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BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,
AND ENVIRONMENT



FOOD PRODUCTION
AND SUSTAINABILITY



YOUTH, FAMILY,
AND COMMUNITY



FOOD SAFETY
AND NUTRITION



INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS



FY 2015 Institute of Food
Safety & Nutrition Webinar

USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Welcome to the 2015 AFRI Food Safety Webinar

- This is not a Grantsmanship Writing Workshop
- It is your opportunity to meet the National Program Leaders and get their contact information
- With the release of the Food Safety and Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area RFAs and the Food Safety, Nutrition and Health Foundational RFA, the National Program Leaders are providing an open forum for you to ask questions and orient you to the basic requirements for FY 2015 program priorities



What will you Learn?

- Programs and Program Priorities specific to the Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition (IFSN)
- In a nutshell, basic application requirements
- Who we are and what programs we manage
- How to reach us, especially after this Webinar
- We – National Program Leaders - are here to answer your questions
- We can tell you if your idea fits the program
- We will not provide a critique of your application



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USDA NIFA- Institute of Food Safety & Nutrition “Grantsmanship Webinar”

AGENDA

Introduction to the Fiscal Year 2015

AFRI Foundational Program RFA- Food Safety Nutrition & Health Sub-priority;

****Improving Food Quality***

****Function and Efficacy of Nutrients***

****Improving Food Safety***

AFRI Challenge Area Program RFA- Childhood Obesity Prevention;

AFRI Challenge Area Program RFA- Effective Mitigation Strategies for Antimicrobial Resistance;

AFRI Challenge Area Program RFA- Enhancing Food Safety through Improved Processing Technologies.

Presenters:

**Jodi Williams, PhD; Deirdra Chester, PhD, RDN; Jeanette Thurston, PhD;
Mervalin Morant, PhD and Dawanna James-Holly, PhD**



Introduction to AFRI

- AFRI is the USDA competitive grant program designed to provide fundamental and applied research, education and extension projects in food and agricultural sciences. There are two key program areas:
- Challenge Area Programs-Integrated
- Foundational Programs- Basic Research



AFRI Challenge Area Program

- Project type – Integrated (research, education and extension)
- Grant types – Standard, CAP, FASE, Conference
- Key Program Area Priorities –
 - somewhat prescriptive
 - may change from year to year



AFRI Foundational Program

- Project type – predominantly research
 - Predominantly fundamental research
- Grant types – Standard, FASE, Conference
- Key Program Area Priorities – (generally very broad)
 - don't change markedly from year to year



AFRI Foundational Program

Program Areas aligned with US Farm Bill Priorities

- I. Plant health and production, plant products;
- II. Animal health and production, animal products;
- III. **Food safety, nutrition, and health;** -
Nutrition, food safety and quality, and health (sub-priorities i. microbial contaminants and pesticide residues relating to human health; ii. links between diet and health; iii. bioavailability of nutrients; iv. postharvest physiology and practices; and v. improved processing technologies).
- IV. Bioenergy, natural resources, environment;
- V. Agriculture systems and technology; and
- VI. Agriculture economics and rural communities.



New Program Area Initiatives

- Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE) – local, regional or national problems; yield solutions quickly; rapidly implemented by producers
- Exploratory – new and emerging innovative ideas; application of new knowledge or approaches; tools required for paradigm shift; rapid response to natural disasters
 - high-risk, high-reward; proof-of-concept; transformative



FY15 Farm Bill changes to the AFRI Programs -New Matching Requirements-

Competitive Programs Matching Requirement

- As of FY2015, AFRI awards will have a matching requirement
- Applicants can be eligible for exemptions through a qualifying partnership or apply for a waiver

Resources

- NIFA Matching Requirement Fact Sheet
(http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/pdfs/match_req_factsheet.pdf)



FY15 US Farm Bill changes to the AFRI Programs -New Centers of Excellence (CE) Requirements-

Centers of Excellence (CE) –Applicants can meet 1 or more of the following criteria:

- 1) To ensure coordination and cost effectiveness by reducing unnecessarily duplicative efforts regarding research, teaching, and extension;
- 2) To leverage available resources by using public private partnerships among agricultural industry groups, institutions of higher education, and the Federal Government;
- 3) To implement teaching initiatives to increase awareness and effectively disseminate solutions to target audiences through extension activities;
- 4) To increase the economic returns to rural communities by identifying, attracting, and directing funds to high-priority agricultural issues.

