

ESCOP Meeting

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

Congressional Room, West Lobby

March 3, 2015

Attendees: Bob Shulstad , Chair, Dan Rossi, Eric Young, Bill Brown, Ernie Minton, Connie Kays, Jeff Jacobsen, Carolyn Brooks, Shirley Hymon-Parker, Hunt Shipman, Mike Harrington, Gary Thompson, Saied Mostaghmi, Clarence Watson, Jane Schuchardt, George Hopper, Nancy Cox, Jim Moyer, Moses Kairo, Archie Clutter, Mike Hoffman, Tim Phipps, Fred Servello, Dave Benfield, Robert Holland, Meryl Broussard, Bill Payne, Chris Pritsos, Teferi Tsegaye, Maifan Silitonga, Maria Gallo, Bob Godfrey, Lee Yudin, Jeffrey Steiner, Brian Buhr, Greg Cuomo, Mark Latimore, Edmund Buckner, Conrad Bonsi, Laura Gamper, Jim Richards, Vernie Hubert and Dyremple Marsh

Item	Action Items
1.0	Approval of Agenda - Approved Approval of Minutes - Approved Approval of Action Items - Approved
14.0	Approve to pay NC-FAR \$1,000 dues

	Item	Topic and Presenter(s)
8:00	1.0	Call to Order - Bob Shulstad, Chair 1.1 Approval of the Agenda <u>1.2 Approval of November 3, 2014 ESCOP Meeting Minutes, Orlando, FL</u> 1.3 Approval of Interim Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">ESCOP/ECOP Chairs Meetings with Cornerstone, kglobal, and REE/NIFA Leadership, Dec 18-19

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved - Agenda • Approved - Minutes • Approved - Action Items
8:20	2.0	<p>NIFA Report - Meryl Broussard, USDA/NIFA</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President budget – NIFA brochure explains various budget requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Total \$1.7 Billion ◦ Increases in AFRI and capacity even when overall government is flat ◦ System’s top priorities are similar to NIFA’s • Still committed to improve RFA timing, but implementing some Farm Bill language delayed them • Naming “centers of excellence” defined by 5 criteria and used only as tie breakers • Still working on details of implementation • Question: Why does NIFA need LGU’s to demonstrate Hatch match on a project basis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Meryl and Bob Holland were not aware of change, but are looking into what has changed ◦ Will resolve issue as soon as possible • Question: Still a long lag time for approving projects • Meryl gets monthly reports on delayed approvals • Bart has tracking system so know where project is in approval process
8:40	3.0	<p>Cornerstone Report - Hunt Shipman, Jim Richards, or Vernie Hubert</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY’16 – information on President’s budget has been distributed • \$213 Million increase, mostly in AFRI • Increases in capacity in President’s budget, first time in long time, but Hatch and Evan’s Allen increase is proposed to be awarded competitively. Appropriations language can override the Authorization’s capacity language • System does not support competitive language • Evans Allen and 1890’s Extension request has increase to cover Central State addition • 1994 budgets increase for research and extension
9:00	4.0	<p><u>Budget & Legislative Committee</u> - Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington</p> <p>In meeting report:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at developing a structure to facilitate bringing forward a “big ask”. How do we advocate for these after they’ve been developed • Funding under Water Resources “big ask” includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multistate projects ○ Regional water centers ○ Other water initiatives • Impact statements will be developed that define the need and the capacity to address issues raised in the Water Resources report.
9:15	5.0	<p><u>Communication and Marketing Committee</u> - Nancy Cox and Dan Rossi</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message testing is showing a lot of important points to consider • Administrative Heads Section now a partner • ACOP not a partner but has reps on the committee • Rick Rhoads will be in-coming chair representative ESCOP, Scott Reid is chair, Nancy is past chair
9:20	6.0	<p><u>Science and Technology Committee</u> - John Russin and Jeff Jacobsen</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed NRC report on AFRI and common threads • Recommended a science council for AFRI – support this • Recommended more interagency grants • May do a survey to figure out why AFRI applications have dropped • New topic for discussion is USDA’s open access policy. S&T will develop recommendations on implementation • Open access plan is 3 year phase in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eventually all funding will be subject to this ○ Want to include capacity funded science to indicate excellence ○ Data management will be left to local discretion
9:30	7.0	<p><u>National Impact Database Committee</u> - Bill Brown and Eric Young</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official joint committee now in place • Public release was March 2 • Universities are also putting out press releases on this database
9:40	8.0	<p><u>Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee</u> - Shirley Hymon-Parker, Clarence Watson, and Eric Young</p>

		<p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next “big ask” after water, probably in FY ’18 • Trying to integrate agriculture systems and food, with health • ECOP has moved forward, with ESCOP, on education aspects • A small group of scientists is being established to look at knowledge gaps and research needs • Still some confusion between the overall Task Force and the ECOP education-oriented initiative
9:50	9.0	<p><u>Futuring Task Force</u> - Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charged to look out 25 years and ask if we’re positioned correctly to address challenges • Moving slowly to make sure it’s done right
9:55	10.0	<p><u>Infrastructure Survey</u> - Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sightlines survey and instructions have gone out to all institutions • Almost every 1862 & 1890 have paid the assessment • Study should be complete by June
10:00	11.0	<p>Peanut Varieties International Licensing Issue - Bob Shulstad</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPB research agreement would prohibit international license of any technology • First meeting lead to change in language from “technology” to “cultivars” • Next meeting will address international licensing of cultivars and distribution of royalties’
		Break
		Shirley Hymon-Parker presided over remainder of the meeting for Bob Shulstad
11:00	12.0	<p>Items for EDs - (March 4) and ECOP/ESCOP Chairs (March 12) Meetings with NIFA -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Executives and International Center Director • National Program Leaders • Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff • Budget Director and Deputy Director for Office of Grants and Financial Management Communications Staff

		<p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage of federal resources with state and private source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Capacity is leveraged 6-10 times • Infrastructure study • Character limits in project proposal vs. NPL need for detail
11:10	13.0	<p>CARET Report - Connie Kays, CARET Liaison to ESCOP</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring program and orientation for new delegates so everyone is on same level • Trying to interact more with deans on how to choose and use their CARET delegates
11:30	14.0	<p>ESCOP National CFAR Membership Renewal - Bob Shulstad</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve \$1,000 dues - Nancy Cox/Gary Thompson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Passed unanimously • ESCOP needs to appoint a representative to the board • Dan will ask Mike Hoffmann if he's willing
11:35	15.0	<p>2015 ESS, AES, ARD Meeting & Workshop Plans - Shirley Hymon-Parker and Carolyn Brooks</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballantine Hotel, Charlotte • September 28 – October 1, 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Visiting Kannapolis research campus
	16.0	<p>1890 Anniversary - Shirley Hymon-Parker and Carolyn Brooks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Celebrating 1890 Day</u> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like more support from ESS • Wellness walk is being held to raise funds but more importantly to raise awareness of 1890's and land-grants in general
11:45	17.0	<p><u>2016 Joint Meeting with NEDA</u> - Bret Hess and Mike Harrington</p>

		<p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackson, WY, Jackson Lake Lodge in Teton National Park • September 19-23, 2016
11:55	18.0	<p><u>Report from ECOP</u> - Jane Schuchardt for Beverly Durgan, ECOP rep. to ESCOP</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eXtension has moved to a membership model and new board is set to take over management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ New emphasis is on new technology • ECOP now has a 4H national committee that is looking at national level issues and increasing support
	19.0	<p>NRSP Review Committee</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting in Denver on May 28 • NRSP 4, 6, & 7 are up for renewal
12:00		Adjourn

Item 4.0

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief

Presenters: Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington

For information only

The committee holds regular conference calls on the last Tuesday of each month. These calls have generally been well attended. The current B&L Committee membership is shown below.

<p>Chair: Gary Thompson (NERA)</p> <p>Delegates: Barry Bequette (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Ernie Minton NCRA Tim Phipps (NERA) John Wraith (NERA) Bill Brown (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Jim Moyer (WAAESD) Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>Liaisons</p> <p>Rick Klemme (ECOP Liaison) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Emir Albores (NIFA) Caird Rexroad (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Dina Chacon-Reitzel (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone) Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p>
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The B&L Committee will be holding a breakfast meeting on March 3 in conjunction with the AHS-CARET meetings. Discussions will focus on how the committee can be effective in working with the ECOP Budget and Legislative Committee to provide integrated approaches and leadership in developing a defined “advocacy infrastructure model” for future budget efforts such as the Water Security Initiative.

BAC Priorities: The BAC met by conference call on Feb 10, 2015 to finalize the system’s response to the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal. The BAC approved appropriations requests for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) with the exception of the competitive programs that had been incorporated into the capacity programs. Capacity programs should remain as such, not competitive. A slightly modified “Dear Colleague” letter has been distributed to all institutions with a request that members be contacted. Small changes to the McIntire Stennis (+5%) and 1994 (+\$3 Million) requests were approved. No other changes in priorities as stated to the seven core priorities: AFRI, capacity funds for Hatch, Evans-Allen –McIntire-Stennis, Smith-Lever, 1890 Extension and 1994 Research and Extension. The system will remain silent on the “Innovation Institutes.” In keeping with past practice, The BAC position is to endorse the President’s Budget or our 2016 numbers whichever are higher.

All documents related the federal budget and the Farm Bill are located at the land-grant.org website.

Agenda Brief: Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)

Date: March 3, 2015

Presenter: Nancy Cox/Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

1. Committee Membership: The Committee membership is in transition as the new Operational Guidelines are implemented.
2. Meetings – The CMC met by conference call on November 20, 2014. It is scheduled to meet on March 2, 2015.
3. Update:
 - The CMC works closely with kglobal and Cornerstone on a targeted educational effort to increase awareness and support for basic and applied research and transformational education provided by Land Grant Universities through Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension.
 - The AHS had decided to join as equal partners and the \$400,000 budget will now be equally shared by ESS, CES and AHS. The ESCOP Executive Committee decided to reduce the total CMP assessment from ESS institutional members will be assessed from the previously approved level of \$300,000 to \$200,000.
 - The PBD voted to approve the expenditure of \$55,000 to support the message testing expansion recommendation. kglobal has conducted a series of focus groups and will conduct a national survey to test messaging around the themes of Health and Nutrition and Water Security. It has also prepared a 4th quarter report for 2014.
 - With the addition of AHS as an equal partner the CMC has revised its previous Operation Guidelines. The attached set of Guidelines was approved during the November 20th conference call.
 - The CMC is in the process of implementing the new Operation Guidelines. Scott Reed has agreed to serve as this year’s Chair. Nancy Cox will be an AHS representative and has agreed to serve as the Past Chair. Rick Rhodes has agreed to serve as the Incoming Chair and Daniel Scholl as the ESCOP representative.
 - The next project for the CMC will be to develop a plan of work for the coming year.

Action Requested: For information only.

Communication and Marketing Committee (CMC)
Operating Guidelines
April 17, 2012
Updated November 20, 2014

Purpose

The Communication and Marketing Committee (CMC) oversees and guides the Communications and Marketing Project (CMP). The CMP is a coordinated and targeted educational effort to increase awareness of the Land-grant University agricultural and related programs, Agricultural Experiment Stations (AES) and Cooperative Extension Services (CES). The CMP is supported by three sections of the APLU Board on Agriculture – Administrative Heads (AHS), Cooperative Extension (CES) and Experiment Station (ESS).

The CMC is the policy making body that oversees the development, implementation and effectiveness of this targeted educational effort, including coordination with APLU and consulting firms hired to advance this initiative. It is the responsible entity specified in the contract between APLU and kglobal and in the contract between APLU and Cornerstone Government Affairs for oversight of the work as it relates to the CMP.

Membership

The membership of the CMC is as follows:

- Chair (1)
- Incoming Chair (1)
- Past Chair (1)
- One AHS, one CES and one AES Dean/Director/Administrator (3)
- AHS, ECOP and ESCOP Chairs (3)
- One ACOP representative (1)
- One ACE representative (1)
- One CARET representative (1)
- One APLU CGA representative (1)
- One member of the ECOP-ESCOP National Impacts Database Committee (1)

Members serve two year terms and may be reappointed indefinitely. The term of Chair, Incoming Chair and Past Chair are one year. The sections are encouraged to consider rotating their representatives among the five regions.

Non-voting members include one point person from kglobal and one from Cornerstone, serving as liaisons to the CMC. In addition, ECOP, ESCOP and AHS will each name one representative (e.g. Executive Director/Administrator) and Assistants as appropriate to work with the committee.

Organization and Function

The CMC will meet in person at CARET's annual meeting in Washington DC. The CMP annual plan of work will be approved at this meeting. Other in-person meetings can be scheduled by the chair as necessary.

The CMC will meet by telephone conference quarterly for CMP plan of work updates, coordination, issue or problem solving, contract oversight, and policy decision approval.

It is expected that programmatic and policy decisions are to be made by consensus. If necessary, formal decisions are to be determined by simple majority of a quorum of CMC members.

The CMC may create work groups that assist in development and implementation of the CMP communication protocols, including data mining, lay audience reports, and other efforts that leverage the work of kglobal. The work groups will be responsible to the CMC.

The kglobal and Cornerstone point people will attend annual meetings of the sections to provide updates.

Working closely together and with input from CMC, Cornerstone and kglobal strategically identify key targets to focus communication and education efforts. This includes earned media including op-eds, the use of grassroots and grasstops connections (as defined by kglobal), and digital and social media approaches. Communicating the value of Land-grant agricultural and related program impacts through Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and academic programs to key decision makers is a key goal of the CMP. Every effort will be made to take maximum use of the ECOP-ESCOP impacts database at www.landgrantimpacts.org.

It will be the responsibility of the regional Executive Directors/Administrators in Cooperative Extension and the Experiment Stations working together with deans/directors/administrators to assist kglobal in developing the proper communication contacts for each state. Each state may have unique external communication protocols that must be followed for success. Points of contact for Cooperative Extension, Experiment Station and academic programs will be identified for each institution. It is expected that these points of contact would include the deans of agriculture, directors/administrators of Cooperative Extension and the Experiment Station or their designees to assure appropriate communication protocols internal to a specific university are followed.

Officers

The chair of the CMC will be a representative from one of the three Board on Agriculture Assembly sections providing financial support for the program. The chair serves for one year. The position will rotate among the sections. At any given time, the three sections will be represented by the chair, incoming chair or past chair.

The chair organizes and facilitates the meetings of the CMC. The chair provides updates at the BAA Policy Board of Directors meetings and will meet with kglobal and Cornerstone on annual performance reviews. The chair will work with APLU in the development of contracts with kglobal and Cornerstone for the CMP.

The incoming chair will discharge the duties of the chair such as presiding over meetings when the chair is not available and guide the work of the Plan of Work Development Committee.

Committees

- **Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee (EC) includes the Chair, Incoming Chair, and Past Chair working together with the non-voting AHS, ECOP, and ESCOP representatives and assistants. The kglobal and Cornerstone representatives will participate in EC meetings as appropriate. The EC will meet quarterly at least one week prior to the meetings of the CMC and develop the agenda for those meetings. It is also empowered to handle the immediate affairs of the CMC between meetings.
- **Plan of Work Development Committee** – The Plan of Work Development Committee will prepare an annual CMP plan of work including goals, theme and strategies for the CMP. The Committee will seek input on the plan from CMC members and present a draft plan for approval at the annual meeting. The committee membership will include one AHS, one CES and one AES Dean/Director/Administrator from the CMC and appointed by the CMC chair, and Cornerstone, and kglobal, AHS, ECOP, and ESCOP non-voting representatives. It will be chaired by the CMC incoming chair.

Quorum

For purposes of doing business, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the duly constituted members at any officially called meeting for which written notice is sent in advance of the meeting. A simple majority of the quorum resolves all issues.

Parliamentary Authority

The emphasis in all CMC meetings shall be on orderly process to achieve an objective decision by those present and voting. Should there be a parliamentary challenge, it shall be answered by referring to the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Funding

AHS, ESCOP and ECOP will share equally in financing the Communication and Marketing Program.

Amendments

These operating guidelines may be amended at any business meeting of the CMC provided the proposed amendment has been sent to all members in advance of the meeting, and the question is passed by a simple majority of a quorum of the voting members present at that meeting.

Item 6.0

ESCOP Science and Technology Committee Agenda Brief

Presenters: John Russin and Jeff Jacobsen

For information only

The committee has begun to hold regular conference calls on the fourth Monday of each month. These are scheduled from February through June. Tentatively, we are planning a face-to-face during the July Joint COPS meeting. The current S&T Committee membership is shown below.

<p>Chair: John Russin (SAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates: Larry Curtis (WAAESD) David Thompson (WAAESD) Joe Colletti (NCRA) Deb Hamernik (NCRA) Cameron Faustman (NERA) Adel Shirmohammadi (NERA) Nathan McKinney (SAAESD) Harald Scherm (SAAESD) Teferi Tsegaye (ARD) Marakis Alvarez (ARD)*</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA)</p>	<p>Liaisons: Terry Nelsen (ERS) Cliff Gabriel (OSTP) Adrianna Hewings (ARS) Frank Zalom (Pest Mgmt Subcom) Edwin Price (ICOP) Scott Loveridge (Social Sci Subcom) Bob Holland (NIFA) Muquarrab Qureshi (NIFA)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p>
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The S&T Committee initial discussion (2/23/15) was focused on the NRC Report on Spurring Innovation in Food and Agriculture: A Review of the USDA AFRI Program and the subsequent webinar with the Committee and the NIFA Response.

HORIZON TOPICS for S&T Committee:

+Future of down-sized signature research programs (e.g. plant breeding)

+Water security

+Participation in NIFA and other stakeholder listening sessions

+Broader engagement with other groups (e.g. Task Force on anti-microbial resistance)

+Open Access Data

+NEW REPORT (12/2014): Pursuing a Unifying Message – Elevating Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Research as a National Priority (www.rileymemorial.org)

+NEW NRC REPORT (1/2015): Critical Role of Animal Science Research in Food Security and Sustainability (www.nap.edu)

Agenda Item: Impact Database Update

Presenters: Bill Brown and Eric Young

Background:

A new joint ECOP/ESCOP National Impacts Database Committee (NIDC) was appointed last December to replace the *ad hoc* committee that had been guiding development of the database. The charge to the new committee is to monitor and advise the TAMU development team on the refinement and implementation of the database and the public-facing website (<http://landgrantimpacts.tamu.edu/>), provide updates to ECOP and ESCOP as needed, encourage necessary training on how to use the database, promote use of the NIDB by Extension and Research, and publicize use of the information on the website. An additional charge to the NIDB is that at the approximate 2.5 year point, the committee is asked to provide a written report to ECOP and ESCOP with recommendations regarding if and how monitoring and improvement of the database should be continued. If this standing committee is recommended for continuation, the report should include guidance on terms, rotation, composition and operation of the NIDB.

The committee is co-chaired by Tim Cross, Extension Director, and Bill Brown Experiment Station Director, both at Univ of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Below is the representation and current membership of the NIDB.

