

Timeline for 2014 Farm Bill Commodity Board Initiative

Below are two approximate timelines for key steps in the new Commodity Boards initiative for NIFA and eligible commodity boards to jointly fund AFRI topics. The two timelines differ according to the complexity of the applications that will be received and the size of the awards that will be made in the different AFRI program areas. **These approximate timelines are subject to change and are intended solely to give a general sense of the timing for key milestones in the process.**

Table 1. Approximate timeline for AFRI Foundational Program and Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI)

Step Number	Date	Event or action	Interval (calendar days) from previous event or action, unless specified otherwise
1	July 24, 2015	Federal Register Notice published	
2	Sept. 22, 2015	Submission of topics due from Commodity Boards for inclusion in AFRI Requests for Applications (RFAs)	60 days
3	Oct. 7, 2015	Commodity Boards notified by NIFA of decision to include (or not include) topics in RFAs; NIFA sends Collection Agreement to Commodity Boards	15 days
4	Nov. 6, 2015	Commodity Boards return signed Collection Agreement to NIFA	30 days
5	Nov. 20, 2015	Commodity Boards deposit agreed upon amount of funds in escrow account	14 days after the signed Collection Agreement is returned to NIFA
6	To Be Determined (TBD)	Grant Application Submission Deadline	TBD
7	TBD	Commodity Board letters of support provided to NIFA by the grant applicant (Project Director) for applications addressing program area priorities focused on Commodity Board topics	60 days after respective grant application submission deadline
8	Approximately July 2016	NIFA notifies Commodity Boards of outcome of peer panel review and decisions regarding Commodity Board-approved proposals	Approximately 21 days after peer panel review of grant applications
9	TBD	Commodity Board transfers funds from escrow account to NIFA Deposit Account	5 days after NIFA notifies Commodity Boards of outcome of peer panel review and decisions regarding Commodity Board-approved proposals

Table 2. Approximate timeline AFRI Challenge Area Programs

Step Number	Date	Event or action	Interval (calendar days) from previous event or action, unless specified otherwise
1	July 24, 2015	Federal Register Notice published	
2	Sept. 22, 2015	Submission of topics due from Commodity Boards for inclusion in AFRI Requests for Applications (RFAs)	60 days
3	Oct. 7, 2015	Commodity Boards notified by NIFA of decision to include (or not include) topics in RFAs; NIFA sends Collection Agreement to Commodity Boards	15 days
4	Nov. 6, 2015	Commodity Boards return signed Collection Agreement to NIFA	30 days
5	Nov. 20, 2015	Commodity Boards deposit agreed upon amount of funds in escrow account	14 days after the signed Collection Agreement is returned to NIFA
6	TBD	Grant Application Submission Deadline	TBD
7	TBD	Commodity Board letters provided to NIFA by the grant applicant (Project Director) for applications addressing program area priorities focused on Commodity Board topics	60 days after respective grant application submission deadline
8	Approximately September 2016	NIFA notifies Commodity Boards of outcome of peer panel review and decisions regarding Commodity Board-approved proposals	Approximately 21 days after peer panel review of grant applications
9	TBD	Commodity Board transfers funds from escrow account to NIFA Deposit Account	5 days after NIFA notifies Commodity Boards of outcome of peer panel review and decisions regarding Commodity Board-approved proposals

For more information about the initiative, visit <http://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards/>. Questions can be sent to commodityboards@nifa.usda.gov.