•Applicants will self-identify and include a justification for their area of science as to why they are a CE

•NIFA will use its existing peer review process for identifying CE

Resources

•AFRI Foundational RFA-Section D. (url: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html>)

•NIFA FY 15 CE Implementation Webinar

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/offices/legis/centers_excellence_webinars.html)

When: **March 12, 2015 1:30-3:30 PM (EDT)**



AFRI Project Types

Project Types:

- Research
 - Education
 - Extension
 - Integrated
- } single function
- multi-function



AFRI Grant Types

Grant Types:

- Standard grants
- Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs)
(Challenge area only)
- FASE
- Conference



FASE (Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement) Grants

- Limited to AFRI programs
- Strengthen science capabilities in research, education, and/or extension programs
- Help institutions develop competitive projects
- Attract new scientists into careers in high-priority areas of national need



FASE Grant Types

Grant Types (FASE):

- New investigator grants
- Strengthening standard grants
- Strengthening CAP grants
(Challenge Area Only)
- Conference grants



FASE Grant Types

Grant Types (FASE):

- New Investigator
- Strengthening
 - Seed Grants
 - Sabbatical Grants
 - Equipment Grants
 - Strengthening Standard Grants (including conference grants)



Strengthening Grant Types (cont'd):

- **New Investigator Grants:**
 - Less than 5 years of postgraduate, career-track experience
 - Research, education, and/or extension
 - Has not received competitive Federal research funds beyond pre- or postdoctoral grants or AFRI seed grants
 - No specific RFA: identify AFRI program for your topic and submit to that program by its deadlines
 - Proposal is the same as non-new investigator except box checked indicating new-investigator eligibility



Strengthening Grant Types:

- **Seed Grants (\$150,000/2 years):**
 - Collect preliminary data for future AFRI funding
 - Single function research, education or extension
- **Sabbatical Grants:**
 - Up to one year of salary, funds for travel & supplies; mini-sabbaticals also appropriate
- **Equipment Grants:** 50% of cost or \$50,000 (whichever is less) for one piece of equipment (\$10,000-250,000). Requires Non-federal matching, but waivers (<\$25K) for lowest one third institutions (Table 2 in RFA)
- **7-page limitation (project narrative) for these three grant types**



Strengthening Grant Types (cont.)

- **Strengthening Standard Grants:**
 - Research, education, and/or extension
 - Proposal same as standard proposal (**18 page limit**) except box checked indicating eligibility
 - No specific RFA for any of the strengthening grant types: identify AFRI program for your topic and submit to that program by its deadlines
 - No specific panel; reviewed with standard proposals in same panel



Strengthening Grants

(seed, sabbatical, equipment, strengthening standard)

Eligibility

- Limited to EPSCoR states, small and mid-sized or minority-serving degree-granting institutions with limited institutional success
 - EPSCoR = Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.
 - EPSCoR states are recalculated every year; states can move in and out of the list



FY 2015 USDA EPSCoR States

Alabama
Alaska
Connecticut
Idaho
Kentucky
Maine
Mississippi
Montana

Nevada
New Hampshire
New Mexico
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota

Utah
Vermont
Wyoming

Washington DC, and
US territories, etc.



Strengthening Grant Eligibility (cont'd)

- Small and mid-sized = total enrollment of 17,500 or less
- Minority-serving = enrollment of a single minority group or a combination of minority groups exceeds 50 percent of the total enrollment
- Limited institutional success = not among the most successful universities and colleges for receiving Federal funds for science and engineering research and development (Table 1 in RFA)

Helpful eligibility
flow chart

Last Page
Of AFRI
RFA's

65 / 65 100%

Comment Share

FIGURE 1. Flow Chart for Strengthening Grant Eligibility.