1. Two Director/Administrator-level representatives from the Cooperative Extension Section
 - a. Tim Cross
 - b. Michael Quart
2. Two Director-level representatives from the Experiment Station Section (one of whom serves as AA for NRSP-1)
 - a. Bill Brown
 - b. Steve Loring
3. One representative from K-Global
 - a. Ashley Hawn
4. One representative from the ECOP MEiE Implementation Team
 - a. Joe Zublena
5. One representative from the ESCOP Multistate Impact Writing Project
 - a. Sarah Lupis
6. One Land-grant Communications representative
 - a. Faith Peppers
7. One Land-grant Evaluation representative
 - a. Tyrone P. Miller, Jr.
8. One NIFA representative to serve in a liaison role
 - a. Adele Turzillo
9. One Extension and one Research ED to serve as support staff
 - a. Ron Brown
 - b. Eric Young

K-global has developed a national press release to announce the database availability, as well as releases for individual Land-grants Universities and APLU to use which will be distributed on February 23. The hashtag #LGUimpact has been developed to bring focus on Twitter.

Action Requested: Information only.

Contact: X
Email
Phone

February X, 2015

X UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEW LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM-WIDE ONLINE RESOURCE
Website Provides Access to Research and Extension Impact Statements Across State and University Lines

[CITY, STATE] – Today, X University announced the official launch of and participation in [the National Land-grant Impacts website](#), a centralized online resource that highlights the teaching, research, and extension efforts by Land-grant universities. Specifically, the website provides access to university or regional-specific impact stories, which document the research and Extension programming planned, performed, and implemented by X University and other Land-grant universities. The website, as a cooperative effort of the Land-grant universities, represents a single voice for the Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension arms of the Land-grant universities.

“The Land-Grant Impacts website is a new tool that will better inform the American people and the international community of the significant agricultural research, education and extension impacts taking place at land grant universities across our nation, which offer practical solutions to today’s critical societal challenges. This website will help policy makers and the public learn more about this work that is partially supported with NIFA funding,” **said Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.**

Impact statements relay the results and impact of research and Extension education programming. Information lists include contact information for university research and Extension project leads and updates on funding, project implementation, or Extension education impact. Impact statements are categorized according to six focus areas: Food Security; Nutrition and Health; Youth, Family, and Communities; Environmental Stewardship; Agricultural Systems; and Energy and Bioproducts.

“Articulating positive changes as a result of Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension research and education is critical today. The Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) celebrates the launch of this web site,” **said Barbara Allen-Diaz, vice president, University of California, and chair, BAA Policy Board of Directors.** “Having a searchable source for outcomes of our work will help to communicate the value of our research and extension programs in our land grant universities.”

The website also informs users about the history of the Land-grant university system and how its mission has evolved since the systems’ founding. X University, like all Land-grant universities, is committed to a three-fold mission of teaching, research and Extension. The website fully demonstrates why teaching, research, and Extension are interrelated and how they better X University students, improve communities in X University state, and benefit the nation.

[University QUOTE]

X University is one of the 238 public research universities, Land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations represented by [The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities](#). The Land-grant university system has affiliations in all 50 states, the four U.S. territories, the District of Columbia, Mexico, and Canada.

X University was founded in X Year as a result of the Morrill or Second Morrill Act, which granted each state funding to charter a university with the purpose to teach agriculture, military tactics, and the mechanic arts as well as classical studies to help members of the working class obtain a liberal, practical education.

Agenda Item: Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Update

Presenters: Shirley Hymon-Parker, Clarence Watson, and Eric Young

Background:

In July 2014, as a result of the recommendations from the Joint COPs meeting, the PBD established the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee. The purpose of the committee, operating with leadership from BAA and BoHS, is to develop a broad-based initiative for which funding will be sought, possibly in 2017 or 2018. The Committee is chaired by Richard Linton, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NCSU, and Christine Ladisch, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences, Purdue. During an initial conference call in October discussion resulted in a decision to focus on the integration and interaction of food nutrition, agricultural systems, and environment and their impact on chronic disease prevention and general human health.

Complementary to the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People initiative, ECOP and ESCOP has initiated specific action teams related to human health and wellness focused on youth, families, and communities. Nominations were sought for Extension and research faculty for each of five priority action teams; Health Literacy, Health Insurance Literacy, Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, Positive Youth Development for Health, and Health Policy Issues Education. The responsibilities of the action teams over a three-year period will be to select and invite additional external partners, identify and develop systematic programs and curriculum, engage colleagues in professional development, and initiate system wide program impact evaluation.

The Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee is now in the process of establishing a research-oriented committee to answer the question "How can we effectively integrate agriculture and food/nutrition systems with healthcare systems to benefit human health - and to lessen the burden of chronic disease?" This committee, composed of 10-12 "experts in the field", will identify research priorities to address this question. The anticipated timeline is to start later this spring and last for up to 6 months, with a short phone meeting each month.

Action Requested: Information only.

Agenda Brief: BAA Futuring Initiative
Date: March 3, 2015
Presenter: Mike Hoffmann/Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

1. Task Force Membership:

Josef Broder	APS
Tim Burcham	Non-Land-grants
Wendy Fink	APLU
John Ferrick	IAS
Mike Hoffmann	Chair
Jody Jellison	ESS
Govind Kannan	1890s
Doug Lantagne	CES
Ian Maw	APLU
John Phillips	1994s
Dan Rossi	ED support
Lou Swanson	AHS

2. Meetings: The Task Force held its first conference call on October 10, 2014. It met in person on November 3, 2014. It also held two conference calls on December 18, 2014 and January 21, 2015. It is scheduled to meet by conference call monthly. A special conference call was scheduled on January 29th with a potential facilitator.

3. Update

- The Task Force has reviewed the proposed futuring process, timeline, budget and task force composition.
- An initial and critical first step in the process is the identification of a professional facilitator/consultant to further develop a conceptual framework for the process and to guide the process. To date, the Task Force has received and reviewed two proposals:
 - C. Clinton Sidle, a strategic change consultant associated with Cornell
 - Cambridge Leadership Associates (CLA), an international leadership development practiceDiscussions are underway with a third consultant, Karl Albrecht International (KAI). Karl Albrecht is a well-known executive management and futurist.
- If the futuring initiative is to have a meaningful impact in our institutions, buy-in on the part of the institutional leadership (such as presidents and provosts) will be important. The Task Force is working with APLU to identify ways to further involve institutional leaders.
- The Task Force has funding of \$50,000 from the BAA and is exploring with APLU other funding opportunities.
- The futuring effort will also need to address the importance of learning ecology platforms in the educational process.

- The proposed timeline had completion of the futuring activity during the coming year with a goal of having a draft of the futuring report ready for the next APLU meeting. The meeting would provide an opportunity to engage attendees and obtain feedback. However, this timeline may need to be adjusted.

Action Requested: For information only.

Agenda Brief: Capital Infrastructure Initiative

Date: March 3, 2015

Presenter: Mike Hoffmann/Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

- The BAA PBD approved a proposal from the Capital Infrastructure Task Force for a survey of institutions to generate an estimate of total capital infrastructure needs on our campuses. The approval included a plan to pay for the survey cost through an assessment of institutions included in the survey.
- A letter from PBD Chair, Barbara Allen-Dias, along with the individual institutional assessment invoices, was sent to Administrative Heads in November. A reminder letter was sent out on January 18th and extensive follow-ups were conducted with many institutions. Nearly all land-grant institutions are participating.
- A contract with Sightlines was signed by APLU to conduct the survey and generate estimates of capital infrastructure needs that can be aggregated across the entire system. Sightlines is a firm that specializes in the measurement and strategic assessment of facilities assets. It has extensive experience in working on a number of the APLU campuses and has a strong baseline of information on many of our institutions.
- Sightlines will produce a written report and Power Point presentation that will document the amount of deferred maintenance at the universities that can be aggregated by region of the country. They will provide campus data, analysis and the report on-line in a format that can be regularly updated. In addition, Sightlines will provide recommendations for actions that can be taken at the campus, state and national levels to address and manage deferred maintenance.
- A steering committee was appointed to work with Sightlines. The committee will provide feedback and guidance, assist with institutional contacts and follow-up, review drafts of the preliminary and final reports, and generally serve as a sounding board. The committee is composed of selected institutional facilities directors that Sightlines have contacted through their previous experiences, along with the five Research Executive Directors, an Extension Executive Director, and Ian Maw. The Steering Committee held its first conference call with Sightlines on December 11th. The Committee provided feedback on the (1) types of facilities to be included in the study; (2) general methodology; and (3) schedule of activities.
- Sightlines is in the process of scheduling two one-hour webinars for those participating in the survey to explain how the survey forms should be completed.
- The study will begin in March and be completed by May/June.

Action Requested: For information only.



**125 Years of Providing Access
and Enhancing Opportunities**

Agenda Brief

Celebrating ‘1890 Day’ on April 23, 2015

National ‘1890 Day’ will be celebrated on all nineteen 1890 campuses on April 23, 2015. In keeping with the nation-wide land-grant mission to improve communities through education, research and outreach, anniversary observance activities will include a health and wellness walk. This event will be broadly publicized in order to enlighten a variety of audiences about this important part of history for this country, the signing of the Second Morrill Act of 1890. Authored by Senator Justin Morrill, a man ahead of his time, it stipulated that African Americans, some 25 years beyond the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, should be included in the U.S. Land-Grant University Higher Education System without discrimination. Now, 125 years later, nineteen 1890 universities are still providing access and enhancing opportunities for people from all walks of life. Celebratory events will take place throughout 2015, and many of our sister 1862 institutions and BAA colleagues have indicated they wish to celebrate ‘1890 Day’ with us. The actual day of the signing was August 30, 1890 and, as this is a Sunday in 2015, all the campuses will hold ‘A Day of Prayer’ on August 30, 2015.

While all campuses will participate in a wellness walk for 1.890 miles and seek the participation of at least 1,890 walkers, the accompanying programs will vary by campuses. Administrators, faculty, university and K-12 students, alumni, legislators, community leaders, and members of the community at large will walk together in celebration of the millions of 1890 students and alumni who are brilliant, contributing members of our global society. Will you carve out some time in your busy schedule to grace us with your presence?

The 1890 website, www.1890universities.org will allow credit card donations in the near future, and those who cannot join the walks may wish instead to make contributions. All proceeds will go the 1890 system-wide Justin Morrill Scholarship fund.

To see the continually updated list of celebratory activities and for more information, visit www.1890universities.org.

The 125th Anniversary of the Second Morrill Act Committee

Item 16.0

ESS 2016 Meeting Joint with the Extension Section

Presenters: Bret Hess and Mike Harrington

For information only

The University of Wyoming, on behalf of the Experiment Station Section, is pleased to host the 2016 Joint Experiment Station Section-Cooperative Extension Section Meeting, Monday September 19, 2016 – Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park near the town of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Information regarding meeting registration, agenda/schedule, and hotel reservations will be provided closer to the meeting date. In the meantime, you are welcome to view hotel information here: <http://www.gtlc.com/lodging/jackson-lake-lodge-overview.aspx>.

While it is too early to plan a detailed agenda, there have been some preliminary discussions with ECOP leadership on possible discussion items and joint work products.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2016!



Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)

ECOP Report to ESCOP, Bev Durgan, Liaison, 2.11.15

ECOP Core Theme -- Build Partnerships and Acquire Resources

- *Federal Resource Development* – Positioning to advocate for FY 2016 capacity and competitive funding; together with USDA-Farm Service Agency, implementing Agriculture Act of 2014 (farm bill) Title I funding for educational programs about new federal farm/ranch programs, and assisting in the development of FY 2017 federal budget requests for water security.
- *Partnership Focus* -- Continued relationship-building with the USDA-REE and USDA-NIFA. Continued work of the NACo-Cooperative Extension National Leadership Team.
- *ECOP-ESCOP Strategic Alliance* – Engaged in joint meetings with Cornerstone Government Affairs, kglobal, USDA-REE and NIFA, and USDA Climate Hubs Lead to strengthen partnerships and enhance visibility for research and Extension education. A seminar is planned for USDA-NIFA program staff.
- *Health and Well-being Emphasis* – Aligned with the BAA-BoHS *Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee* to develop a focus group on Societies, Families and Individuals.

ECOP Core Theme -- Increase Strategic Marketing and Communications

- *Strategic Opportunities and Measuring Excellence* – Transitioned the measuring excellence component to www.landgrantimpacts.org and developed a National Impacts Database Committee with the with the Experiment Station Section to include reports of program outcomes and public value.
- *AES-CES-AHS Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)* – Together with ESCOP, welcomed representation and funding from the BAA Administrative Heads Section (AHS) and established an emphasis on the FY 2017 water security request for funding.
- *Extension Centennial Social Media Focus* – Named an ECOP Social Media Associate to continue online visibility for Cooperative Extension established during the 2014 centennial year.
- *National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NC-FAR)* – Engaged in a dialogue with membership on expectations of Cooperative Extension about agriculture education for producers.

ECOP Core Theme -- Enhance Leadership and Professional Development

- *National Extension Directors and Administrators (NEDA)* – The meeting will be October 12-14, 2015 themed *Innovation: Driving Extension's Next Century* based on ECOP's Innovation Inventory.
- *Celebrating Excellence* – Via leadership by the ECOP Personal and Program Committees, engaging a process to name four regional Excellence in Extension and Diversity Award winners for 2015.

ECOP Core Theme -- Strengthen Organizational Functioning

- *eXtension* – Launched the NEW eXtension <http://bit.ly/InnovStratFrame> focused on a membership model driving innovation to universities to better reach clientele for educational programming.
- *ECOP Archive Project* – Archived 100 years of paper and electronic information related to Cooperative Extension's and ECOP's history <http://bit.ly/CESArchives>.
- *4-H National Leadership* – Launched the ECOP 4-H National Leadership Committee to address high level program and management issues for youth development programming.

ECOP is the representative leadership and governing body of Cooperative Extension, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state, and local governments.

ESCOP Meeting Agenda, July 2015

Providence Marriott Downtown

Providence, Rhode Island

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Attendees: Bob Shulstad, Chair, Eric Young, Bill Brown, Ernie Minton, Connie Kays, Jeff Jacobsen, Carolyn Brooks, Shirley Hymon-Parker, Hunt Shipman, Mike Harrington, Gary Thompson, Clarence Watson, George Hopper, Robert Holland, John Hayes, Cameron Faustman, Steve Slack, Dan Rossi, Denise Eblen, Bret Hess, Darren Katz, and Peter Kadamus

Item	Action Items
1.0	Approval of Agenda - Approved Approval of Minutes - Approved Approval of Action Items - Approved
3.0	Motion to nominate Ernie Minton as second name for Steve Slack's replacement on the Policy Board, along with Clarence Watson – Hess/Thompson - Approved
12.0	Motion to established ad hoc committee to examine diversity in AES administration - Shirley/Steve – Approved
13.0	Cameron will draft response letter to NIFA on POW recommendations from ESCOP and circulate for comments/edits. Final letter will be sent to Bart Hewitt

Time	Agenda Item	Topic and Presenter
1:00	1.0	Welcome and Call to Order - Bob Shulstad, Chair 1.1 Approval of the Agenda 1.2 <u>Approval of the March 3, 2015 ESCOP Meeting Minutes</u>

		<p>1.3 Interim Actions of the Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Dr. Ernie Minton to the NC-FAR Board as an ESCOP representative <p>Approval of Agenda - Approved Approval of Minutes - Approved Approval of Action Items - Approved</p>
1:05	2.0	<p>NIFA Update - Sonny Ramaswamy, Robert Holland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Report - Holland</u> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinars on Center Commodity Boards provisions will be put in Federal Registrations and webinars will be held on this thursday Capacity RFA's are being released in June and July now Quality Improvements include streamlining RFA timeline, grant authorization payment process, grant awarding process, and indirect cost approval process
1:20	<u>3.0</u>	<p>Policy Board of Directors - Steve Slack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement ESCOP representative starting January 1, 2016 Steve Slack has announced his intention to retire the end of 2015, therefore ESCOP will need a replacement PBD member to finish his term through the APLU conference this November. BAA Rules of Operation prescribes the following for unexpected vacancies: "The Section provides a list of 2 nominees to the PBD which in turn selects one of those to complete the term. The Section forwards 2 nominees and the PBD selects the replacement. The person not selected becomes the alternate". Clarence Watson, current alternate, has agreed to be one nominee, ESCOP needs to select a second. <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ernie Minton nominated as second name for Steve Slack's replacement along with Clarence Watson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved – Hess/Thompson Policy Board of Directors will choose member and alternate at meeting Wednesday
1:30	<u>4.0</u>	<p>Budget and Legislative - Gary Thompson, Mike Harrington</p> <p>In meeting report:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New money for big initiatives is very unlikely unless outside entities (industry, commodity groups, etc.) advocate for the funds • Moving pest management funds to the S-L 3D line may make it unavailable for research projects • Subsequent explanation by Jim Richards indicated that the 3D authority is very broad and flexible giving NIFA the ability to set up the program to include extension and research activities
1:40	<u>5.0</u>	Communication and Marketing - Rick Rhodes, Dan Rossi
1:50	<u>6.0</u>	Science and Technology - John Russin, Jeff Jacobsen
2:00	<u>7.0</u>	NRSP Review - Bret Hess, Mike Harrington
2:20	<u>8.0</u>	<p>NIMSS Redesign -Jeff Jacobsen</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beta testing hopefully in August and early September • Operational target is October
2:30	9.0	<p>Capital Infrastructure Task Force - Mike Hoffmann, Dan Rossi</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sightlines report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 88 institutions returned results on 86 Million square feet of space ◦ \$30 Billion replacement value infrastructure • Major factors identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Era of construction - 1950 – 1990 buildings – 53% ◦ 80% of space has received medium to low investment in maintenance repair. Implies falling further behind ◦ Most space has not been significantly renovated • Deferred maintenance is \$8 Billion, or \$98 per square feet • Over 60% is in science and teaching space • Not a huge difference regionally • Draft report next month • Final report in Sep, individual institutions will receive their report then
2:40	<u>10.0</u>	<p>NIFA Response on Crop Protection Pest Management Implementation - Mike Hoffmann, Mike Harrington</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate budget moves funds to S-L 3D

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some question as to whether NIFA can fund research under the 3D line • Authorization for 3D line says that the “funds will be completed by land grants for “technical” and other services” • NIFA has a lot of discretion on what funds can be used for, so there shouldn’t be any problem including research effort • Other options is to include language that allows research in 3D or leave funds in 406 and disallow indirect costs • Preference would be to have it in 3D and NIFA work with ECOP and ESCOP to develop program that satisfies extension and research • Jim Richards, Mike Harrington, and Robin Shepard will meet with Sonny to discuss how the program under 3D might be structured to include extension and research
2:50	<u>11.0</u>	NIFA Summary Comments on Water Security Initiative and B&L Committee Response - Steve Slack, Gary Thompson, Mike Harrington
3:00	Break	
3:30	<u>12.0</u>	<p>Diversity in AES Administration - Jeff Jacobsen</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to form and form an ad hoc group to pursue this issue • Motion to establish ad hoc committee – Shirley/Steve, motion approved • ED’s will work to recommend committee members, Jeff will take lead
3:40	<u>13.0</u>	<p>POW/AR Review Panel Feedback - Cameron Faustman</p> <p><u>Powerpoint presentation</u></p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCOP agreed with the review team’s recommendations on POW/AR changes • Since research reporting is already set up in REEport, ESCOP would like to see the AES’s transition to the new system ASAP and not have to wait until Extension reporting is available in REEport • Cameron will draft response letter to NIFA on POW recommendations from ESCOP and circulate for comments/edits. Final letter will be sent to Bart Hewitt

4:10	<u>14.0</u>	<p>National IPM Dialogue - Steve Slack, Shirley Hymon-Parker</p> <p>Discussion of Pesticide Safety Education Program National Stakeholder Team's document, "The Critical Need for IPM Support of Pesticide Safety Education"</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabled until the ESS meeting
4:40	15.0	<p>2016 ESS-CES Joint Fall Meeting Tentative Schedule - Brett Hess, Mike Harrington</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 19-22, 2016, Jackson Lake Lodge, Jackson Hole, WY
4:50	16.0	<p>2015 Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop Topics - Shirley Hymon-Parker, Carolyn Brooks</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sightlines may present infrastructure report
Added Item	17.0	<p>Impact Database Report - Bill Brown and Eric Young</p> <p>In meeting report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESCOP Chair received an email from Dave King at Washington State Univ requesting funding of \$20,000 for open access to the recently completed impact training modules. After discussion, it was decided to confirm our decision in March to not fund the training modules in this manner, but support the user fee payment model. • A proposal was received from Faith Peppers at University of Georgia requesting \$5,000 per year to cover expenses of bringing together once a year four writers and a designer to develop compiled impact statements on a particular subject from each of the six Impact Database focus areas using information in the database. After discussion, it was decided not to support this effort without more justification on value of the product.
5:00		Adjourn

Written Briefs: ECOP Report to ESCOP

**COPS Talking Points Dr. Holland
(July 17, 2015)**

2 CFR 200 – New Terms and Conditions: Uniform Administrative Requirements Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

Contact Ms. Brenda Barnett

- NIFA has been participating in a multi-agency (e.g., NIFA, NSF, NIH, and some other federal agencies) in an “overlay” effort (to develop a mutually-agreed upon new terms and conditions which incorporates the uniform guidance). This multi-agency effort is still ongoing.
- NIFA developed NIFA-specific award terms (i.e., NIFA Grant and Cooperative Agreement GTC).
 - This document underwent legal review and NIFA is preparing to release the award terms via a memo to NIFA awardees.
 - These terms will replace award terms referenced in awards dating back to Dec 26, 2014. The terms will be viewed as accepted by awardees unless the awardee contacts NIFA.
 - NIFA will continue utilizing these terms until the multi-agency overlay effort is complete.

