



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Exploratory Research

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Exploratory Research Aim



- High risk, high reward, transformational research
- Encourage novel ideas to position US agriculture at the global forefront
- Lead to quantum leaps in knowledge and agriculture
- Challenges that have never been addressed before
- Challenges that have been addressed, but with an untested approach promising high potential impact
- Proof-of-concept for novel ideas that will lead to a significant change

Project Types Solicited, Anticipated number of Awards, and Amount of Awards

- Research
- Standard grants
- \$100,000

	2014	2015
LOIs	170 (70% encouraged)	410 (39% encouraged)
Proposals	70	158
Awards	20	20
Success	29%	12.7%





Distribution of Proposals and Awards Across Farm Bill Priorities

	Proposals	Awards
Plant Health and Production and Plant Products	35%	52%
Animal Health and Production and Animal Products	32%	26%
Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment	16%	5%
Agriculture, Systems and Technology	15%	5%
Food Safety, Nutrition and Health	10%	11%
Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities	4%	0%

NIFA's Map of Science: Put Yourself on It!