Do you have an appointment at a State Agricultural Experiment Station or a degree granting institution?

- Yes
 - Are you eligible for EPSCoR Funds?
 - Yes: Eligible
 - No: Are you at a minority-serving institution? See Part VIII, H for a definition.
 - Yes: Is your institution among the most successful (see Table 1)?
 - Yes: Not Eligible
 - No: Eligible
 - No: Is your institution small or mid-sized (total enrollment < 17,500)?
 - Yes: Is your institution among the most successful (see Table 1)?
 - Yes: Not Eligible
 - No: Eligible
 - No: Not Eligible
 - No: Not Eligible

Done Unknown Zone



AFRI Foundational Program: Program Area Priorities, FY 2015

- III. Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
 - Improving Food Safety- soliciting FASE, STD and conference grant applications
 - Improving Food Quality-soliciting FASE, STD and conference grant applications
 - Function and Efficacy of Nutrients-soliciting FASE, STD and conference grant applications



AFRI Foundational Program: Program Area Priorities, FY 2015

- Food safety, nutrition, and health
 - 3 program area sub-priorities:
 - Improving Food Safety - Full Application Due Date is 4/03/2015 by 5:00 pm ET
 - Improving Food Quality- Full Application Due Date is 4/02/2015 by 5:00 pm ET
 - Function and Efficacy of Nutrients - Full Application Due Date is 4/02/2015 by 5:00 pm ET



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AFRI Improving Food Quality Program

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National Program Leader, Food
Safety

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AFRI –Improving Food Quality Program

Where do we find it?

AFRI Foundational RFA

Food Safety, Nutrition and Health –
Program Area

A1361- Improving Food Quality



Improving Food Quality Priorities

- Utilizing processing and packaging technologies to improve the quality of foods
- Understanding the biological, chemical, and physical interactions of food and food ingredients to improve the quality of foods

What does quality mean?

Shelf-life **Nutrient Value** **Economic Value** **Convenience** **Sensory Qualities** **Sustainability**



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Pre-harvest

Improving Food
quality does not
fund pre-harvest
or food safety
projects.

Safety



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AFRI Foundational Program RFA 2014 Improving Food Quality – A1361

No Letter of Intent

Application Deadline – April 2, 2015 (5:00 p.m. ET)

Total Program Funds – Approximately \$4.5 million

Proposed Budgets – not to exceed \$500,000 for up to 4 years



Program Area: Improving Food Quality FY 2014

- Number of Proposals – 108
- Number of Awards – 12 (including seed and/or equipment)
- Success rate – 11%
- Average Award Size - \$428,905



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Program Contact, Improving Food Quality

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AFRI Function and Efficacy of Nutrients Program

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AFRI Foundational – Function and Efficacy of Nutrients

- Program Area Priority
 - Investigate the role of bioactive components of food in preventing inflammation or promoting gastrointestinal health
 - Justification must be provided for the relationship of the bioactive component(s) being studied to human health outcomes
 - Priority will be given to projects that use a whole food approach or that address health effects of a combination of two or more bioactive components found in food.



AFRI Foundational Program RFA 2014 Function and Efficacy of Nutrients – A1341

- **Schedule:**
 - Application Deadline: 4/2/2015
- **Type:** Standard, Conference and FASE
- **Award Amount:** \$500,000 for up to 4 years
- **Award:** \$4.5 million available for new awards



Program Area: Function and Efficacy of Nutrients FY 2014

- Number of Proposals – 100
- Number of Awards – 13 (including seed and/or equipment)
- Success rate – 9%
- Average Award Size - \$492,877



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Program Contact, Function and Efficacy of Nutrients

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2015: Improving Food Safety



Jeanette Thurston
NPL Food Safety

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5 Targeted Program Area Priorities

1. Develop and validate concentration and purification methods (pathogens).
2. Understand physical or molecular mechanisms of internalization of pathogens, chemicals, toxins, or engineered nanoparticles into fresh produce or nuts.
3. Investigate the fate and dissemination of pathogens, chemicals, toxins, or engineered nanoparticles in/on fresh produce or nuts.