Centers of Excellence (COE):

- For COE, NIFA will schedule webinars (likely in August, 2015) but dates have not been set yet. The dates of the COE webinars will be announced on the NIFA website. (NIFA would like to make sure most of the AFRI panels are completed prior to asking for stakeholder feedback on the COE.)

Commodity Boards:

- NIFA will publish the Federal Register Notice the week of July 20, 2015. Two webinars are scheduled: Thursday August 6th at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- AFRI Only
- Information directed to National Commodity Boards, State Commodity Boards, and NIFA Partners
- Also look for information from the Agriculture Marketing Service

As requested, NIFA is releasing Capacity RFAs in late June to mid-July with due dates August to September 2015. FY 16 Capacity Awards proposed publishing and due dates: As of 7/20, 9 of the 11 FY16 Capacity RFAs have been published!

The 2 remaining RFAs are currently pending Appendix A's: 1) McInnitre Stennis (MS) (addressing CSU calculations) and 2) Animal Health (pending appropriations). Animal Health is on hold until further notice.

- FY 16 Capacity Awards published the week of 7/15:
 - 1) 1890 Extension RFA
 - 2) 1890 Research RFA
 - 3) Smith Lever and University of the District of Columbia consolidated RFA
 - 4) Special Needs RFA
 - 5) FERS Retirement Contributions RFA
 - 6) Hatch Regular RFA
 - 7) Hatch Multi State RFA

- 8) McIntire Stennis RFA
- 9) Renewable Resources Extension Act RFA
- 10) Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program RFA
- 11) Animal Health Disease and Research RFA (tentative)
- o 2 RFAs will now be combined, the 1) District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Program RFA and the 2) Smith Lever Regular RFA
- o Animal Health Disease and Research RFA may be held until we receive a budget for the RFA
- o The CSRS Retirement Contributions Program RFA published its last RFA in 2015. The program is now phased out. No future CSRS RFAs will be published in FY 2016

Grantor:

- Accenture’s NIFA Assessment is complete.
- NIFA taking lead on IT subcommittee.
- OCFO taking lead, as a core solution, on Grants.gov integration and build of the Application Review Process (ARP). NIFA will be heavily engaged.
- OCFO and FAS taking lead on interagency agreement (reimbursable agreements) functionality in Grantor. NIFA is engaged.

Late Application Policy:

- A one-page summary document was created containing the policy, what constitutes a late application, how an application is determined to be late, examples of extenuating circumstances, what to do if your application is late due to an extenuating circumstance, and how to appeal a decision not to accept a late application based on an extenuating circumstance.
- The one-pager is referenced under the Apply for a Grant section of the following web page (<http://nifa.usda.gov/apply-grant>).
- A reference to the one-page also was included in Part IV, section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

NIFA Financial Assistance Policy Guide (“Policy Guide”):

- The Policy Guide is located on NIFA web site at <http://nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide>.
- Feedback on the Policy Guide was recently solicited at the NERAOC 2015 conference.
- The Policy Guide is a “living” document and NIFA is still accepting public comments at Policyguide@nifa.usda.gov.
- Currently under revision for the 2014 Farm Bill, Uniform Guidance (2 CFR part 200), late application guidance, address comments, review the administrative manuals to ascertain all necessary info is contained in the guide, etc.
- The release of the updated version is anticipated for October 2015.

Grants Modernization

- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) strategic plan initiatives include modernizing our grants systems and processes. This effort will:
 - o improve management and data reporting,
 - o strengthen financial oversight,
 - o provide transparency and simplify processes,
 - o provide self-service capabilities for applicants/grantees, and,
 - o promote a paperless environment.

- In the long-term, grants modernization will reduce costs and staff time required to process, manage, and close-out grants. It will also help applicants and grantees better understand the processes and give them additional options and features, improving their overall experience.
- Decrease the time it takes to process a grant application from receipt to award. NIFA expects to be able to get funding into the hands of grant recipients faster as a result.
- NIFA has decided to partner with the USDA and use their grants management system, USDA Grants.
- USDA Grants provides a robust financial management component.
- USDA Grants is the de facto grant management system for USDA. NRCS, FAS, FNS, AMS, RD, NIFA and Forest Service will use USDA Grants for grant making.
- USDA Grants is currently testing self-service capabilities for use by applicants. Several land-grant universities are part of the testing team.
- USDA Grants will be fully integrated with Grants.gov and will support the NIFA research and related forms.
- NIFA has just completed an eight month assessment phase of USDA Grants's current capabilities and NIFA's needs. Implementation planning is underway. An implementation schedule will be developed over the summer that will outline when each process will be brought on-line for use by staff and partners. Initial implementation will begin with Capacity Grants commencing in FY 2017.
- NIFA will continue to partner with NIH where appropriate such as on the use of Star Metrics and Federal RePorter

Continuous Process Improvement

NIFA has established an agency-wide Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) Program as a part of the Secretary's Lean Six Sigma (LSS) initiative for improving business processes. NIFA's CPI governance board and the Secretary have approved the following CPI projects: Streamline RFA Development Timeline, Grant Authorization (Payment) Process, Streamline Program Grant Awarding process, Grant Life Cycle Analysis, and Indirect Cost Approval Process.

Plan of Work Panel

A Plan of Work Panel of Experts representing Extension and Research in each of the five regions convened June 16-18 to discuss the path forward for the Plan of Work.

Some agreed upon preliminary recommendations were made and each Land-Grant representative is taking back them to their respective regions for further vetting.

A final draft set of recommendations will be discussed by members of the panel in a virtual meeting by the end of July.

Another virtual meeting will be held in August to finalize the recommendations.

The final recommendation report will be completed and shared with NIFA by September 1.

NIFA will provide a response to each of the recommendations within 60 days of receiving the final recommendations; within its response, NIFA will identify a general timeline for carrying out the recommendations.

THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT AND THAT THE VARIOS ENTITIES ARE REPRESENTED ON THE PANEL. IF THERE ARE CONCERNS PLEASE WORK THROUGH YOUR REP ON THE PANEL.

BART HEWITT AT NIFA CAN ALSO REPOSND TO COMMENTS OR CONCERNS.

Agenda Item: Policy Board of Directors Report

Presenter: Steve Slack

The Policy Board of Directors met in Napa, CA on March 31. Below are notes from that meeting.

1. By-laws Change
 - Do another vote to change the Board on Agricultural Assembly bylaws on number of votes needed to change by laws to “Approval by 2/3 of those voting, provided > 50% of eligible voters vote”
 - Motion to move ahead with another vote – Steve/Bob – Passed
 - Ballot could go out by mid-April
 - Calls will target Administrative Heads Section and ED’s can help by reminding directors
2. Board on Agricultural Assembly Leadership Succession
 - Barbara Allen-Diaz is retiring June 30
 - Jay Akridge will become chair after this meeting with his term ending Nov 2017
 - Administrative Heads Section will choose a new chair-elect
3. Budget and Advocacy Committee Report
 - Budget priorities approved by Policy Board of Directors are being pushed now by Cornerstone and was used by CARET on the Hill visits
 - Alan Grant will become Budget and Advocacy Committee chair July 1 and Orlando McMeans will become Chair-elect and Advocacy Chair
 - ECOP has concerns about the new pest management funds being in Integrated Accounts and subject to overhead
 - \$2-3 Million increase would be needed to make up difference
 - This makes future consolidation efforts more difficult and of questionable value
 - Concerned that maybe smaller budget line changes do not get as much attention as larger budget lines although critical to those impacted
 - PBD needs to work on addressing issues like budget line consolidation with loss of funds and making capacity funds competitive
 - Steve Slack and Tim Cross will work with Budget and Advocacy Committee chair to have these discussions
 - Unified message effort is continuing with a focus group on April 6 facilitated by the Riley Foundation, LGU’s are well represented.
4. FSLI/LEAD-21
 - LEAD-21 has paid back APLU loan completely
 - LEAD-21 applicants are over 90 per year now, so they have to decide how to handle this much demand
 - LEAD-21 contract with University of Georgia ends January 1, 2016, so an RFP will issued for a new management contract. UGA may not put in a bid.
 - FSLI is currently recruiting and close to filling their next class
 - FSLI has raised tuition to meet costs and are maintaining a stable budget
5. Futuring Initiative
 - Policy Board of Directors approved funding for this and task force has been working to determine how best to proceed
 - Discussions that Ian Maw had with Peter McPherson lead to decision that APLU will launch a futuring effort at the President’s level focused on food in the broad sense
 - Randy Woodson will lead this effort
 - This will be a joint CEFRR and Presidents’ initiative with the BAA heavily involved

- Looking for external funding for effort, will talk with Kellogg Foundation soon
 - This effort will likely replace the Board on Agricultural Assembly effort led by Mike Hoffmann
6. Anti-microbial Taskforce Report
- Lonnie King, Ohio State University, is chair, first face to face meeting was March 6-7
 - Taskforce is making recommendations to various federal agencies on managing microbial resistance related to antibiotic use in animal agriculture
 - Work products also include research needs and knowledge gaps, curriculum adjustments in undergrad and graduate courses, and public education
7. Healthy Food Systems /Heathy People Report
- Steering Committee will meet face to face on May 6
 - Request was sent out for research experts in ag systems, food, and nutrition to determine research needs and knowledge gaps
 - Numerous nominations were received and a survey will be done with them on research needs and knowledge gaps
 - The May 6 meeting will focus on survey results and how to move forward
 - The BAA needs to develop a standard process for initiating, developing, delivering, and advocating for “big ask” initiatives
8. Communication Marketing Committee Report
- Scott Reed will be chair until November
 - Water security will be one of the focuses
 - Continuing to make efforts to document the return on investment of this effort
 - kglobal has completed message testing that was approved last year
 - kglobal would like to repeat testing on a smaller scale annually. Proposal will be coming from kglobal soon for this activity
9. CLP Request to Honor Senator Morrill
- Roger Sharpe, Justin Morrill expert, is requesting support from Board of Agriculture Assembly to ask Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Justin Morrill
 - CGA and CLP chair and Eddie will be contact point
 - Support for this honor was approved by PBD
10. Infrastructure Survey
- Sightlines have held two webinars and one more will be done
 - Almost every institution is participating and have paid assessments
 - Surveys are currently out for completion
11. APLU Annual Meeting
- November 15 -17, 2015, Indianapolis
 - Board on Agricultural Assembly session Monday morning
 - Ideas for plenary session
 - Unified message
 - Board on Agricultural Assembly initiatives status
 - APLU futuring
 - GMO issue, Land Grant Universities stand
 - BAA initiatives was chosen as the topic
12. 2015 Election for Policy Board of Directors
- Academic Programs Section, Administrative Heads Section, Cooperative Extension Service, 1890, Non-Land Grant Universities need to elect a new representative

Item

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief

Presenters: Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington

For information only

The committee holds regular conference calls on the last Tuesday of each month. These calls have generally been well attended. The current B&L Committee membership is shown below.

<p>Chair: Gary Thompson (NERA)</p> <p>Delegates: Barry Bequette (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Ernie Minton NCRA Tim Phipps (NERA) John Wraith (NERA) Bill Brown (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Jim Moyer (WAAESD) Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>Liaisons</p> <p>Rick Klemme (ECOP Liaison) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Emir Albores (NIFA) Vacant (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Connie Pelton Kays (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone) Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p>
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Following the March 3 meeting in Washington DC, a subcommittee led by Saied Mostaghimi was charged with creating, for consideration, a Strategic Marketing Campaign document that would be used to guide future initiative such as the Water Security initiative. The group held several calls, one including Darren Katz from kglobal. Draft documents were exchanged via email arriving at a final version that was presented the full B&L Committee for approval. This draft has also been shared with the ECOP B&L Committee.

A document outlining the development and approval of initiatives that are outside of the seven priority lines was requested by the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee. A draft document has been shared with both Budget and Legislative committees. We are waiting on a response from ECOP. This and the above mentioned document will be melded together.

Joint discussions with the ECOP B&L Committee have focused on joint efforts provide integrated approaches and leadership for future budget efforts such as the Water Security Initiative. The ESCOP Committee has requested all AES Directors submit water research impacts using the to the National Impact Database with an RSVP of July 10 (see below)

All documents related the federal budget and the Farm Bill are located at the land-grant.org website.

Directors:

As you know the ESCOP, ECOP, the BAA, and the Policy Board of Directors all have endorsed the National Initiative on the Improvement of U.S. Water Security. As part of moving forward with advocacy for this Initiative ESCOP and ECOP are collecting important impact stories that address the five Keystones of National Significance and brief listing of example subtopics below:

- Food and Agricultural Production
 - Crop and Animal Production
 - Conservation
 - Groundwater
 - Irrigation
 - Reuse
- Environment and Ecosystems Services
 - Endangered species
 - Groundwater recharge
 - In stream flows
 - Nutrients
 - Pesticides
- Energy Production
 - Biofuel production
 - Fracking
 - Dams and hydropower
- Human Health and Safety
 - Bacteria
 - Drinking water
 - Food Safety
 - Personal Care
 - Pharmaceuticals
- Community Vitality
 - Community planning
 - Economic/business planning
 - Land use changes
 - Extreme events

Our Extension colleagues and ACE writers are mining the National Impact Database for water impact stories. Unfortunately, there are few impacts on water research currently in the database. Accordingly we ask your kind assistance in providing no more than one impact story for each of the Keystone areas or any/all subtopics. Please work with your communications staff and others as needed to identify appropriate research impacts. Stories can be submitted to the [National Impact Database](#), by providing a link or emailing the story to Michael.Harrington@colostate.edu.

The B&L Committee will work with communications experts to select responses and assimilate combined impact stories. Your responses would appreciated by July 10.

Agenda Brief: Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)

Date: July 21, 2015

Presenter: Richard Rhodes/Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

1. Committee Membership:

Voting Members:			
Chair (CES)	Scott	Reed	West
Incoming Chair (ESS)	Richard	Rhodes	Northeast
Past Chair (AHS)	Nancy	Cox	South
AHS Representative	Wendy	Wintersteen	North Central
CES Representative	Tony	Windham	South
ESS Representative	Daniel	Scholl	North Central
AHS Chair	Walter	Hill	1890
ECOP Chair	Delbert	Foster	1890
ESCOP Chair	Bob	Shulstad	South
ACOP Representative	Linda	Martin	North Central
ACE Representative	Faith	Peppers	South
CARET Representative	Connie	Pelton Kays	North Central
APLU CGA Representative	Dustin	Bryant	South
Nat'l Impacts Database Representative	Sarah	Lupis	West
Non-Voting Members:			
kglobal Liaison	Darren	Katz	
Cornerstone Liaison	Hunt	Shipman	
AHS ED/Admin. Rep	Ian	Maw	
ECOP ED/Admin. Rep	Jane	Schuchardt	
ESCOP ED/Admin. Rep	Daniel	Rossi	

2. Meetings – The CMC met on March 2, 2015. Its next quarterly conference call is scheduled for July 23, 2015.

3. Updates:

- The CMC works closely with kglobal and Cornerstone on a targeted educational effort to increase awareness and support for basic and applied research and transformational education provided by Land Grant Universities through Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension.
- The new CMC Operational Guidelines established a Plan of Work Development Committee. The charge to the Committee is to prepare an annual CMP plan of work including goals, theme and strategies for the CMP. It is chaired by CMC incoming chair, Rick Rhodes. Its membership includes: Wendy Wintersteen, Tony Windham and Daniel Scholl.
- The POW Development Committee has initiated work on the 2016 plan. It will focus on:
 - Goal setting
 - Communications theme selection and testing
 - Roles and responsibilities of kglobal, Cornerstone and Land Grant Administrators
 - Monitoring and assessment of effort
 - Opportunities for extending the effort
- The goal is to have a plan in place by late fall that can then be used in the development of contracts for kglobal and Cornerstone Government Affairs for oversight of the work as it relates to the CMP.
- The message testing project funded by the PBD was completed in January and is guiding the marketing efforts of kglobal.

Action Requested: For information only.

Item 7.0: Science and Technology Committee Agenda Brief

Presenter: John Russin/Jeff Jacobsen

Action requested: None, for information only.

