USDA NIFA AFRI Update

AFRI Challenge Area Request for Applications (RFAs):

- Started in fiscal year 2010
- **Focus**: few priorities
- **Scale**: larger, but fewer grants
- **Impact**: solve grand societal challenges
  - Changes in behavior or conditions
  - Requires stakeholder engagement and participation

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Impacts:

- Develop enhanced/innovative management practices
- Describe how strategies will directly benefit and be adopted by ag producers and/or consumers
- New approaches to encourage adoption of new strategies by end users
- Analysis of behavioral or economic incentives
USDA NIFA AFRI Update

Challenge Area RFAs:

- Bioenergy: no new funding in FY 2014
- Climate Change: no new funding in FY 2014
- Childhood Obesity: Expected January 2014
- Food Safety: Expected January 2014
- Food Security: Expected January 2014
- Water: Expected January 2014

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AFRI Challenge Area RFAs:

1) Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) grants
   - Integrated: research, education, and extension
   - Not more than 2/3 of budget on one function
   - Multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, multi-state
   - BIG (?) grants:
     - $10M (total costs) for 5 years; maybe 10 years
     - $25M (total costs) for 5 years; maybe 10 years
       - UNL-led STEC CAP (Food Safety)
     - $45M (total costs) for 5 years; maybe 10 years

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AFRI Challenge Area RFAs (cont’d):

Collaborators at other institutions?

Minority-serving institutions?
- 1994 land grant universities (Tribal Colleges)
- 1890 land grant universities (HBCU)
- Hispanic-serving institutions (HSI)

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AFRI Challenge Area RFAs (cont’d):

2) Standard Grants (varies by RFA)
   A) Single Function Projects
      • Research
      • Education
      • Extension
      • $300,000 - $1M (total costs) for up to 5 years
   B) Integrated Projects
      • Two of three: research, education, or extension
      • Not more than 2/3 of budget on one function
      • $425,000 - $1M (total costs) for up to 5 years

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AFRI Challenge Area RFAs (cont’d):

3) Conference Grants
   • $50,000 for one year (F&A not allowed)

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AFRI Water RFA

Federal Register (July 8, 2013)

- Request for stakeholder input
- How can NIFA achieve the most impact within budget constraints in the early years of this new challenge area?
- Comments will be summarized and discussed in the RFA

AFRI Water RFA

• Focus on developing solutions for water management that link food, water, climate change, energy, and environmental issues.

• Develop and transfer management practices, technologies, and tools for farmers, ranchers, forest owners and managers, and citizens to improve water resource quantity and quality.

• Link social, economic, and behavioral sciences with traditional biophysical sciences and engineering to address watershed- or aquifer-scale problems.
AFRI Water RFA – 3 Critical Topics

Immediate, comprehensive, and coordinated efforts in research, education, and extension:

1) Ensuring agricultural water security, addressing surface water, groundwater and reclaimed water needed to produce a wide array of agricultural goods and services now and into the future.

2) Improving nutrient management in agricultural landscapes with focus on nitrogen and phosphorous

3) Reducing impacts of chemicals of emerging concern and the presence and movement of waterborne pathogens in the landscape
Timeline

- Organizing faculty & networking
- Who is interested? Who will lead?
- AFRI Water RFA expected in January 2014
- Priorities, opportunities, deadlines
- 60 days(?) until submission deadline
  - IANR, DWFI, ORED facilitate/coordinate
  - Office of Proposal Development (OPD)
    - Organization, editing, forms, external review
  - Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)
    - Budget assistance for CAP applications
Questions about AFRI?

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Archived resources for AFRI Water RFA planning:
http://water.unl.edu/web/water/AFRIwater

Web server upgrades
no changes until January 17, 2014