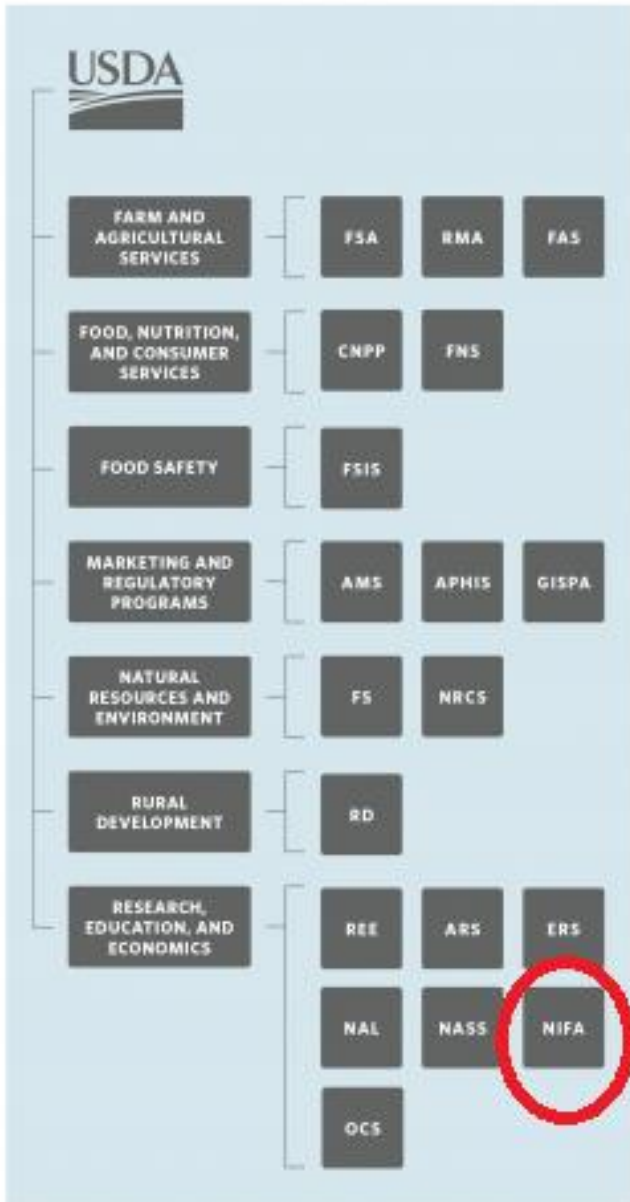
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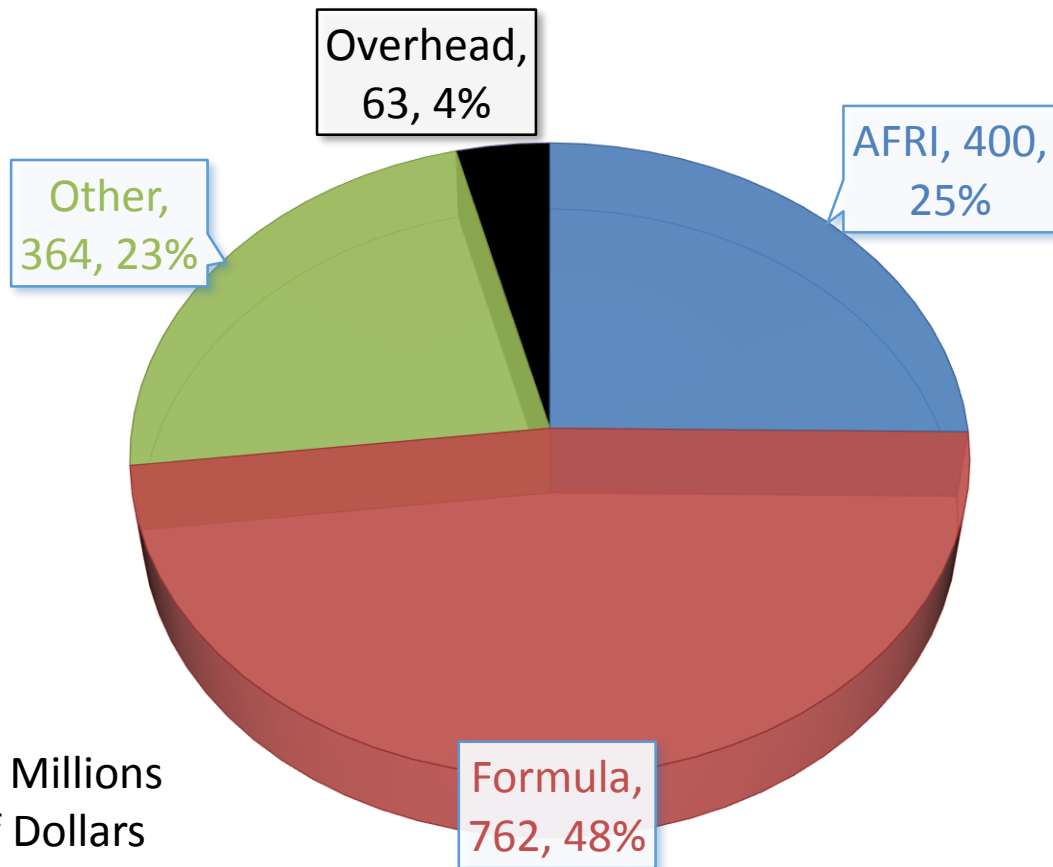
What is NIFA?

- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is the extramural science funding agency within USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area.
- NIFA's mission is to invest in and advance agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges.



Budget

NIFA BUDGET-1.59 BILLION IN FY18



In Millions
of Dollars

- Formula – Non-competitive awards made to state Ag Experiment Stations. In-state, local focus, can be broader.
- AFRI – Flagship competitive program. Program eligibility and requirements are similar across AFRI. Broad focus.
- Other – Mix of non-competitive and competitive programs, each are unique.

AFRI (Agriculture Food Research Initiative)

- Programs link to one of 6 major priorities designated by the 2008 Farm Bill:
 - Plant health and production, plant products
 - Animal health and production, animal products
 - Food safety, nutrition, and health
 - Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment
 - Agriculture systems and technology
 - Agriculture economics and rural communities
- Funding rate typically between 10-20% with 5-10 million/program.
- Basic or Applied. Programs are either Research only or Integrated.

Grant Types and Eligibility

- **Standard Grants**—support original scientific research or integrated projects
 - \$500,000 max (including indirect costs) for up to 4 years.
 - 18 page narrative.
- **Conference Grants**—support scientific meetings in fostering scientific exchange.
 - \$50,000 max; does not support salaries or indirect costs. 18 page narrative.
 - Uniqueness, timeliness, and alignment of the conference with program priorities.
 - Relevance of conference to US agriculture and food systems and appropriateness of the conference in fostering scientific exchange.
- **Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE)** - strengthen the applicant's research program or institution. Strict eligibility requirements.
 - Seed, Sabitcal, Equipment, New Investigator

Integrated Programs

- Must include Research and at least one of the other two functions:

Research



- Develop new knowledge.

Education



- Formal classroom/laboratory instruction & practicum experience.

Extension



- Delivers science-based knowledge and informal educational programs.

- Interactive relations between functions is desirable for integrated projects.
- Project Director must come from public or private college or university, collaborators may be otherwise.



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AFRI Programs of Interest

- Economics, Markets and Trade – *Research only, ~5M*
 - Applied econ - structure, function & performance of agricultural sector; producer & consumer behavior; domestic & trade policy. Deadline: 09/30
- Environmental & Natural Resource Economics – *Research only, ~5M*
 - Advances economic theories, tools, and analyses in ecosystem valuation; nonmarket benefit valuation; NRE and conservation policy; and agriculture and environmental interactions. Deadline: 09/13

AFRI Programs of Interest Continued

- Networks for Synthesis, Data Sharing, and Management – *Research, ~5M*
 - Build networks by collaborating, standardizing, and synthesizing existing Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment databases. Focus should be on sustainable crop(s), livestock, soil health, or agricultural productivity of other key ecosystem services. Deadline: 09/08
- Animal Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics- *Research Only, ~6M*
 - Develop community genetic and genomic tools and resources, including software, experimental protocols, breeding methods, and genome-wide catalog of functional elements. Deadline: 7/26

Non-Typical Programs of Interest Continued

- Food & Agriculture Cyberinformatics and Tools – *Research or Integrated ~13M*
 - Focus on big data analytics and tool development and/or applying big data concepts to agriculture related science domains. Cuts across all AFRI programs. LOI: 07/25. Deadline: 10/31
- Sustainable Agricultural Systems – *Integrated, 80M*
 - Large scale transdisciplinary projects that integrate REE to solve problems in sustainable agriculture over a 25 year outlook. Up to 10 million dollars per project. LOI: 6/27. Deadline: 10/10



Non-Typical Programs of Interest

- Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates – *REE or Integrated*, ~7M
 - Projects provide opportunities for hands-on experiences to cohorts of undergraduates such as apprenticeship or internships, practicums in laboratories, and study abroad. Projects must align with one of the six farm bill priority areas and include significant research or extension components. Deadline: 6/28
- Small Business Innovation Research Program – 22M
 - Grants to small businesses (<500 employees) to support innovative research projects that address problems facing American Agriculture or Rural America. Approximately 15% funding rate. Awards are 100k. Deadline: 10/25



Tips for Successful Grantwriting

- Submit ON TIME
 - How far in advance should you submit your proposal?
 - a. One Week
 - b. One Day
 - c. One Hour
 - d. One Minute
 - e. One Second
- Only exceptions for lateness
 - (1) Grants.gov is down;
 - (2) Natural disaster
- Serve on a panel! – Contact NPL of program to inquire.



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Questions?

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AFRI Evaluation Criteria

- Intellectual and Scientific Merit
 - Compelling, Novel, Innovative
- Project Relevance and Broader Impacts
 - Alignment, Timeliness, Advances the Science
- Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management
 - Capable, Competent, Letters of Support



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SAS

- Address at least one of the following:
 - Increase growth of agricultural total factor productivity to 2%/year and agricultural production by 2% annually.
 - Improve water, nitrogen, and phosphorus nutrient use efficiency by 50%.
 - Reduce losses due to environmental stresses by 20 percent in crops & animals.
 - Produce 50 billion gallons of biofuels and 50 billion pounds of bio-based chemicals and bio-products.
 - Reduce food-borne illnesses to 8.5 cases per 100,00 people in the U.S. per year.



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Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP)

- Large transdisciplinary grants; attempt to move the needle on an issue.
- Topics vary from year to year