



FACT SHEET

NIFA LISTENS: INVESTING IN SCIENCE TO TRANSFORM LIVES A STAKEHOLDER INPUT OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting stakeholder input on the science priorities, needed breakthroughs, and challenges in food and agricultural sciences. Through this initiative, "NIFA Listens: Investing in Science to Transform Lives," stakeholders are invited to provide input to help ensure the strategic positioning and relevancy of NIFA's investments in advancing agricultural research, extension, and education.

WHO

NIFA welcomes stakeholder input from any group or individual interested in agricultural research, extension, and education priorities for NIFA.

WHAT

2018 listening sessions and electronic submissions focus on responses to these target questions:

- When considering all aspects of agriculture from the farm to the plate, what is the greatest challenge that should be addressed through NIFA's research, education, and extension programs?
- In your field, what is the most-needed breakthrough in science/technology that would advance your agricultural enterprise? Breakthroughs result in transformative changes in knowledge, technology, or behavior.
- What is your top priority in food and agricultural research, extension or outreach, or education that NIFA should address?

Input will help inform NIFA on prioritizing science emphasis areas, identifying gaps in programming, determining which programs are redundant or underperforming, and exploring potential investment opportunities.

WHEN & WHERE

There will be four listening sessions across the U.S., each beginning at 8:30 a.m. and scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. Attendees and speakers for each 2018 session must RSVP by the following dates.

- Thursday, Oct. 11, Hartford, Connecticut
RSVP by Oct. 4

- Thursday, Oct. 18, New Orleans, Louisiana
RSVP by Oct. 11
- Thursday, Oct. 25, Minneapolis, Minnesota
RSVP by Oct. 18
- Thursday, Nov. 1, Albuquerque, New Mexico
RSVP by Oct. 25

HOW

- Submit responses through our website.
- In-person listening session attendees must RSVP. Up to 80 participants can register to speak in person at each listening session.
 - Submission of a 250-word abstract describing the speaking topic is required.
 - Each speaker will have five minutes to give a short presentation on their answers to the two feedback questions.
 - If the schedule is not filled with pre-registered speakers, there may be time for comments from unscheduled speakers or additional time for registered speakers.
- Relevant position papers about opportunities and needs in food and agricultural research, extension, and education can also be submitted electronically.

DEADLINES

- RSVP to attend and/or speak at an in-person listening session through the website by the deadline for each session specified above.
- Responses can be submitted through nifa.usda.gov/NIFAlistens or NIFAlistens@nifa.usda.gov until Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, REGISTRATION, & RSVP:

nifa.usda.gov/NIFAlistens