1. NAS AFRI Review

The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee reviewed the NRC Report on *Spurring Innovation in Food and Agriculture: A Review of the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)*. In addition, the AFRI webinar slides and the NIFA response to the NRC Report served as additional sources of perspectives and information. In general, S&T supports the recommendations and offers additional emphasis in several key areas as a mechanism to further enhance and improve the impact of mission-oriented agricultural and natural resources research. Additional details of our deliberations can be found at: <http://escop.ncsu.edu/ViewCommittees.cfm?comid=5>

The overview of key elements from the S&T discussions are:

- The NRC Review provided NIFA and the system with an initial opportunity to review, adjust and monitor AFRI programs across the initial years following its formation and implementation. We support the review process and encourage on-going engagement with NIFA to improve its programs through program and process changes. S&T encourages continued monitoring of NIFA implementation strategies and future reviews as the performance period of many initiatives is fully reached.
SUMMARY: S&T will monitor advancements over time. The ESCOP Chair and the research EDs could routinely discuss with NIFA leadership.
- All support a unified voice to increase the amount of total funding for AFRI. Many of the recommendations and the legislative intent of programs would then have the opportunity to reach their full potential in enhancing research, Extension and academic programs in agriculture and natural resources.
SUMMARY: We encourage the continued efforts to communicate and align the various COPS initiatives through their respective B&L committees, BAC and PBD. These are in conjunction with the Communication and Marketing as well as advocacy efforts through Cornerstone Government Affairs.
- We support the recommendations regarding simplification of the AFRI structure through prioritization of inquiry-driven and mission-driven approaches across priority areas, reducing or eliminating the Challenge Area approaches, careful and comprehensive review of CAP grants following their completion, support the reduction in CAP grant awards, improved consistency in program priorities across time and careful evaluation of grant application metrics.
SUMMARY: NIFA should be continually encouraged to review and implement the ESS Science Roadmap in their program priorities within and across federal agencies.
- S&T strongly encourages NIFA to provide leadership with programs that leverage initiatives and funding across federal agencies relevant to AFRI. On-going discussion with ESS, NIFA leadership and NPLs should occur on a routine basis. We also strongly support the creation of an AFRI Scientific Advisory Board or other appropriate mechanism to secure additional input to design relevant and high impact AFRI programs.

ACTION: ESS (and the other sections) should create a mechanism to integrate multiple agency initiatives. Alternatively, this could be added as a charge to the two B&L committees? S&T strongly supports the creation of a scientific advisory group with key faculty leaders. Note: Federal rules may prohibit this explicitly as an advisory group as it is not authorized, yet other mechanisms could be used. ESS leadership should have on-going discussion on this opportunity.

2. 2015 National Multistate Research Award

The Science and Technology committee received four nominations for the National Multistate Research Award this year:

- NC140: Improving Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Tree-Fruit Production Through Changes in Rootstock Use
- NE1201: Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals
- S1049: Integrated Management of Pecan Arthropod Pests in the Southern U.S.
- W3122: Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Natural, Bioactive Dietary Chemicals on Human Health and Food Safety

The Science and Technology Committee selected **NC140** as this year's winner and this recommendation was approved by majority vote of the ESCOP Executive Committee. We received back 8 out of 10 possible votes; 7 were for approval, 1 for disapproval.

The 2016 National Multistate Research Award call for nominations document (below) was updated to reflect current practices and will be distributed nationally this fall, following the 2015 ESS/AES/ARD meeting and Workshop.

3. National Multistate Research Award – 2016 Call for Nominations

2016 Experiment Station Section Award for Excellence in Multistate Research (updated June 2015)

Purpose

The fundamental mandate of the Multistate Research authority allows State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) to *interdependently* collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority, but for which no one state could address singularly. This is a very high standard for any research project, and has become a hallmark of the Multistate Research Program's management objectives.

The Multistate Research authority allows other non-SAES partners to join in these project-based collaborations. Thus, many multistate projects include extension specialists as members as well as Agricultural Research Service or Forest Service research scientists. In addition, many projects have

private sector participants. Moreover, the majority of multistate projects have participants from more than a single region, with many having representation from all regions such that they are national in scope.

To many, the Multistate Research Program is one of the "best kept secrets" of the Land-grant University System.

The purpose of this Experiment Station Section Excellence in Multistate Research Award program is to annually recognize those scientists who are conducting exemplary multistate activities and enhance the visibility of the multistate program. A recipient Multistate Project will be selected from the pool of nominees submitted by the five regional research associations (NCRA, NERA, SAAESD, WAAESD, and ARD), and deemed by the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee to exhibit sustained, meritorious and exceptional multistate activities. The ESCOP Executive Committee will provide final approval.

Award and Presentation

The national winning project will be recognized by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) Chair and USDA/NIFA Administrator during the Awards Program held at the APLU Annual Meeting. Each of the regional award winning projects will also be included in the awards brochure by project number and title, technical committee chair, administrative advisor and participating institutions. This will be created by the Impact Writer and submitted to APLU. The title of the national winning project will be added to a plaque located at the USDA Waterfront Centre.

For the past several years, the Experiment Station Directors have approved a monetary recognition of \$15,000 of Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF) for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner. Up to \$5,000 has been available to cover travel for two members of the recipient project (the Administrative Advisor and Chair or their designees), to attend the awards ceremony at the APLU annual conference. The remaining \$10,000, and any unused travel funds, have been available to support activities which enhance and contribute to the research and/or outreach objectives of that multistate project, consistent with the appropriate use of Hatch MRF. Use of these funds is a project committee decision made in conjunction with its Administrative Advisor.

Eligibility

Any current Multistate Project listed in the NIMSS ([insert new NIMSS URL](#)) is eligible for consideration for an Excellence in Multistate Research Award.

Basis for Nomination

Each of the five regional research associations may nominate one Multistate Project chosen from the entire national portfolio of active projects. Nominations shall be made to the Chair of the respective regional Multistate Review Committee (MRC) via the regional Executive Director's office. The documentation for this type of nomination should be sufficient to allow the review committee members to evaluate the Project according to the criteria listed below.

Criteria and Evaluation

Regional selection of multistate teams for an Award for Excellence will be based on panel evaluations of nominations that demonstrate: high standards of scientific quality; research relevance to a regional priority; multistate collaboration on the problem's solution; and professional leadership in the conduct of the project. All nominated projects shall be evaluated using the same criteria including, in descending order of importance, the Project's: accomplishments indicated by outputs, outcomes and impacts; added-value and synergistic advantages from the Project's interdependency; degree of institutional participation (SAES and others); extent of multi-disciplinary activity; amount of integrated activities (multi-functional); and evidence of additional leveraged funding to further the Project goals.

Selection Process

The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee will serve as the review panel and will select from among the regional nominees a national winner in time for public announcement and award presentation at the APLU Annual Meeting each year. All nominated projects shall be evaluated using the same criteria, as listed above.

Timeline

- October – Announcement sent to Directors, Administrative Advisors and NIMSS participants by ESCOP Chair
- February 28 – Nominations due at Offices of the Executive Directors
- March – Nominations reviewed by regional multistate research review or multistate research collaboration committees and recommendations submitted to regional associations
- March/April – Regional associations approve regional nominations at Spring meetings
- May - Regional associations review, edit and finalize their nomination prior to the final submission
- May 30 – Associations submit final regional nominations to ESCOP Science and Technology Committee
- June – ESCOP Science and Technology Committee reviews regional nominations and submits recommendation for national winner to ESCOP Executive Committee
- June/July – ESCOP Executive Committee selects national winner
- July – National winner submitted to APLU
- September – National winner announced at ESS meeting
- November – Award made at APLU meeting

Nomination Format

A nomination should be a very concise statement. It should include:

Nominating Region: _____

Nominator: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project or Committee Number and Title: _____

Technical Committee Chair: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Administrative Advisor: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Summary of Significant Accomplishment(s) (noting the following):

- The issue, problem or situation addressed by the project or committee;
- The project or committee's objectives;
- The outcome(s) of the research;
- The impacts of the project or activity (actual or anticipated);
- The extent of links to extension that have been formed; and
- Any additional and relevant partnerships, associations or collaborations that deserve mention.

List of Participating Institutions: Add as an appendix

Nominations will be **no more than 3 single spaced pages** (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) plus a 1 page Appendix listing Participating Institutions and units for a total of 4 pages. Regions may utilize other information in selecting their nominee. The final regional nomination should be submitted by email to the Office of the regional Executive Director, by **c.o.b. February 28, 2016**:

Chris Hamilton, North Central <christina.hamilton@wisc.edu>

Rubie Mize, Northeast <rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu>

Donna Pearce, South <donna_pearce@ncsu.edu>

Sarah Lupis, West <sarah.lupis@colostate.edu>

Dr. Carolyn Brooks, ARD-1890's <cbbrooks@umes.edu>

NRSP Review Committee Agenda Brief (Summer Meetings)

Presenters: Bret Hess and Mike Harrington

For information only

NRSP Review Committee Members

<p>Bret Hess, Chair (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fred Servello (NERA)• Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD)• Doug Buhler (NCRA)• Tom Bewick (NIFA)• Clarence Watson (SAAESD)• L. Washington Lyons (Cooperative Extension)	<p>Executive Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eric Young (SAAESD)• Mike Harrington, Executive Vice-Chair (WAAESD) <p>Interim Delegate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Phipps (NERA) <p>Stakeholder Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don Latham (CARET)
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Background:

The NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC) met in Denver, CO on May 28, 2015 for its annual meeting to review proposals, budgets, and guidelines and make recommendations for funding. Recommendations will be presented at the Fall ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and are included in the NRSP portfolio table, below.

NRSP 2015-2016

Requests for Off-the-Top Funding

Project	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Request FY2014	Authorized FY2014	Request FY2015	Approved FY2015	†Request FY2016	NRSP Review Committee Recommendation
NRSP1 ¹	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	300,000	300,000	183,500	
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	see below	
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	see below	
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	see below	
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
NRSP9	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	
NRSP10 ²					398,631	398,631	370,165	
NRSP_TEMP004 (NRSP4)							481,182	Approve proposal/budget; request further explanation for maintenance funding level requested.
NRSP_TEMP006 (NRSP6)							150,000	Approve proposal/budget; require committee to investigate alternative funding models and report back to NRSP-RC at mid-term review. See attached.
NRSP_TEMP7 (NRSP7)							325,000	Reject proposal/budget. See attached.
NRSP_TEMP9 (NRSP9)							225,000	Approve proposal/budget.

†As of 2012, all NRSP budgets are approved for the duration of their current 5-year cycle, assuming an acceptable midterm review.

²Unlike other NRSPs, the NRSP10 MRF budget varies. The 5-year budget is as follows (please reference NIMSS for complete budget details):

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY202019
MRF Funding	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591

Summary of NRSPs

Project Number	Project Name	Project Period	Midterm Review Year
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2014-2017	2016
NRSP-3	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2014-2019	2017
NRSP-4 (NRSP_TEMP4)	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-6 (NRSP_TEMP6)	The U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (<i>Solanum</i>) Germplasm	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-7 (NRSP_TEMP7)	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2013-2018	2016
NRSP-9 (NRSP_TEMP9)	National Animal Nutrition Program	2015-2020	2018
NRSP10	Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research	2014-2019	2017

A Synopsis of the U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (*Solanum*) Germplasm (NRSP6)

Background

The official National Plant Germplasm System project for the US potato genebank is in the National Research Support System designated as NRSP6. The NRSP system is a key facet of the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) System. NRSP6 provides germplasm stocks, germplasm data, R&D techniques and tools and custom materials for germplasm evaluation to the stakeholders such as public and private plant breeders, potato researchers, food suppliers and processors both domestically and internationally. NRSP6 has been a viable national project (since the 1950s) with current top 10 state (unit) users from CA, IA, ID, MD, MI, MN, NY, OR, WA and WI and, in reality, nearly 50 states using the Genebank over short timeframes. The Genebank has over 5,000 items of germplasm for the world's most important non-cereal crop with 45% of these being unique. While the demand for Genebank services is increasing, the overall financial health is declining; thereby creating uncertainties that project evaluators recommend broader discussions to identify options for a more sustainable future. Very preliminary conversations have occurred with the National Potato Council leadership and staff, a NRSP review team member, a state breeder, state potato commission and a regional agricultural research association. Other key leaders, users and stakeholders must be consulted and fully engaged in order to design alternative funding models.

Challenges

- Potato is a prohibited import crop, so current genetic resources in the US genebank are the only ones readily available to users. Continued restrictions on international germplasm collection and distribution limit new discoveries, thereby increasing the importance and use of the current stocks.
- Historical purchasing power erosion and direct cuts in program support across all of the primary funding sources (USDA Ag Research Service, State Ag Experiment Stations, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Industry, grants) and numerous in-kind contributions negatively impact the overall operation of NRSP6. Budget pressures have negatively impacted: personnel, operations, maintenance, facility and equipment. The end result is a tenuous future.
- A key essence of the NRSP system is to leverage expertise and resources across priority projects such that the SAES System and other users (as appropriate) benefit and share the costs. This is a strength as well as a weakness.

Next Steps

- Fortuitously, several key meetings are occurring which will allow for a more inclusive discussion and evaluation of future prospects for action (National Potato Council board and managers summer meeting, NRSP6 and regional ag research association(s)).
- Assuming that these discussions are favorable, key individuals should be identified to serve on a committee to delve deeper into the challenge and identify potential solutions that will lead to a consistent and sustainable funding model that will ensure a quality, financially stable and comprehensive US Potato Genebank well into the future.

A Synopsis of the National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs. (NRSP-7)

Background

The minor use animal drug program has been in existence since 1983 with the following mission/objectives:

1. *Identify* animal drug needs, including naturally occurring biotherapeutics and feed additives, for minor species and minor uses in major species,
2. *Generate* and *disseminate* data for safe and effective therapeutic and biotherapeutic applications, and
3. *Facilitate* FDA/CVM approvals for drugs and biotherapeutics identified as a priority for a minor species or minor use.

NRSP-7 functions to coordinate efforts among animal producers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, FDA/CVM, USDA/ Research, Education, and Extension, universities, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and veterinary medical colleges throughout the country.

The project has received off the top funding since USDA NIFA funds have not been available for the past 6 years. After efforts to join forces with NRSP4 failed in 2014, the NRSP Review Committee (RC) provided a one year approval with a requirement of leveraging off the top funding and also emphasized the importance of engaging stakeholders in support of the project.

A majority of NRSP-RC members felt that the committee did not demonstrate “new” leveraged funds, as required, and, rather, only did a better job of reporting funds that already existed (based on explanations provided in the proposal). In addition, the RC expressed concern that, even with NRSP funding, there would not be sufficient funds to make the program effective or impactful. Finally, there was concern about a lack of stakeholder involvement.

Thus, by a **7-1 vote, the committee approved a recommendation to reject the proposal and budget.** Assuming the recommendation is upheld at the Experiment Station Section Meeting in September, NRSP7 will receive 1-year of funding at the current level to phase out activities.

Challenges

- New Minor Use Animal Drugs have been approved at a rate of 1.6/yr. during the 32 years of the program and 52 applications have been made.
- The cost of the program to provide information to support a single label claim has risen to approximately \$3.1 million. At the current funding level approval of a single drug would require 4-5 years.
- There are currently six active projects.
- There is little or no *organized* stakeholder involvement (i.e., an advisory committee) in identifying priorities.
- The program has struggled to remain in existence.
- The program has been unable to garner broad stakeholder support.

Additional Comments:

The NRSP-RC feels that this is an important effort but it needs to have more structure and guidance. This would commence with a retreat of the administrative advisors and other principals at a central location. This meeting would address organizational shortcomings and develop further approaches to codify the program.

A second meeting would bring together stakeholders including the drug industry, producers, USDA, with the aim of directly identifying problems, address funding needs and creating an Advisory Committee.

Several NRSP-RC members are interested in working with the committee to build support for the program to a level that would truly make it effective and impactful.

Agenda Item 9.0 NIMSS Redesign Update (as of June 16, 2015)

Presenter: Jeff Jacobsen

Overview of the New NIMSS: The new NIMSS system is project based, rather than task based, as the old system is. Depending upon their level of permission (such as regional admin, Station Director, AA, basic user), users will log in and immediately see updates and reminders for projects with which they are associated. From there, users can easily search for a project and access all related functions, such as editing participants, uploading reports and reviews. All text input boxes/editors now allow authors to format their content in a similar way to Microsoft Word. Auto-generated emails will be updated with appropriate links and helpful instructions, if needed. Database security will be greatly improved and our current contract with the Clemson University's Information Technology Team (ITT) will ensure ongoing maintenance and upgrades, at least for the next two years of our contract. Overall, the new system has a modern look and feel, with improved functionality that should make tasks easier and faster for all users. *Attached Branding and Architecture pages below this update illustrate what the new system looks like and how it functions.*

Main NIMSS Functions: Function and styling for Projects, Participants, Reports/Meetings, Impact Statement, and Reviews options are complete. The Directory is the only remaining function that still needs development. The User Interface Team is now going back through and styling intermediate screens, such as the login landing page and others. A few of the review forms may be updated at some point, as request by (we are waiting on updated forms, but believe that the forms can be updated in the system later, as needed). Jeff Jacobsen, Sarah Lupis, and Chris Hamilton are also working on streamlining and re-wording the NIMSS email auto-notifications.

Existing NIMSS Data Migration: Data migration from the old to the new system is underway. Clemson ITT has created a data map and they are working to make sense of the old system and existing data. This will take some time, but Jason Eichelberger is working on creating software to re-run and remodel the data to current, modern standards, which will improve future structure and efficiency. Data will also be indexed to enable and enhance search functions.

BETA Testing: Once styling and data remodeling is complete, Clemson ITT will have a functional system for beta testing. Chris Hamilton and Sarah Lupis will share this testing link with the NIMSS Redesign Team over the summer to make sure things work properly and identify any gaps. Currently, we can look at the testing system and follow the completed menu structure, but without data, it's not possible to explore functions properly. More information on how the ESCOP NIMSS redesign team and Clemson ITT will interface will come in the future. Chris Hamilton/Sarah Lupis will be in touch with the NIMSS Redesign Team as soon as testing can begin, either by email or phone, depending upon scheduling.

Migrating Data to NIFA: Chris Hamilton and Jason Eichelberger had a call with NIFA on 6/9 to introduce Jason to the NIFA REEport IT team. Jason is now in contact and working closely with NIFA to learn what they need from the new system. He's gone through the old system and located the existing interchange file protocol for NIFA and indicates that it will be fairly straightforward to give them the data they need.

Updated Password Protection: The new NIMSS will have updated 256 bit encryptions of passwords, so all users will be prompted to change their existing passwords immediately upon accessing the new system. This will result in a much more secure system.

System Launch: We tentatively expect to shut down the current system in late August to allow all remaining data to be migrated to the new NIMSS system. This could take up to two weeks, but we expect less. After the data is migrated, the new NIMSS will launch and be ready for immediate use. Estimated launch is August/early September. After launch of the new system, the old NIMSS will not be accessible for use.

Contract: The contract with Clemson University's Information Technology Team) was executed April 2015 for the three year period as articulated in NRSP1. APLU (Peter McPherson, President) on behalf of the ESS, and Clemson University (George Askew, Vice President Public Service Agency) were the signatories.

