



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

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# Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEU) Fellowships

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# USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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## Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEU) Fellowships

# QUICK OVERVIEW



# What This Section Covers

**FOURTH: What is REEU?  
(Grant)**

**THIRD: What is AFRI's  
Education RFA (Portfolio)**

**SECOND: What is AFRI?  
(Program)**

**FIRST: What is NIFA?  
(Agency)**



# The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences.

**To further this mission, NIFA also provides funding to train the next generation of agricultural researchers.**

**The agency prioritizes ensuring students from all backgrounds have an opportunity to pursue careers in agricultural and related sciences.**

The flagship funding portfolio within NIFA is the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)



# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

AFRI is NIFA's flagship grant program. The grant funds research, education, extension, and integrated grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture. There is a special AFRI portfolio for education.

## Examples

Farm efficiency and profitability	Ranching	Renewable energy
Forestry (urban and agroforestry)	<b>Education</b>	Biotechnology
Rural communities/entrepreneurship	Human nutrition/food safety	Aquaculture

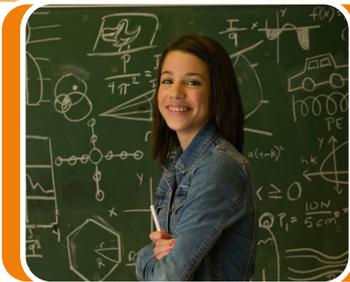


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# AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative



Professional Development Opportunities for Secondary School Teachers (PD-STEP)



Pre-doctoral Fellowships



Post-doctoral Fellowships



Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEU) Fellowships



# Who Can Apply for REEU?



4-year Colleges  
and Universities



2 or 4-year 1994  
Land-Grant  
Institutions



2 or 4-year certified  
Hispanic-serving  
agricultural  
colleges and  
universities

**All proposals should seek to provide experiences to undergraduate students, leading them to careers in the agricultural workforce or to continue their education in graduate school.**



# The Request for Applications (RFA)

**An RFA is your instruction manual for writing a grant**

**The 2016 RFA was released on January 22, 2016**

It is available at <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and>

This grant will receive many proposals. Reading the RFA and following it carefully is the best thing you can do to achieve funding.

Applications are **due March 24, 2016**, submitted through Grants.gov by 5 pm EST.



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## FY16 Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEU) Fellowships

# PROGRAM GUIDANCE



# Major Changes from FY15

- Project Duration Now = up to 4 years
- No Maximum Number of Students served
- Distinct Evaluation Criteria for Undergraduate Fellows



# What This Section Covers

- AFRI Foundational or Challenge areas
- Integrated Projects
- Budgeting
- Funding Restrictions
- Prepare a winning application



## AFRI Foundational and Challenge areas (Select One or More for a REEU Proposal)

### Foundational Area

Plant health  
and production  
and plant  
products

Animal health  
and production  
and animal  
products

Food safety,  
nutrition, and  
health

Bioenergy,  
natural  
resources, and  
environment

Agriculture  
systems and  
technology

Agriculture  
economics and  
rural  
communities

### Challenge Area

Climate  
Variability and  
Change

Childhood  
Obesity  
Prevention

Food Safety

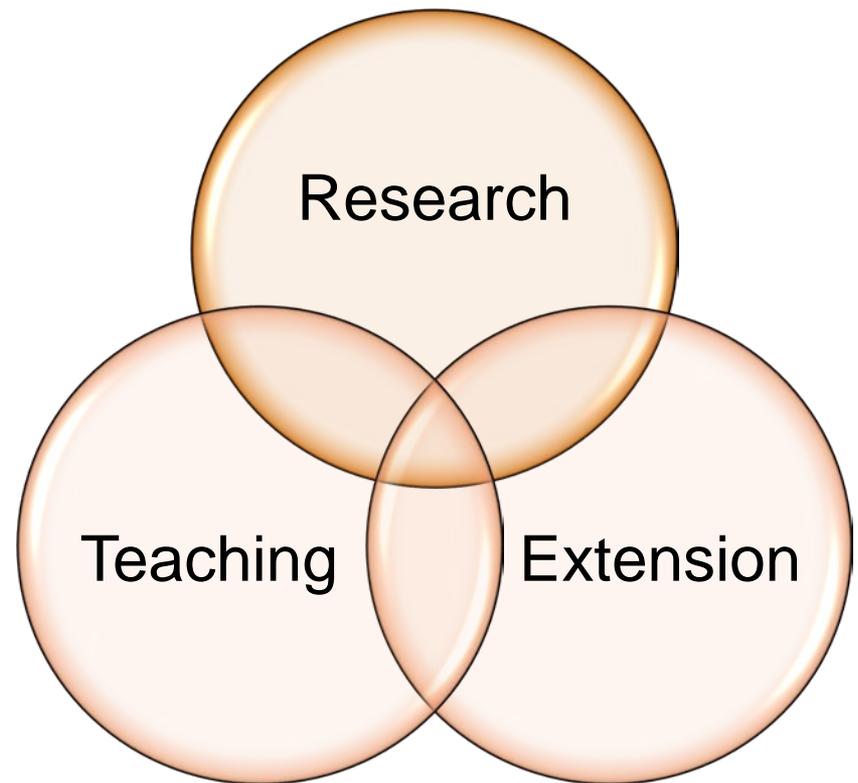
Food Security

Sustainable  
Bioenergy

Water  
Resources

## What Is An Integrated Project?

Integrated project means a project incorporating at least two of the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension) around a problem or activity.





