

## MEMORANDUM

Date: March 6, 2014

To: Beginning farmer and rancher stakeholders

From: Jill Auburn and Denis Ebodaghe, National Program Leaders, NIFA-USDA

**Subject: Plan for Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**

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The Agriculture Act of 2014 funds the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) at \$20 million per year for each of the years 2014-2018.

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program assists new farmers and ranchers through grants to organizations that offer education, training and mentoring programs. It does so through three types of grants, which are specified in the legislation:

1. Standard grants: the majority of the grants, which directly serve beginning farmers and ranchers; each can be up to \$250,000 per year for up to 3 years (maximum amount and term are specified in legislation)
2. Educational Enhancements grants: a few grants each year, which develop resources and provide coordination and support to standard grants for a particular topic or region (past topics have included environmental stewardship, financial management, farm safety, “farm beginnings” curriculum, individual development accounts); same size and term as standard grants
3. Clearinghouse grant: one grant for a national site to house curricula, training materials, and other information for new farmers and ranchers and organizations that work with them

We aim to release the FY2014 Request for Applications (RFA) later this spring with applications due approximately 60 days afterward. Approximately \$19.2 million is expected to be available for grants in FY2014. We plan to hold at least one webinar for applicants between the release of the RFA and the application due date. The webinar details, and any updates to the timeline, will be posted at [www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp.html)

Please check the aforementioned webpage for updates. To be fair to all applicants, we cannot give out information to individuals that is not shared widely, so if we have any new information to share we will post it there. You can also subscribe at [www.grants.gov/web/grants/manage-subscriptions.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/manage-subscriptions.html) to receive a notice when an RFA is released.