NIMSS

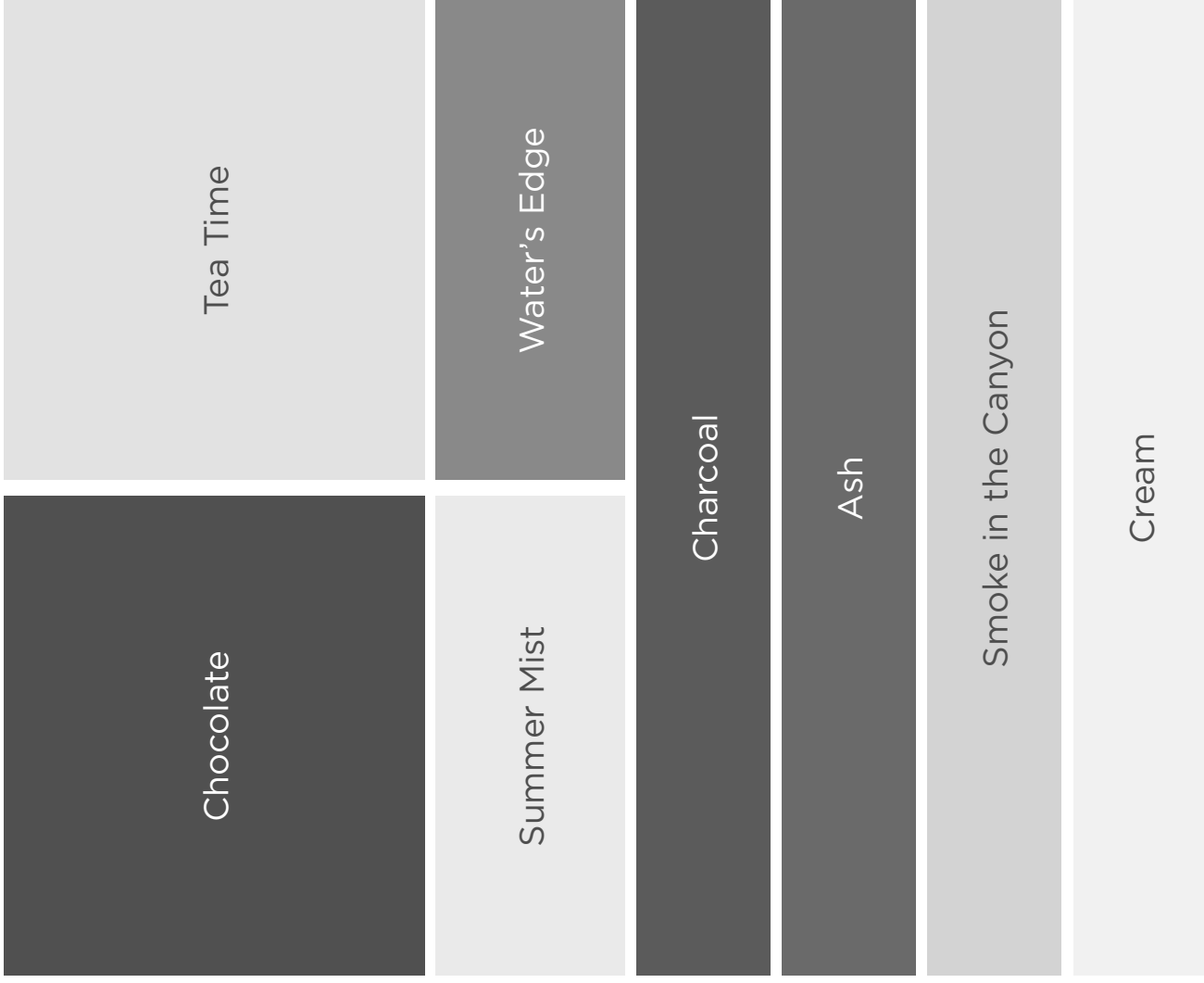
Brand Concept

NIMSS Brand Concept

Colors

During our introductory call, we heard you ask for colors inspired by earth tones. Since the work connects back to nature, we used a warm palette of brown, green and blue.

The application will use color conservatively to maintain a professional appearance.



NIMSS Brand Concept

The Logo

NIMSS is deeply connected to nature and agriculture. We like the way the circle and color brown connects to the idea of the earth.

The tree is intended to remind existing users that they are still on NIMSS, but with an upgraded system.



Other Treatments

Most of the time, the logo won't be presented in the full-color stamp version. We've created these alternatives to show different ways the logo can adapt to changing environments.



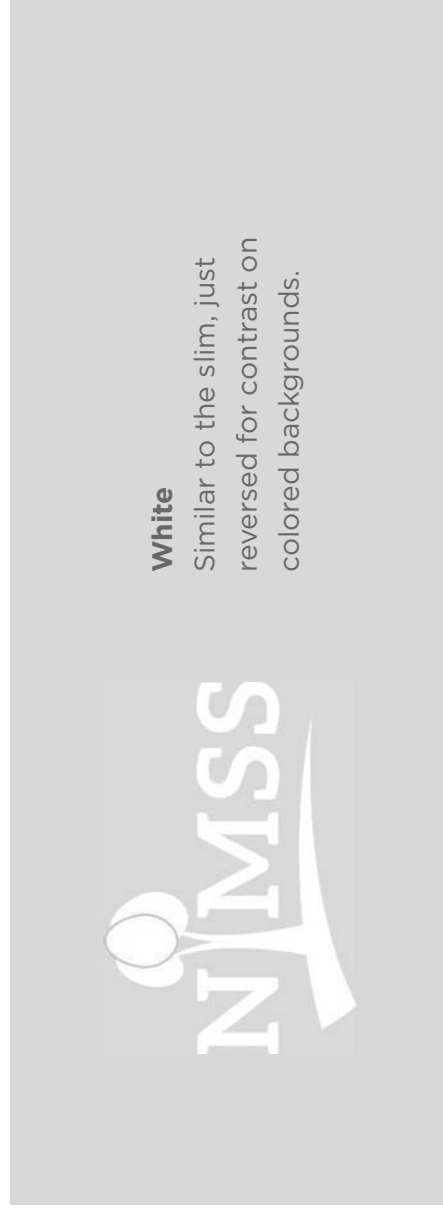
Black

Here, the tree and hill remains, while the sky has been removed to ensure clarity.



Slim

Useful for situations in which vertical space is at a premium. Particularly on the web.



White

Similar to the slim, just reversed for contrast on colored backgrounds.

Iconography

For the new NIMSS, we are introducing a system of icons to visually represent different concepts on the site.

These icons will help differentiate tasks and provide visual cues for navigation.



Project



Participants



Dashboard



Reports



Impact Statement



Reviews



Directory



Proposal
(under consideration)

NIMSS Brand Concept

Typeface

We are designing the new NIMSS in Helvetica Neue. The typeface is the updated cousin of the famous Helvetica.

It is recognized for its flexibility and straightforwardness and used by Apple for the iPhone, as well as many modern apps.

To the right is a type demonstration of the font.

Helvetica Neue

A font of such practicality

The Swiss and Their Fonts

What is it about the Swiss? Or, to be precise: what is it about the Swiss and their sans serif typefaces? Helvetica and Univers both emerged from Switzerland in the same year—1957—and went out to shape the modern world. They would sort out not just transport systems but whole cities, and no typefaces ever looked more sure of themselves or their purpose.

Via [Fast Company](#)



Email Address
Type your email address...

Password
Type your password...

Log In

[Forgot Password?](#)

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NIMSS

Site Architecture

Revising the Structure

The present structure of NIMSS is difficult for a novice user to understand and use. A few key administrators watch over group of the projects for which they are responsible. As a result, we want to flip the way we think about NIMSS.

Our starting point for this redesign was to ask the question: “what are real people here to do.” We haven’t fully answered that question, this is just a taste of our direction.

To us, the central piece of content on the site is the project. Everything flows from there. You can review a project, write an impact statement, schedule a meeting, or assign an advisor. Most users care about

The old system asked two questions: 1. What task do you want to complete?

2. Which project are you working on? We think people will find it easier to understand by choosing a project first, and then completing their task for that project.

* The designs included in this document are meant to be mockups, not locked-in final versions. We expect them to evolve over time as we begin building the system.

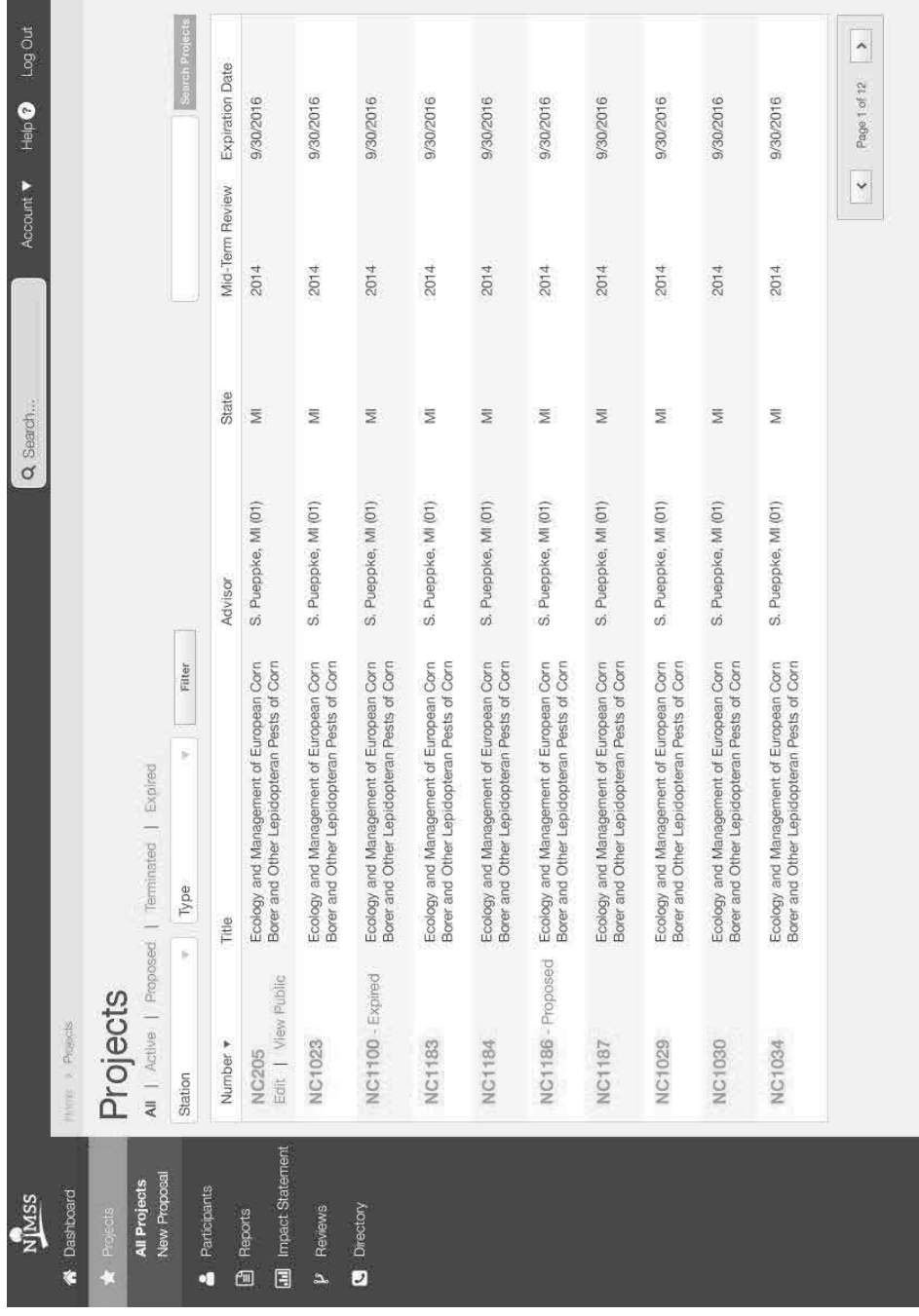
All Projects

The list of Projects will be a key focus for usability. We want users to be able to find their project via:

1. Search
2. Station
3. Status (active, proposed)

From there, clicking on one of the projects will show the screen on the following page.

Additionally, we've added pagination and sorting to keep the list from getting out of hand.



Project Landing Page

Home > Projects

NC205
Ecology and Management of European Corn Borer and Lepidopteran Pests of Corn

i New Participant: John Smith is awaiting approval.

Outline Participants Meetings Reports Impact Statement Reviews

Add Note

- John Smith approved as an administrative advisor 1/6/2014
- Midterm review is due in 6 months. 12/31/2014
- Annual Meeting authorized by Christina Hamilton. 11/5/2014
- Project created. 9/1/2014

Approved, Active: 10/2010 – 9/2015

Advisors: Steven Pueppke, John Smith, Henry Cloud

NIFA Rep: Robert Nowierski

Account ▼ Help ? Log Out

Search...

Dashboard Projects All Projects New Proposal Participants Reports Impact Statement Reviews Directory

Project Landing Page

The project landing page is the “homepage” for each project. From there, you can access all the major tasks as well as get an overall status. We believe that this adjustment will vastly simplify NIMSS.

Navigation

Based on the status of the project, different navigation on this page will be clickable. For example, it's not possible to schedule a meeting for a project still in “Proposal” stage.

This navigation forms the structural backbone of the application. Users will choose based on their particular task.

Alerts

We've added project-specific alerts – shown here as a green bar. For example, when a project's annual meeting needs to be scheduled, users will see a notification reminding them to schedule that meeting. These are dismissable, and include links to complete the task, where possible.

History

This is the large box at the bottom of the page. This area is for administrators to keep track of what has happened on a project. They will be able to automatically see people joining, meetings scheduled and more. Plus, an administrator can add custom status notes to keep track of what's happening.

Right side status bar

At a glance, see the most important information about a project. This will also include a “View Public” link.

One Place to Bookmark

An occasional user can bookmark this page within NIMSS and come back to it only when necessary. This removes their need to even see the dozens of other projects.

Edit Project Outline

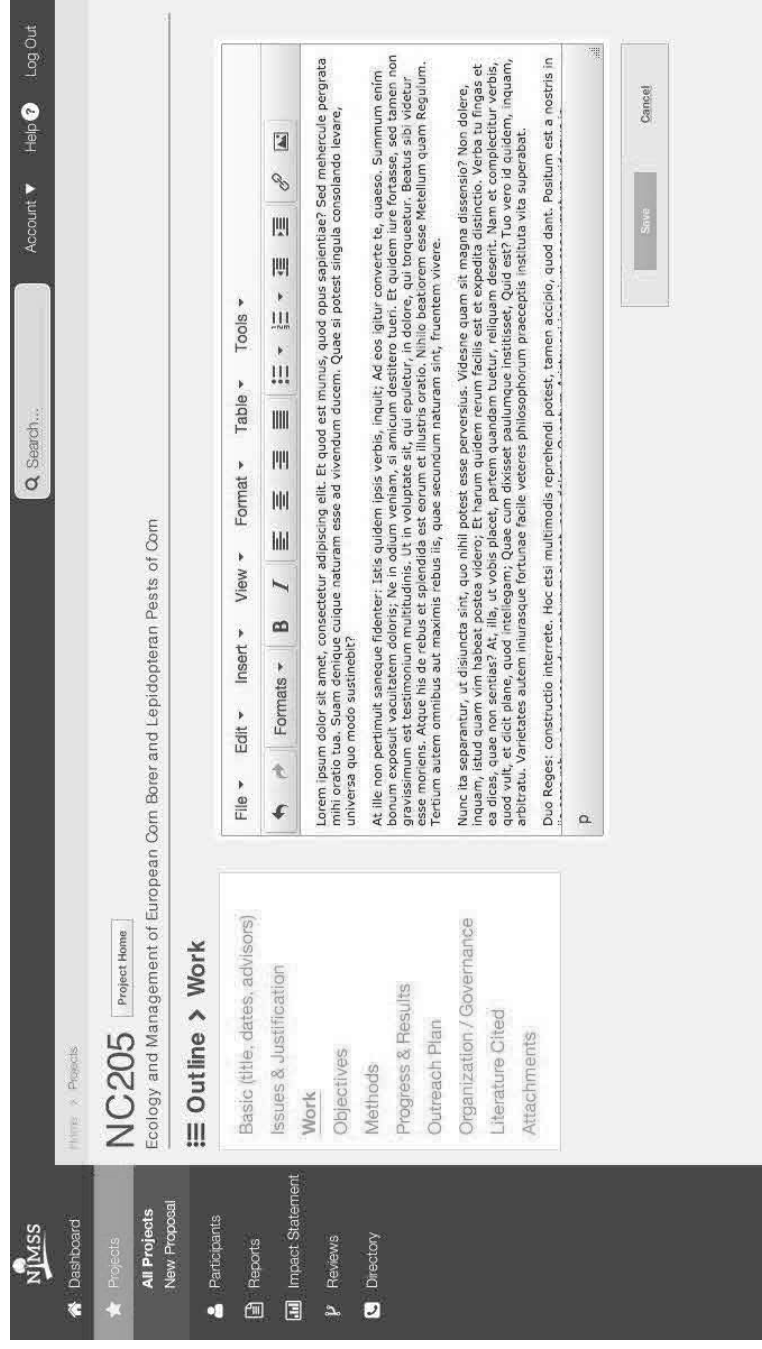
One of the most important functions of NIMSS is to coherently allow people to enter large amounts of data into the outline.

Text Editor

We will be featuring a much-improved text editor to allow authors to format their content in a similar way to Microsoft Word. This will make adding and editing long documents much faster and easier than previous generations of the software.

Optimised Forms

Previously, some forms used small sections to write long amounts of text. The new system will have forms that work for entering large amounts of text.



Structure Part 1

These pages are arranged in a new way from the previous NIMSS system. Page 1.1, for example, is the landing page for each project. Clicking “Outline” would take you to a screen to edit that project.

This structure makes sense to us to allow an average user, who only cares about one or two projects, to stay focused on those without being distracted by the large number of tasks available in the system. They have one place to go, and their tasks are laid out with clarity. For example, pulling up an impact statement will be as simple as searching for a project, clicking “Impact Statement” and there it is.

On the following page, we outline the administrator-level need to edit multiple projects at the same time. These sections will handle all participants together, and allow the admins to make adjustments more quickly.

By combining these two approaches, you get a more robust system – the software can show you the report for NC205 and all reports from the last six months.

