



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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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 emerging needs and opportunities 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

- Listening sessions and electronic submissions focused on responses to two target questions:
 - What is your top priority in food and agricultural research, extension, or education that NIFA should address?
 - What are the most promising opportunities for advancement of these food and agricultural priorities?
- 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 session must RSVP by the following dates.
 - Thursday, Oct. 19, Overland Park, Kansas
RSVP by Oct. 12
 - Thursday, Oct. 26, Atlanta, Georgia
RSVP by Oct. 19
 - Thursday, Nov. 2, Sacramento, California
RSVP by Oct. 26
 - Wednesday, Nov. 8, Greenbelt, Maryland
RSVP by Nov. 1

- Sessions will be webcast live, transcribed, and made available for playback after each session.

HOW

- 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.
- Electronically-submitted responses to each target question are limited to 600 words.
- Relevant position papers about emerging needs and opportunities in food and agricultural research, extension, and education can also be submitted electronically.

DEADLINES

- If registering to speak at an in-person listening session, submission of a 250-word abstract describing the speaking topic.
- Responses can be submitted through nifa.usda.gov/NIFAlistens or NIFAlistens@nifa.usda.gov until Friday, Dec. 1, 2017.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, REGISTRATION, & RSVP:
nifa.usda.gov/NIFAlistens