# Budgeting: REEU Basics

- Budget may not exceed \$300,000 for project periods up to 4 years
- Project costs must be budgeted predominantly for student support:
  - Participant stipends
  - Housing and meals
  - Travel costs
  - Laboratory use fees
- Costs outside of Participant Support must be modest and reasonable
- Indirect costs are not permitted
- Matching: **ONLY** required if project is commodity specific and not of national scope



# Funding Restrictions

- The project director must be from the primary host institution
- The project director and undergraduate fellows must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States
- There are no citizenship requirements for Co-project director
- Each institution can submit up to three proposals, but will only get one award each year
- AFRI ELI programs can't be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility.



# How Are Applications Evaluated?

## Pedagogical Merit of the Application

## Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management

## Project Relevance

### Examples

Novelty, multidisciplinary innovation,

Proposed approach, procedures, or methodologies are appropriate, clearly described and feasible

Roles of key personnel are clearly defined

Evidence that the identified institution has capacity and competence in the proposed area of work

Evaluation plan is reliable and appropriate

Science-based knowledge and capabilities gained are related to the NIFA foundational and challenge areas

Read the RFA carefully for a full evaluation criteria



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## Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEU) Fellowships

# HOW TO APPLY



# Step 1: Read the Request for Applications

WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV



TOPICS

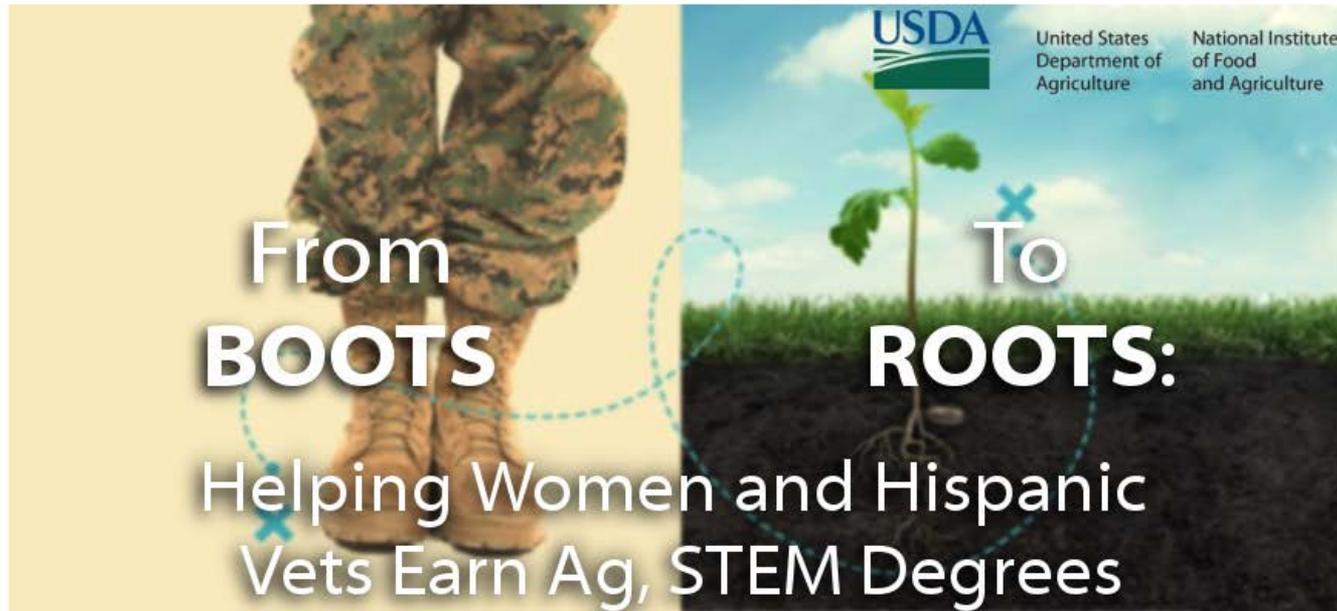
PROGRAMS

GRANTS

NEWSROOM

IMPACTS

RESOURCES





# Step 1: Read the Request for Applications

<http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and>

## Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative

**Program:** [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative](#) | [AFRI Education and Literacy Initiative](#) | [Educational Scholarship Programs](#)

The AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI) provides fellowships to undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral students in the agricultural sciences.

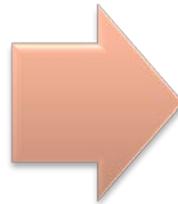
[APPLY FOR GRANT](#)

[VIEW RFA](#)



# Step 1: Read the Request for Applications

Hint: Study the evaluation criteria – that's what panelists will use to judge your application's merit



## Hint: Details!

Watch formatting: don't get rejected because your font or line spacing isn't right.

Make sure you fill in program codes correctly.

Eliminate math errors in budgets and spelling/grammar mistakes in narratives.



# Hint's Continued

- Consider how the fellows you are training would be better prepared to enter the agricultural workforce and/or pursue graduate training than if they did not have the experience
- Put the same time into developing the extension components of your applications as you do the research





## Caution: Grants.Gov

### **First-Time Applicants: Be Advised:**

Grants.gov requires you to have a DUNS and SAM identification. Getting these credentials may take a few months.

If this is your first time applying for a federal grant, make sure your institution is capable a submitting through Grants.gov.

Also, make sure you have the ability to save and create documents as Adobe PDFs. Grants.gov will not process other documents.

Go to the Grants.gov section on organization registration or Grants.gov support for details. Don't wait until the week applications are due!!



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# FAQ's Are Available on our website:

[http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-  
opportunity/agriculture-and-food-  
research-initiative-food-agriculture-  
natural-resources-and](http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and)



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