1.0 Projects ([shown](#))

1.1 Project ([shown](#))

1.1.1 Outline

- 1.1.1.1 Basic (title, dates, advisors)
 - 1.1.1.2 Issues & Justification
 - 1.1.1.3 Work ([shown](#))
 - 1.1.1.4 Objectives
 - 1.1.1.5 Methods
 - 1.1.1.6 Progress & Results
 - 1.1.1.7 Outreach Plan
 - 1.1.1.8 Organization / Governance
 - 1.1.1.9 Literature Cited
 - 1.1.1.10 Attachments
- #### 1.1.2 Participants
- 1.1.2.1 Invite Participants
 - 1.1.2.2 New Participant (Appendix E)
 - 1.1.2.3 View Committee
- #### 1.1.3 Meetings
- 1.1.3.1 New Meeting
 - 1.1.3.2 Meeting Detail
- #### 1.1.4 Reports
- 1.1.4.1 New Report (SAES-422)
 - 1.1.4.2 Report Detail
- #### 1.1.5 Impact Statement
- 1.1.5.1 New Impact Statement
 - 1.1.5.2 Impact Statement Detail
- #### 1.1.6 Reviews
- 1.1.6.1 New Review
- #### 1.2 New Project

Proposed Structure Part 2

2.0 Participants

- 2.1 New Participant
- 2.2 View Committees

8.0 Help

- 8.1 Glossary
- 8.1 Forms
- 8.3 FAQ

3.0 Meetings

- 3.1 New Meeting

9.0 Search

4.0 Reports

- 4.1 New Report

10.0 Administration

- 10.1 Users
 - 10.1.1 New User
 - 10.1.2 Edit User
- 10.2 Groups
 - 10.2.1 New Group
 - 10.2.2 Edit Group
- 10.3 Permissions

5.0 Impact Statements

- 5.1 New Impact Statement

6.0 Reviews

- 6.1 New Review
- 6.2 Forms
 - 6.2.1-6.2.10 various forms

7.0 Account

- 7.1 My Profile
- 7.2 Station Profile
- 7.3 Regional MRC Profile
- 7.4 NRSP Profile



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Research,
Education, and
Economics

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20250

June 3, 2015

Barbara Allen-Diaz, Chair of the BAA Policy Board
Vice President, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of California System

Dear Barbara:

This is in response to questions and concerns from some of our Land-grant partners regarding the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) implementation of the Crop Protection Pest Management (CPPM) program.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) efforts supported through CPPM and other programs within NIFA serve as a model for the effective integration of research and extension at the regional and national level. We are committed working with our Land-grant partners in the implementation of this mission critical program.

The questions and concerns brought to our attention revolve around three primary issues:

1. Decreased funding levels for the program starting in FY 2013;
2. Differences between appropriated funding level for the program, total funding level available for grant awards, and actual funding awarded to grant recipients; and
3. Concerns over indirect costs.

We have carefully reviewed funding trends for this program prior to and after consolidation in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. We have also carefully analyzed the appropriated funding levels, funding available for grant awards, and total funding level for grant awards since consolidation. In addition we have reviewed the impact of indirect costs on the program. A summary of the funding levels for the CPPM program from FY 2011 to FY 2015 is provided below.

First, in regards to the concern over decreased funding for these programs: please note that the actual decrease in funding levels occurred in FY 2013—the year before Congress created the CPPM program by consolidating five funding lines into a single line—as a result of two rescissions and sequestration that reduced total funding for the five program lines by \$1.37 million. In FY 2014, the first year of the consolidated program, Congress partially restored some of the funding lost in FY 2013, resulting in a \$692,000 increase in funding for the CPPM program. ***Thus, the reduction in funding for***

these programs was not the result of consolidation, as the reduction in funding occurred before the programs were consolidated into a single line.

Second, regarding concerns over the difference between the total amount of funding appropriated and total amount of funding awarded to grant recipients. Table 1 below provides a summary by fiscal year for the following:

1. Total levels of funding appropriated by Congress;
2. Total levels of funding available for grant awards following Congressionally authorized/mandated reductions for direct Federal Administration (NIFA's operating funds), the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, the Biotech Risk Assessment Grant (BRAG) program, and IPM/CPPM peer panel costs); and
3. Actual total funding levels provided to grant recipients.

The data presented in Table 1 below suggest that for each fiscal year the total funding available for grant awards and total level of funding awarded to grant recipients are the same. ***The bottom line is that every dollar available for grant awards for the CPPM programs was awarded.***

Third, regarding concerns over the indirect cost issue. Congress appropriated funding for the CPPM program through the Section 406 integrated authority. NIFA indeed proposed the use of this funding authority to facilitate integration of research, education, and extension activities in the implementation of the CPPM program. While this authority does allow participating institutions to claim indirect costs it does **not require** that they do so. ***In FY 2014 approximately half of the CPPM participating universities claimed indirect costs.***

I hope the above and the attached table answer the questions and concerns expressed by our Land-grant partners. We look forward to continue working with our partners in seeking commensurate funding and implementation of this mission critical program.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
Director

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Pest Management Funding: FYs 2011 - FY 2015

FUNDING (Dollars in Thousands)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Regional Pest Management Centers	2,994	4,000	3,690	0	0
Integrated Pest Management & Biological Control	2,410	2,362	2,185	0	0
Expert IPM Decision Support System	156	153	141	0	0
Pest Management Alternatives	1,431	1,402	1,297	0	0
Pest Management - Extension	9,918	9,918	9,151	0	0
Crop Protection/Pest Management	0	0	0	17,143	17,200
Total	16,909	17,835	16,464	17,143	17,200

FUNDING (Dollars in Thousands)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013*	FY 2014	FY 2015
Appropriation	16,909	17,835	16,464	17,143	17,200
Administration (4% Congressional authorization)	676	713	659	686	688
Program Funds:					
SBIR Program (Congressionally-mandated set-aside)	120	131	126	154	160
BRAG Program (Congressionally-mandated set-aside)	21	21	21	1	2
Peer Panel Costs**	60	16	43	92	29
Total Funding Available (Payments to States)	16,032	16,953	15,616	16,210	16,320
Funds Awarded (Planned for 2015****)	16,032	16,953	15,616	16,210	16,320

The Payments to States amount is the appropriated amount minus the set-asides for Federal Administration, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), and Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grants (BRAG) program, and peer panel costs.

Set-Aside Percentages:

Administration - 4 percent as authorized under Section 1469 of NERETPA, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3315)

BRAG - at least 2 percent of funds spent on biotechnology research as authorized/required under Section 1668 of the FACT Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5921)

- BRAG set-aside is calculated based on 2 percent of prior year

expenditures on biotechnology research under the CP/PM program

- Please note for 2014 and 2015, the Contractor provided numbers that are likely an underestimate and we are analyzing the same.

SBIR - percent as authorized and required under the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-219, as amended) (15 U.S.C. 638)

Not less than 2.5 percent of appropriations in fiscal year 2011

Not less than 2.6 percent of appropriations in fiscal year 2012

Not less than 2.7 percent of appropriations in fiscal year 2013

Not less than 2.8 percent of appropriations in fiscal year 2014

Not less than 2.9 percent of appropriations in fiscal year 2015

* In FY 2013, an initial appropriation of \$17.835 million was reduced by Congressionally mandated cuts of -\$448,000 (Across-the-board rescission of 2.513%), -\$35,000 (Across-the-board rescission of 0.002%) and -\$888,000 (sequestration of about 5%).

**Peer Panel Costs: Peer panel cost vary year to year based on several factors including the number of panels administered, the size of each panel, the costs of panel managers for larger panels, and the travel associated with live versus virtual panels. Table 1 includes the costs for panels that were administered directly by NIFA. The table does not include the costs (approximately \$87,000 per year) for peer panels that were administered by the Regional IPM Centers prior to consolidation. NIFA estimates that total peer panel costs have been reduced by 53% resulting in annual savings of over \$60,000 per year since the consolidation. This estimate does not reflect the significant reduction in staff time at NIFA and the Regional IPM Centers as a result of the decrease in the number of RFAs per year from eight to one as a result of the consolidation.

June 3, 2015

NATIONAL INITIATIVE ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SECURITY

NIFA RESPONSE

NIFA concurs that water security is indeed a significant national challenge and that our Land Grant University partners can play a significant role in protecting and enhancing water security across the nation.

NIFA concurs that water security issues impact several sectors of the national economy including agricultural production, natural resources and the environment, energy and bio-based products, human health and safety, and community vitality.

NIFA agrees that a national competitive initiative that fully integrates research, education, and extension would optimize the impacts of the proposed \$500 million investment. This new initiative must take into account that currently over \$100 million per year is being invested in various aspects of water across the United States through various funding lines (Table 1).

NIFA recommends the development and articulation of a compelling vision and justification, along with major outcomes and impacts anticipated from the new investment initiative, particularly in light of the current investments being made, as noted above, and how the new initiative will result in additional, transformative outcomes.

NIFA recommends the development of a science roadmap for water security to ensure that the proposed investments in research, education and extension are strategically positioned and outcomes based.

NIFA recommends increased investments utilizing national competitive grant programs such as AFRI while minimizing the creation of new authorities or funding lines utilized to implement any expanded water initiative.

NIFA recommends utilizing funding authorities that ensure full integration of research education, and extension functions to maximize impacts of these efforts, as opposed to single function authorities outlined in the proposed initiative. The proposed use of the Smith Lever 3(d) authority for several components of the initiative would restrict funding to extension only activities for these components.

NIFA recommends more effective and streamlined administrative structures to minimize management and coordinating costs.

NIFA recommends that when addressing regional needs for water security, regional approaches be based on biological, climatic, geophysical, or watersheds should rather than the current regional LGU administrative boundaries.

NIFA has conducted a detailed analysis of the agency's current investments in water security across programs and funding authorities (Table 1); unfortunately, Table 1 does not include data for investments under the Extension authority because the Plan of Work reports are not easily searchable for investments in water. It is critically important the Land-grant system work with NIFA to capture the resources invested, outputs, and outcomes resulting from all mission areas.

NIFA looks forwards to working with our Land-grant partners and other stakeholders, including other federal agencies, in expanding the agency's effort in the area of water security.

Table 1. NIFA INVESTMENTS IN WATER RESEARCH, EDUCATION, and EXTENSION
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2013 FUNDS (IN THOUSANDS) BY FUNDING AUTHORITY and FTEs

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

FY	NO. PROJ	HATCH	MC-STN	EVANS-ALLEN	ANIMAL HEALTH	SPECIAL GRANTS	AFRI/NRI GRANTS	SBIR GRANTS	Smith-Lever 3b & 3c and /1890 Extension	OTHER NIFA	SARE ³	TOTAL NIFA
2009	3108	\$14,853	\$3,023	\$3,006	\$76	\$5,931	\$4,858	\$588.00	NA*	\$18,455	\$100	\$104,790
2010	2538	\$14,313	\$2,689	\$4,357	\$56	\$5,991	\$6,818	\$779.00	NA	\$23,300	n/a	\$114,560
2011	2586	\$16,310	\$2,902	\$4,030	\$26	\$851	\$28,748	\$1,176.00	NA	\$12,095	\$210	\$127,550
2012	2658	\$17,074	\$3,067	\$3,881	\$42	\$786	\$17,302	\$1,134.00	NA	\$11,897	\$307	\$118,347
2013	2442	\$16,238	\$3,172	\$3,913	\$34	\$716	\$20,033	\$1,748.00	NA	\$10,384	\$57	\$116,618
Total	13332	\$78,788	\$14,853	\$19,187	\$234	\$14,275	\$77,759	\$5,425.00	NA	\$76,131	\$674	\$581,865

* NA – Not Available; the Plans of Work and POW Annual Reports do not allow quantifying the amount of funding invested for water related efforts under Smith-Lever 3b&3c and 1890 Extension authorities.

Full Time Employment					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SCIENTIST YEARS	929	767	746	771	733
PROFESSIONAL YEARS	1833	1468	1496	1513	1383
TECHNICAL YEARS	558	440	437	459	378
CLERICAL, LABOR AND OTHER YEARS	573	455	466	457	426
TOTAL ALL SUPPORT YEARS	3892	3130	3145	3199	2920

Item 12.0: Diversity in Research Leadership

Presenter: Jeff Jacobsen

Conversations about all facets of diversity and inclusion are increasingly common in public and private sectors across local to global scales. Higher education institutions are no exception with frequent initiatives directed at undergraduate students, and to a lesser extent, graduate students. Faculty activities are also targeted to enhance the diversity in academic departments and programs. These efforts are beginning to assist with the complex and challenging activities to enhance diversity and inclusion. Many individual professionals support practices and actions at a multitude of levels to advance the conversation and improve the environment. Institutions may also have awareness activities, in-depth training and other initiatives designed to improve individual perspectives and organizational development.

The five Executive Directors of the regional research associations have had preliminary discussions and believe that some initial data collection with traditional diversity counts would help inform our status across ESS and the allied organizations. We have collected preliminary information on the administrators within Dean and Department units from our respective regions from the web (with the recognized caveats), yet with the goal of a national snapshot. In addition, we are collecting similar information from the most recent cohorts of the LEAD21 program. FSLI is also working on a diversity summary from their program to add to this effort. We have identified gender and ethnicity across these administrative units to help inform our discussions. As an additional perspective, one does not have to look beyond a routine ESCOP meeting to sense that we could and should do more to mindfully participate in changing the diversity and inclusion activities associated with research leadership.

As an element of the agricultural and natural resources research leadership infrastructure, we pondered several questions:

- Where are we positioned within ESS in terms of leadership diversity and its potential pipeline?,
- Are there actions and programmatic activities that might contribute to advancing this contemporary issue?, and
- What best practices could we adopt in our regional and national associations that would complement other on-going efforts?

To explore, discuss and provide initial recommendations to ESCOP an Ad Hoc Committee could be formed. The potential composition of this group: 5 AES directors, 1-2 college-level diversity and inclusion administrators, 1 AHS, 1 allied leader, 1-2 Executive Directors and 1-2 Assistant Directors. The charge would be to explore the topic of Diversity in Research Leadership, provide ideas and actions for consideration and to supplement institutional, regional and national diversity and inclusion efforts, all in the context of ESS. Preliminary information would be presented during the November ESCOP meeting and final recommendations would be provided to ESCOP in early 2016.

Action Requested: Discussion and Approval for Formation of Ad Hoc Committee

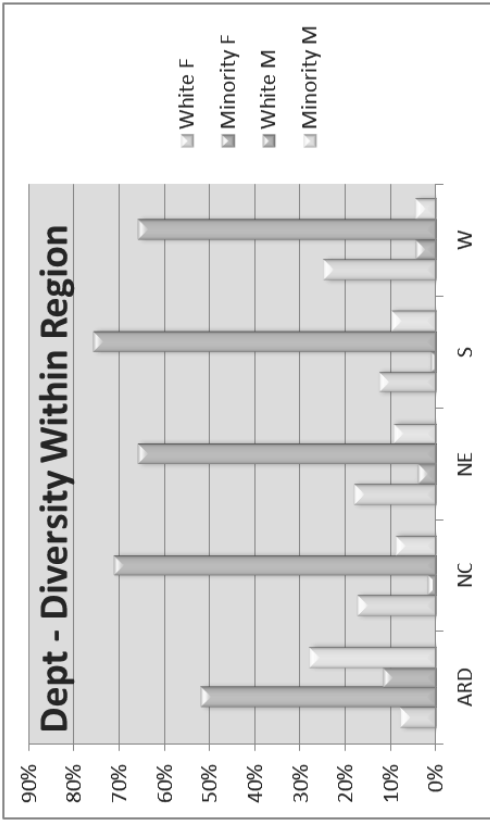
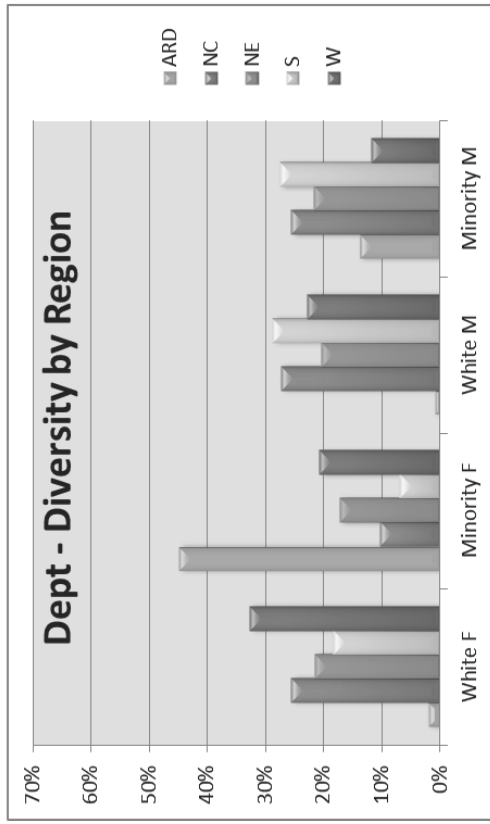
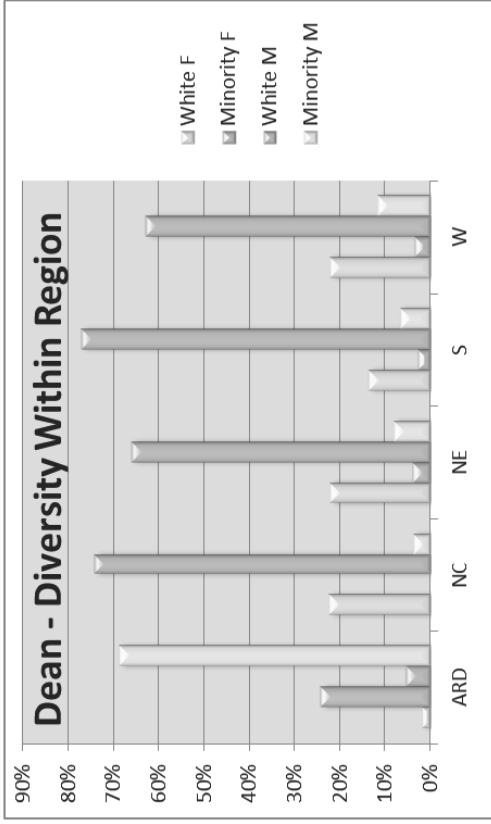
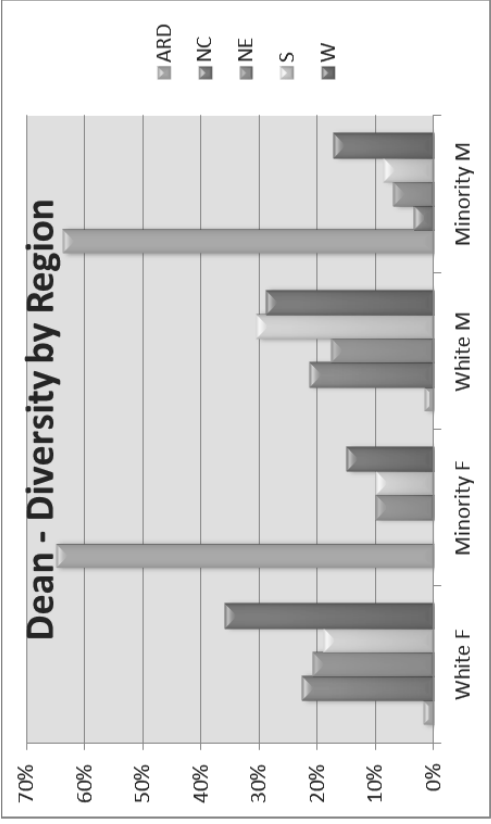
UNIT	Count by Region						National Total	% of Total	Diversity by Region*						Diversity Within Region**					
	ARD	NC	NE	S	W				ARD	NC	NE	S	W	ARD	NC	NE	S	W		
Dean***																				
Total F	14	12	13	12	22	73	23%	19%	16%	18%	16%	30%	26%	22%	26%	16%	26%			
Total M	40	42	37	62	64	245	77%	16%	17%	15%	25%	26%	74%	78%	74%	84%	74%			
White F	1	12	11	10	19	53	17%	2%	23%	21%	19%	36%	2%	22%	22%	14%	22%			
Minority F	13	0	2	2	3	20	6%	65%	0%	10%	10%	15%	24%	0%	4%	3%	3%			
White M	3	40	33	57	54	187	59%	2%	21%	18%	30%	29%	6%	74%	66%	77%	63%			
Minority M	37	2	4	5	10	58	18%	64%	3%	7%	9%	17%	69%	4%	8%	7%	12%			
Total Minorities	50	2	6	7	13	78	25%	64%	3%	8%	9%	17%	93%	4%	12%	9%	15%			
Total White	4	52	44	67	73	240	75%	2%	22%	18%	28%	30%	7%	96%	88%	91%	85%			
TOTAL	54	54	50	74	86	318														
Dept****																				
Total F	13	28	26	20	38	125	23%	10%	22%	21%	16%	30%	52%	20%	23%	14%	29%			
Total M	12	115	89	121	91	428	77%	3%	27%	21%	28%	21%	48%	80%	77%	86%	71%			
White F	2	25	21	18	32	98	18%	2%	26%	21%	18%	33%	8%	17%	18%	13%	25%			
Minority F	13	3	5	2	6	29	5%	45%	10%	17%	7%	21%	52%	2%	4%	1%	5%			
White M	3	102	76	107	85	373	67%	1%	27%	20%	29%	23%	12%	71%	66%	76%	66%			
Minority M	7	13	11	14	6	51	9%	14%	25%	22%	27%	12%	28%	9%	10%	10%	5%			
Total Minorities	20	16	16	16	12	80	14%	25%	20%	20%	20%	15%	80%	11%	14%	11%	9%			
Total White	5	127	97	125	117	471	85%	1%	27%	21%	27%	25%	20%	89%	84%	89%	91%			
TOTAL	25	143	115	141	129	553														
Dean & Dept																				
Total F	27	40	39	32	60	198	23%	14%	20%	20%	16%	30%	34%	20%	24%	15%	28%			
Total M	52	157	126	183	155	673	77%	8%	23%	19%	27%	23%	66%	80%	76%	85%	72%			
White F	3	37	32	28	51	151	17%	2%	25%	21%	19%	34%	4%	19%	19%	13%	24%			
Minority F	26	3	7	4	9	49	6%	53%	6%	14%	8%	18%	33%	2%	4%	2%	4%			
White M	6	142	109	164	139	560	64%	1%	25%	19%	29%	25%	8%	72%	66%	76%	65%			
Minority M	44	15	15	19	16	109	13%	40%	14%	14%	17%	15%	56%	8%	9%	9%	7%			
Total Minorities	70	18	22	23	25	158	18%	44%	11%	14%	15%	16%	89%	9%	13%	11%	12%			
Total White	9	179	141	192	190	711	82%	1%	25%	20%	27%	27%	11%	91%	85%	89%	88%			
GRAND TOTAL	79	197	165	215	215	871														