5 Targeted Program Area Priorities



4. Identify or characterize emerging or under-researched foodborne hazards.
5. Develop control strategies for known foodborne hazards on previously unrecognized food vehicles or on foods that are not commonly associated with a particular foodborne hazard.



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Other Program Information



- **Funding Level:** \$500K TOTAL
- **Project Period:** 4 years (maximum)
- **Letter of Intent:** Not Required
- **Application Deadline:** April 3, 2015 (5:00 p.m. ET)



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Challenge Area Program

Childhood Obesity Prevention

Dr. Deirdra Chester





- Program Area Priority
 - Generate new knowledge of behavioral (not metabolic), social, cultural, and/or environmental factors including the food environment
 - Develop and implement effective family, peer, community, and/or school-based interventions
 - Prevent overweight and obesity and promote healthy behaviors in children and adolescents
 - Ages 2 – 19 years (or any subset of this age group)



New This Year

- **Renewal Applications**
 - Project application that requests additional funding for a project beyond the period that was approved in an original or amended award.
 - Must contain a Progress Report
 - Evaluated in competition with other pending applications
 - Reviewed according to the same evaluation criteria as new applications
- **Program Area Code – A2151 – SNAP & EFNEP: Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention: Regional Centers of Excellence**
 - Integrated Projects – Regional Centers
 - Program Funds - \$2M
 - Program Area Priority Contact – Dr. Helen Chipman,
hchipman@nifa.usda.gov



AFRI Childhood Obesity Prevention Program – Integrated Research, Education, and Extension to Prevent Childhood Obesity

- **Schedule:**
 - Application Deadline: 04/30/2015
- **Type: Standard, Conference and FASE**
- **Program Area Code: A2101**
 - Award Amount: \$1 million a year for up to 5 years (1 award)
- **Program Area Code: A2111**
 - Award Amount: \$200,000 per year for up to 5 years (2 awards)



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Program Area: Childhood Obesity Prevention FY 2014

- Number of Proposals – 92
- Number of Awards – 17 (including seed and/or equipment)
- Success rate – 16%
- Average Award Size - \$3,741,376



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Program Contact, Childhood Obesity Prevention

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Food Safety Challenge Area

Program Area Priorities

- Effective Mitigation Strategies for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Enhancing Food Safety through Improved Processing Technologies



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Effective Mitigation Strategies for Antimicrobial Resistance

Program Code: A4171

Program Leader: Mervalin Morant, Ph.D.
Jodi Williams, Ph.D.

- Inter-disciplinary teams
- Mitigation
- Spans Primary Producers to Primary Consumers (Farm to Fork)



Food Safety AMR Challenge - Notables

- Awards: - Up to \$1M/award total for 3 years
- Letter of Intent - N/A
- Applications Due - May 13
- Project Type - Integrated
- Grant Type - Standard, FASE, Conference



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Enhancing Food Safety through Improved Processing Technologies

Program Code – A4131

Program Leader: Hongda Chen, Ph.D.

- ✓ Develop/improve thermal and non-thermal processing technologies for decontaminating/inactivating pathogens in food



Processing Technologies - Notables

Awards:	- Up to \$4 million/award for 4 years (\$4M total)
Letter of Intent	- N/A
Applications Due	- May 8
Project Type	- Integrated
Grant Type	- CAP, FASE, Conference



Food Safety Contact Info

- Antimicrobial Resistance – Mervalin Morant
mmorant@nifa.usda.gov; 202-401-6602
- Jodi Williams – jwilliams@nifa.usda.gov;
- Processing Technologies – Hongda Chen
hchen@nifa.usda.gov; 202-401-6497



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Thank you for Participating

We hope you found this useful.
Please be sure to contact us with all
of your questions.