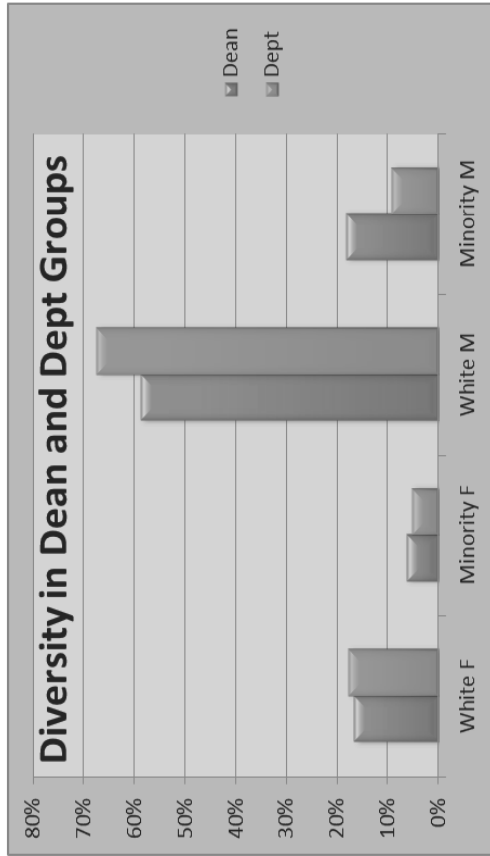
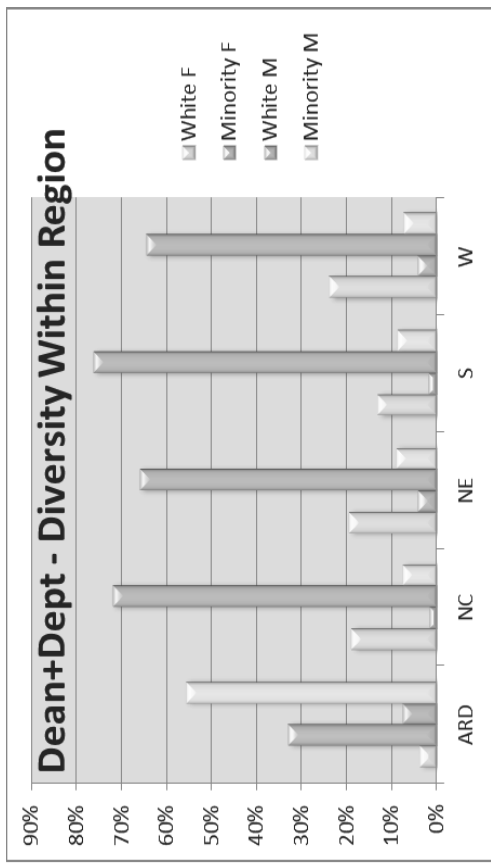
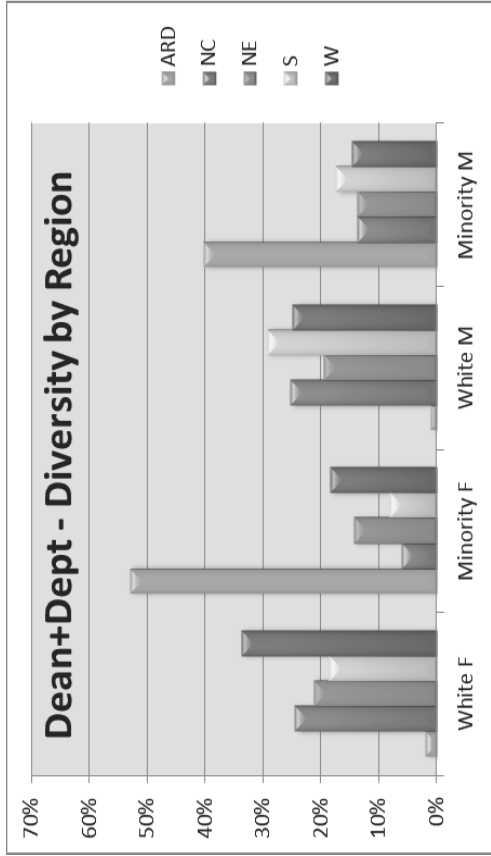
* Within the Diversity by Region (columns 9-13), an individual category (row) will sum to 100% across the five regions in either the Dean, Dept or Dean+Dept groups.

** Within the Diversity Within Region (columns 14-18), combinations of categories (Total F+ Total M; White F+Minority F+White M+Minority M; Total Minorities+Total White) will sum to 100% within each region in either Dean, Dept, Dean+Dept groups.

*** Dean group includes all AES (research) administrators, top AHS, top CES and top AP, regardless of acting/interim status.

**** Department group includes all primary chairs/heads of degree granting units, regardless of acting/interim status.





Report to NERA/NEED

POW Panel of Experts

June 16-18, 2015

Lisa Townson (UNH) and Cameron Faustman (UConn)

Panel membership

- Regional Ag Experiment Station Director representatives
- Regional Extension Director representatives
- 1890 Extension and Ag Experiment Station representatives
- NIFA National Program Leaders

Charge

- Deliver a set of recommendations to Director Sonny Ramaswamy:
 - Expectations of how the system will function be functional in the way it collects and reports key data to stakeholders and NIFA staff
 - Priorities for changes that need to take place
 - Assumption that the slate is clean and we could suggest starting from scratch
 - Begin our work from a clear understanding of what was required by law, what is necessary to know and what is nice to know (goal of removing anything that was simply “nice to know”).

Regional Rep Concerns

- Eliminate redundancy in reporting
- Current systems are “clunky” and not highly functional
- Reduce the amount of time required to submit reports
- Eliminate asking for extraneous data
- Lack of understanding on how data is used currently (black hole syndrome)
- Little if any feedback on what we currently report

NPL Concerns

- Need to streamline review process for state reports
- Feeling that program leaders cannot “disapprove” reports
- Lack of granularity (particularly in Extension data)
- Would like to see clearer connection between Research and Extension
- Need to follow the law

Required vs Need to Know

Required as per AREERA

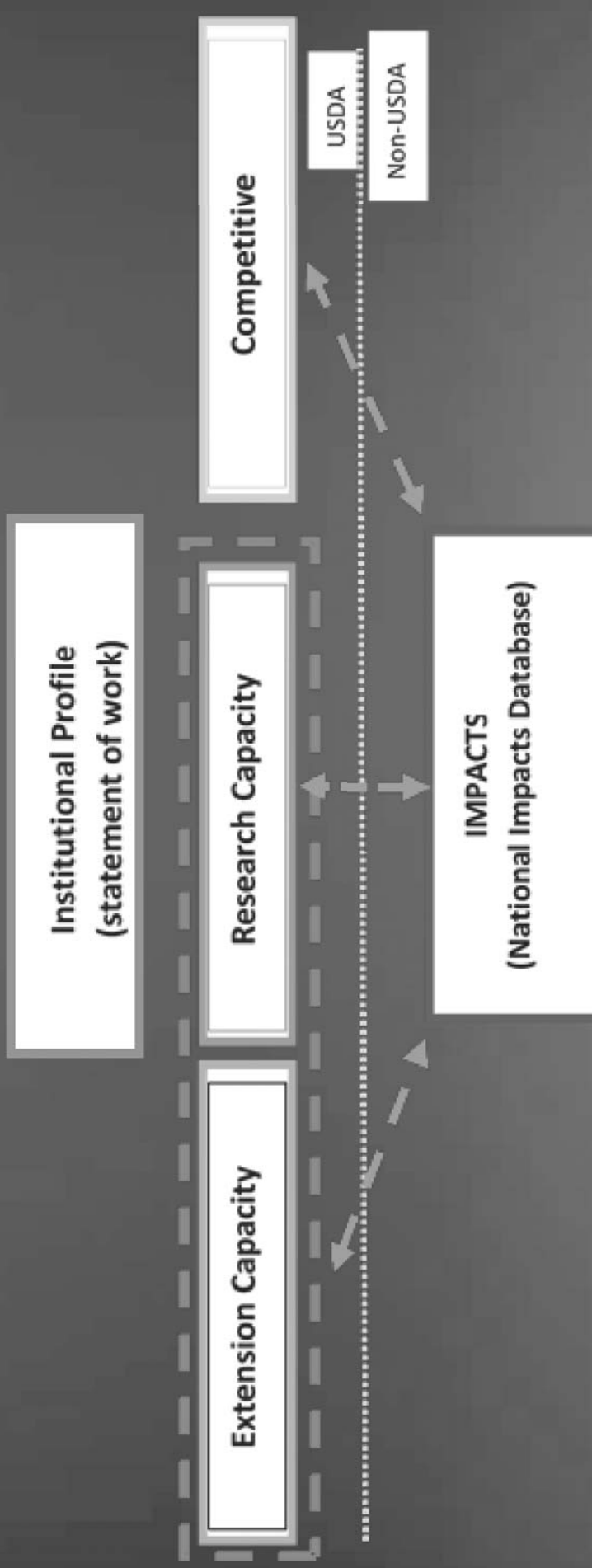
- Multistate Extension, and Integrated Research & Extension
 - 25% of Hatch and 25% of Smith-Lever (or 2x 1997 baseline for integrated research and extension
- Stakeholder Input
- Merit Review

Need to Know

- Programming
 - Questions from Congress, other federal agencies, "What is USDA supporting in the area of xyz?" or "What is state x doing in the area of xzy?"
- Currently USDA feels that this is accomplished for their needs through Planned Programs and Executive Summary.

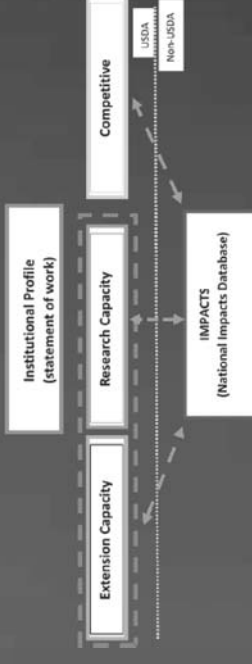
Panel - Draft Recommendations

- Eliminate entirely the current Plan of Work and Accomplishment Report system
- Develop new modules in the REEPort system that satisfy the law and ensure appropriate data is stored in a manner that can be searched and extracted.
- Connect impact statements collected via landgrantimpacts.org to programs and impacts in REEPort.
- *See separate draft document*

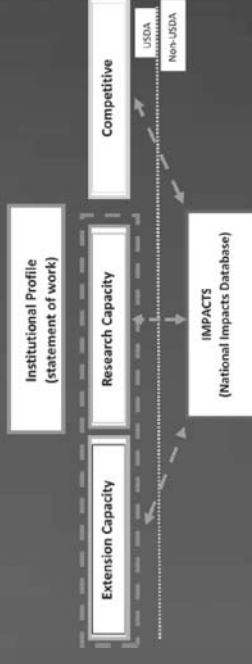


Institutional Profile

- BRIEF Programmatic Overview
- BRIEF Annual Programmatic Summary (highpoints for the year)
- AREERA mandated elements that don't necessarily change drastically from year-to-year
 - Stakeholder input
 - Multistate and Integrated Efforts
 - Merit and Scientific Review
- List of "Planned Programs"
- Propose a subcommittee to further develop



Capacity Components



Extension Capacity

- List of “Planned Programs” fed from Institutional Profile
- Likely to include outcome measures, participant information and activities
- Text boxes for limited text on IMPACT
- Propose a subcommittee of Extension representatives and program leader to further develop

Research Capacity

- Very few changes to the current REEPort system
- Improved software functionality

Land Grant Impacts

- Continues to be voluntary
- Fields will be added to link to Accession numbers in REEPort so they are searchable
- Permanent links to an impact can also be pasted into the text box in REEPort so reviewers can easily find the corresponding impact statement

Other Recommendations

- A permanent accountability and reporting track (akin to the fiscal track) be implemented at NERAOC, and NIFA planning and reporting staff attend annually for training and input
- Strengthen the State Liaison program so that NPLs can more effectively build and maintain relationships (clarify review criteria and communicate what key data is needed)

POW Panel of Experts: NERA/NEED Summary

June 16-18, 2015

L Townson (NEED; UNH)

C Faustman (NERA; UConn)

Panel Membership

Name	Representing	Home Institution
Debbie Carter	Western Region Extension	U. Alaska
Scott Cummings	Southern Region Extension	TAMU
Cameron Faustman	Northeast Region Research	U. Connecticut
Benjamin Forbes	1890s Research	North Carolina A&T
David Jackson	North Central Region Research	U. Nebraska
Debra Lewis	North Central Region Extension	Ohio State University
Steve Loring	Western Region Research	New Mexico State U
Maifan Silitonga	1890s Extension	Kentucky State U
Lisa Townson	Northeast Region Extension	U. New Hampshire
Marty Draper	NPL	USDA NIFA
Ray Knighton	NPL	USDA NIFA
Edwin Lewis	NPL	USDA NIFA
Jeanette Thurston	NPL	USDA NIFA
Bruce Haas	Facilitator	Michigan State U
Karl Maxwell	Facilitator	USDA NIFA
Katelyn Sellers	Facilitator	USDA NIFA

Notes:

1. The letters sent by NERA and NEED were referred to in the opening comments of the facilitators. Other regions used the letters to catalyze their own discussions that added to the stated concerns. Regional representatives were united in their concerns about the current system.
2. Concerns from the regional representatives included:
 - a. What does USDA need and how is it used?
 - b. Redundancy of some inputs for POW reporting and REEport; have a single database
 - c. Poor software functionality in the POW software; neither NIFA or states are able to pull useful data (some felt the data were going into a black hole)
 - d. Current system requires too much time for data input
 - e. McIntire-Stennis not currently accounted for (in a separate system)

- f. Noted that the current reporting system has become cumbersome and complex akin to the tax code
3. Concerns from the NPLs
- a. Want to make review of the reports easier
 - b. Would like to see more connection of research to extension
 - c. NIFA has done a poor job of implementing AREERA; acknowledge they are not asking the right questions - products returned from the states are what USDA has asked for but they aren't useful. (POWs/ROAs represent about ½ of NIFA \$\$) and impacts in REEPort from Expt Stations are not very good.
 - d. NPLs cannot say "no" to (or disapprove) the reports and so feel their hands are tied.
 - e. Small states and 1890s institutions don't have as many reporting staff and struggle with burden
 - f. More granular Extension reporting needed (akin to research reporting)
 - g. Outcome of this panel needs to be legal, simple, and workable. An unnecessary complexity has developed over the years.

We agreed to focus on only what is required (by law) and what is needed for NIFA to do their job – but exclude data that is only NICE to know.

4. Bart Hewitt presentation (*see attached PPT*)

Still Required by AREERA:

- Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension
 - Sec 105 and 204 of AREERA
 - 25% of Hatch and 25% of SL, or 2x the 1997 baseline for Integrated Research and Extension
 - 25% of Hatch and 25% of SL, or 2x the 1997 baseline for Multistate Research and Extension
- Stakeholder Input – Section 102 of AREERA
- Merit Review – Sec 103(e) and 104(a)
 - Research needs to certify and describe Scientific Review Process
 - Extension needs to certify and describe Merit Review Process

Discretionary as to how it's collected (info is needed but categories/approach used could be changed):

- Executive Summary
- Planned Programs (USDA needs to know what we're doing)
 - Hatch and Evans-Allen do REEPort

Hewitt Proposal:

- Scrap the planned program section from POW and ROA (but keep the other tabs)
- Require Extension to enter SL and 1890 Extension “projects/programs” into REEPort
- Standardize Planned Programs (9 as per NIFA Portfolios)

5. Sonny Ramiswamy comments:

- Stated clearly this was an opportunity to start from scratch (re-do) if the panel wanted to recommend that – but he did cite the REEport system has useful in getting the research reporting he needed.
- He has heard the message about “burden” and “redundancies” in reporting from us, although he clearly didn’t understand (or believe) the current system was truly burdensome.
- Congress and OMB needs updates on progress of USDA NIFA and so the reports are important. He gave the example of a request from congress; “What financial resources is NIFA expending on water?” While his staff could determine dollar figures (much from REEport) for AES and competitive programs on water, they were not able to do so with the Extension reports.
- “We have to capture everything that is going on”
- When asked what one thing he would change over the existing reporting system, S Ramiswamy said he would implement a system for Extension reporting in a manner that allows USDA to capture the information needed for reporting/bragging to Congress/OMB and others.
- He also mentioned the need to allow public data to be available – so people can filter data for reports - <http://nifa.usda.gov/data>

6. Concerns/issues following Day 1:

- a. Some language used hinted at moving Capacity funds processes to resemble more of a Competitive model and that was a concern for regional reps.
- b. Although not stated outright, there was some criticism of the “peanut butter approach” to distributing capacity funds (spreading dollars over many people within the institution as opposed to spending these dollars more focused, e.g. through a competitive process).
- c. Extension is different vs Research and has to report through an appropriate template/structure. Extension is more programmatic in nature while Research is more project-based (quite a bit of discussion about this difference).
- d. Challenge is how to get the granularity needed without making the data input steps overly burdensome/inefficient. Extension expressed concern about challenges of having frontline county-based folks entering data on all of the

different projects that they are involved with (often these projects contribute to different programs).

- e. Extension folks, in particular, were strong against the idea that institutions be required to propose how the money will be spent w/in a POW doc. Capacity funds are not competitive funds in that manner. NPLs noted that USDA treats Capacity funds as a grant even if LGUs do not view them in that manner. We agreed to disagree and suggested that this was a topic for director-level discussion.
- f. Concern about the level of reporting required for what is often a small percentage of our funding. If a state only gets 8% of their funding from NIFA; but the reporting burden is 75% of their reporting effort; this seems out-of-line. Reminded them of other reporting requirements Extension has – to state, county, commodity groups, etc.

**Bart Hewitt Presentation
POW Panel of Experts Meeting**



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Streamlined POW Approach

What would a Plan of Work process as required under AREERA look like if we start from ground zero?

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OIG Approved

- The current Plan of Work and Annual Report has passed the scrutiny of the Office of Inspector General.
- Any new approach is subject to OIG scrutiny.

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Still Required by AREERA

- Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension
 - Sections 105 and 204 of AREERA
 - 25% of Hatch and 25% of Smith Lever, or 2 times the 1997 baseline for Integrated Research and Extension
 - 25% of Smith-Lever 3b&c or 2 times the 1997 baseline for Multistate Extension

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Still Required by AREERA

- Stakeholder Input - Section 102 of AREERA
 - Actions taken to seek stakeholder input that encourages their participation
 - A brief statement of the process used to identify individuals and groups who are stakeholders and to collect input from them
 - A statement of how collected input was considered

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Still Required by AREERA

- Merit Review – Section 103(e) & 104(a)
 - Research needs to certify and describe Scientific Peer Review processes
 - Extension needs to certify and describe Merit Review processes

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Executive Summary

- Very Useful
- Needed to show integration statewide for research and extension
- Needed to show efforts made to identify and collaborate with other colleges and universities within the State, and other States
- Needed to show the manner in which research and extension activities funded other than from formula funds will cooperate to address the critical issues in the state


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Planned Programs

- Planned Programs – What you plan to do (science, research, extension, etc.)
 - Hatch and Evans-Allen already plan individual projects in REEport
 - Let's eliminate the perceived double reporting

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How???



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Planned Programs Proposal


- Scrap the Planned Program Section from the Plan of Work and Annual Report of Accomplishments in its current format
- Require Extension to enter Smith-Lever and 1890 Extension “projects/programs” into REEport
- The AREERA Planned Programs then become a listing of projects and programs already approved by Subject Matter NPLs
 - With Impact Stories generated from REEport



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Planned Programs Proposal

- Planned Programs could become standard as classified in REEport by NIFA Portfolios
- Nine Portfolios?
 - Sustainable Agricultural Systems
 - Bio-economy, Bio-energy, Bio-Products
 - Climate Change
 - Food Safety
 - Human Nutrition
 - Youth Development
 - Family and Consumer Sciences
 - Education/Multicultural Alliances
 - Environmental Systems



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Advantages to Using REEport

- All Data is reported the same way for all grants
- Follows the US Government Standard
- Projects/Programs reviewed by subject matter NPLs
- Allows NIFA to answer questions for Extension we could only answer for research before
 - Example: How much is extension spending on wheat, almonds, etc.?

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REReport

- Will require some tweaking to REReport
 - Addition of Extension Participant output data
 - Standard Planned Program Titles
 - NIFA Portfolio Titles?
 - Addition for Impact Stories like currently in POW
 - Allow for integrated projects?
 - What else is needed?

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Why REReport for All Grant Projects and Programs?

- Hatch and Evans-Allen are already using it for projects
- Granularity of Classification Data
 - Water Example
 - When asked by the Secretary how much was spent on water, we had no definitive answer for Extension; only Research.

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What's Missing?

Table 1. NIFA INVESTMENTS IN WATER RESEARCH, EDUCATION, and EXTENSION
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2013 FUNDS (IN THOUSANDS) BY FUNDING AUTHORITY and FTEs
PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

FY	NO. PROJ	HATCH	MC-STE	EVANS-ALLEN	ANIMAL HEALTH	SPECIAL GRANTS	AFRI/NEI GRANTS	SBR GRANTS	Smith-Lever 9B, 9C and 1890 Extension	OTHER NIFA	SARE*	TOTAL NIFA
2009	3108	\$14,853	\$3,023	\$3,006	\$76	\$5,931	\$4,858	\$888.00	NA*	\$18,455	\$100	\$104,790
2010	2538	\$14,313	\$2,689	\$4,357	\$56	\$5,991	\$4,818	\$779.00	NA	\$23,300	n/a	\$114,560
2011	2586	\$16,310	\$2,902	\$4,030	\$26	\$855	\$28,748	\$1,376.00	NA	\$12,095	\$210	\$127,550
2012	2658	\$17,074	\$3,067	\$1,883	\$42	\$766	\$17,303	\$1,134.00	NA	\$11,897	\$307	\$118,347
2013	2442	\$16,238	\$3,172	\$3,913	\$34	\$788	\$20,039	\$1,748.00	NA	\$10,384	\$57	\$116,438
Total	13332	\$78,788	\$14,853	\$19,187	\$234	\$14,275	\$77,759	\$5,425.00	NA	\$76,131	\$674	\$581,863

* NA - Not Available; the Plans of Work and POW Annual Reports do not allow quantifying the amount of funding invested for water related efforts under Smith-Lever 9B, 9C and 1890 Extension authorities.

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Why REEport for All Grant Projects and Programs?

- Granularity of Classification Data
 - Many more examples like this.
 - We need to follow the money better for Extension at a more granular level.

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What is in REEport?

Research, **E**ducation, and **E**xtension
project **o**nline **r**eporting **t**ool

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REEport Basic Structure

- Project Initiation
 - Cover Page
 - Inputs (Staff Contacts and Staff Time)
 - Goals (Text Box)
 - Products (Planned)
 - Outcomes (Expected)
 - Target Audience
 - Methods
 - Non-Technical Summary
 - Keywords
 - Classification

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REEport Basic Structure

- Progress Report
 - Cover Page (from Project Initiation)
 - Inputs (Staff and Staff Time)
 - Target Audience
 - Outputs (Products and Other Products)
 - Accomplishments
 - Impact Stories
 - Changes/Problems

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What Else to Think About

- How to tie the RFA and the Application for the funds to the Plan of Work
 - Application for Five Years on a renewal basis
 - Each subsequent year provides a renewal-like POW Update with changes and goals for the coming year.
 - Annual Progress Reports due 90 to 120 days after Anniversary date.
 - Anniversary date on October 1 for Capacity Grants

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What Else to Think About

- Progress Reports through REEport for individual projects/programs.
- Planned Programs
 - By NIFA Portfolio Titles?
 - Containing List of REEport Projects/Programs
 - With Impact Stories generated from REEport projects/programs

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What Else to Think About

- Level of Project/Program for Extension in REEport?
 - Program Level or Individual Projects like Hatch?
 - Program Level – More Broad
 - 4-H
 - Nutrition
 - Food Safety
 - Etc.
 - Project Level – More Granular

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How Submitted

- By Institution instead of by State?
 - REEport follows the money
 - Applications for Capacity Grant Funds are by grant line item
- Integrated Research and Extension
- How about integrated Hatch and Smith-Lever projects or Integrated Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension projects in REEport?

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When is POW Submitted?

- POW Tied to the Application for funds from Capacity RFA
- Due as part of the Application proposal submission in Grants.gov each year for funds
- Release of funds each year tied to approval

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When is Annual Progress Report Submitted?

- Terms and Conditions on Grants state Progress Reports due within 90 days of Anniversary date
 - Anniversary date on Capacity Grants is always October 1
- Move to February 1?

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Land-Grant Impact Database

Analysis by Ray Knighton

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Questions?

**POW Panel of Experts
Draft Recommendations**

Plan of Work Panel of Experts *Recommendations to NIFA*

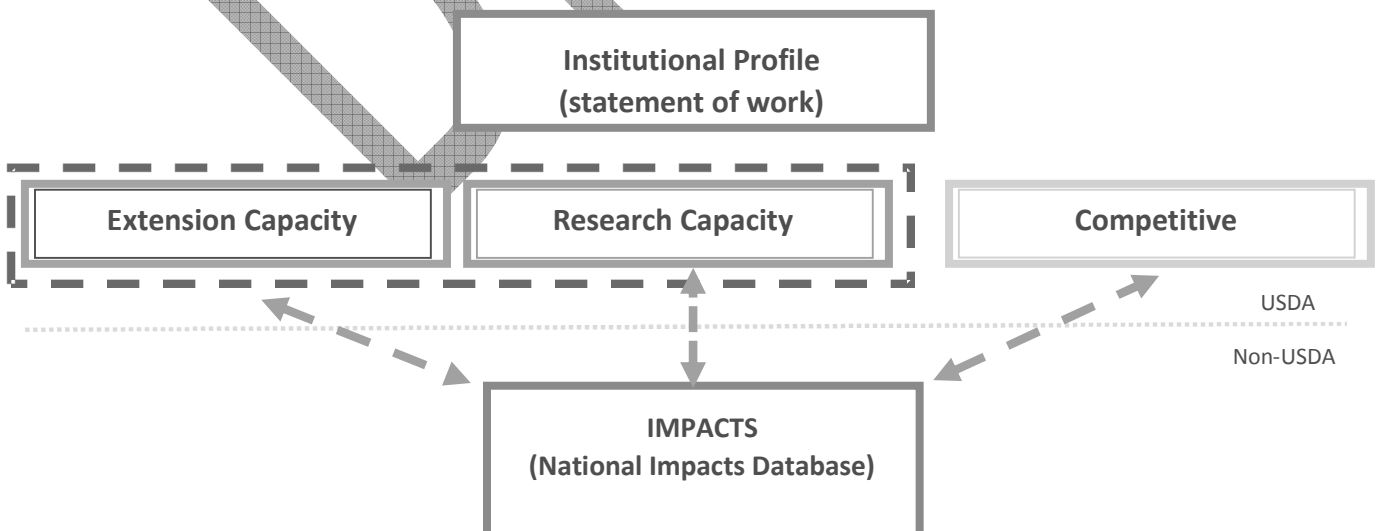
A Panel of Experts on the AREERA Plan of Work reporting process convened on June 16-18 to discuss improvements to the current reporting process. The Panel consisted of 14 members representing Research, Extension and NIFA. The Panel, with input from their respective regions and from NIFA program leaders, agreed that the current process is duplicative and burdensome. The Panel makes the following recommendations to NIFA so that the process may be streamlined in a way that reduces the reporting burden on the Land Grant Institutions as well as the review burden on NIFA National Program Leaders. The Panel also believes that this streamlining will improve data quality and result in a data collection that meets legislative requirements while also providing NIFA what it needs to continue to promote the effectiveness of the AREERA capacity funds.

The following recommendations are in draft form and will be vetted with the Panel members' regional leaders and constituencies before being presented to NIFA as final. All proposed changes will be made by the Regions to their respective representatives on the Panel. The final recommendations will be contained in a larger report that details the issues and logic that formed these recommendations. Report will be developed by the Panel over the next 60 days.

The following recommendations are classified under two categories: system-specific and general.

SYSTEM-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. There should be one reporting system with a stable platform that has the elements depicted in the graphic below. The existing Plan of Work and Annual Report of Accomplishments reporting system should be eliminated concurrent with the introduction of the new system.



- a) In support of this recommendation, NIFA should invest in human capital and hardware/software to improve the current and future reporting system (or its replacement for the single system/database approach) and make plans to discontinue support of the older and less flexible POW platform. The “single system” approach should be developed in a way that allows for aggregation of all numerical data wherever possible; it should also be able to prepopulate qualitative/descriptive data wherever possible.
 - b) Concurrent with the recommendation above, technical issues currently present in REEport, including but not limited to the excessive time needed to upload and download documents, formatting issues, and the tendency for the system to crash should be addressed, especially if the REEport platform will be leveraged for the single system approach recommended here; the system needs to be a robust and high-performance platform.
2. The Institutional Profile module in the new system should contain those elements mandated by AREERA and other data elements deemed essential by NIFA, including:
 - a) a Short Programmatic Overview of the submitting institution(s);
 - b) a Short Annual Programmatic Summary covering Research, Extension, and Integrated program and project accomplishments (the summary should highlight those programs and projects that have realized significant accomplishments and impacts in the previous year);
 - c) description of Merit and Scientific Review processes;
 - d) description of Stakeholder Input and utilization processes;
 - e) Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension components as required by AREERA;
 - f) a list of “planned programs” (or whatever they will be called in the new system).
3. The Institutional Profile module should be structured so that it may remain relatively unchanged from year to year and will repopulate annually for the institution; this results in a 5-year dynamic, rolling “plan” for all 1862 and 1890 Institutions (both Research and Extension).
 - a) If an institution wishes to make changes to their profile annually, they should be able to do so (both add and subtract program elements), and a mechanism to highlight such changes for the NIFA reviewer should exist.
4. The listing of “planned programs” that is entered into the “Institutional Profile” should allow tagging to NIFA’s topic areas; this will allow entered data to be rolled up for NIFA’s use.

5. The Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules should function in a manner similar to how they are currently accounted for. The Extension Capacity reporting module should be developed to include planning and reporting related metrics needed by NIFA to assess progress and to promote the accomplishments of capacity-funded programs.
6. The Extension and Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules should be linked to the National Impacts Database (NID) so that users of the system are not required to enter impact statements that are already documented in the NID.
7. Participation in the National Impacts Database should be optional, not mandatory. The NID will be informed by the Extension and Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules of the single system. Language in the NID should be updated to link to NIFA's topic areas so that NIFA may properly associate impacts to agency's areas of focus.
8. Knowledge areas (KAs) and Subjects of Investigation (SOIs) should be expanded and/or modified to meet both Research and Extension's needs.
9. NIFA should restore the flexibility of a state to report by institution (1862, 1890), organization (Research, Extension), or jointly.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

10. The following sub-groups should be created in order to ensure all recommendations of the Panel of Experts are carried out accurately and efficiently (note that a Panel Expert may serve on one or more sub-groups):
 - a) a sub-group to define the Extension Capacity program reporting module; the group will clearly define data fields/elements that need to be included in the new module;
 - b) a sub-group to operationalize the data elements and functionality of the "Institutional Profile;
 - c) a sub-group to identify new Knowledge Areas (KAs) and Subjects of Investigation (SOIs) for addition to NIFA's Manual of Classification so that both Research and Extension can classify projects and programs accurately;
 - d) other sub-groups as needed; for example, fiscal monitoring/tracking (the Panel of Experts will serve as a committee for determining when a new sub-group is required).
11. Reporting Deadlines: NIFA should keep all capacity reporting deadlines with the due dates that currently exist but should re-visit this issue once the new "single system concept" has been implemented (currently Feb 1 for Research REEport Financial Report; Mar 1 for Research Progress and Final Report; April 1 for all other capacity reporting).

12. A permanent accountability and reporting track (akin to the fiscal track) for the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers' Conference (NERAOC) should be implemented. NIFA should send Representatives from the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff (PARS) to the meeting annually so that feedback can be gained and improvements made to the database, by both sides, without waiting for the Panel of Experts to convene every five years.
13. A commitment should be made by NIFA to work with Land Grant partners to ensure that the resultant system is fully searchable by (but not limited to) author, keyword, topic, programmatic classification, and location of work, and that the information within the modules will be effectively linked within the larger system.
14. NIFA should strengthen the State Liaison Program to more effectively build and maintain relationships between program leaders and state institutions.
 - a) NIFA should clarify, standardize, and communicate the review criteria NPLs use to review programs/projects.
 - b) NIFA should clarify and communicate/educate its LGU partners how data are used to report out to various audiences and stakeholders.
15. Non-AREERA programs, such as McIntire-Stennis, should not be included in the new reporting model proposed in these recommendations at this time, but the Panel acknowledges that the new "single system" approach, combined with NIFA's grants modernization initiative, could eventually result in a framework that may be applied to all NIFA funding programs.

To provide feedback to these recommendations, please contact your regional representative who is compiling all suggested changes to these recommendations and will be discussing with the Panel of Experts during July and August virtual meetings.

National Pesticide Safety Education Dialogue

Background

The National Stakeholder Team for Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) Funding was formed in October, 2012 to address the crisis facing the program in a growing number of states. The team has more than 100 members from 96 organizations, and is exploring every opportunity for financial and other types of support (<http://psep.us/>).

In November of 2013, the National Stakeholder Team submitted the attached statement on "The Critical Need for IPM Support of Pesticide Safety Education" to the Federal IPM Coordinating Committee and several key organizations, and requested a national dialogue. Most organization leaders agreed to participate in the dialogue when individual invitations went out in 2014. However, there was a very significant delay in gaining EPA commitment to participate, due to organizational changes.

The first and most important dialogue will be held on December 9 from 9 AM – 12 PM, at EPA, the morning after the full SFIREG meeting. We expect EPA to reserve a room at Potomac Yards in Arlington. Priority topics will involve the first 8 of the 24 points in the attached statement, because they focus on IPM Emphasis and Leadership and will determine the success of the rest.

This is expected to be a one-time meeting for **most** of the attendees. Numerous action steps will hopefully result from this first meeting, and be delegated to others working "in the trenches" of IPM.

Sonny Ramaswamy and most of the other presidents/chairs have now confirmed that the date works for them, so the date is firm. It is a face-to-face meeting, there will be an agenda and background information, and Jim Burnette (co-lead of the National Stakeholder Team representing AAPCO) will moderate the meeting. The organizations are listed below:

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
USDA Institute of Food Production and Sustainability, Plant Protection Division
USDA Office of Pest Management Policy
Federal IPM Coordinating Committee
American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators
Association of American Pesticide Control Officials
Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy
Extension Committee on Organization and Policy
EPA Field and External Affairs Division

A Statement of the National Stakeholder Team for PSEP Funding November 11, 2013

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Pesticide Safety Education (PSE) both face funding challenges in the current fiscal environment. However, regardless of budget constraints, there is a great need, and responsibility, to champion pesticide safety education within the various IPM programs, projects, and outreach efforts at the national, regional, state, and IPM Center levels.

Safe and judicious pesticide use to protect human health and the environment is an important component of a comprehensive IPM plan, and is critical to achieving effective, sustainable, integrated pest management by “land managers, growers, structural pest managers, and public and wildlife health officials” as described in the National Road Map for Integrated Pest Management.

We strongly believe that pesticide safety education must be better incorporated into IPM guidance and efforts at the national, regional, state, and IPM Center levels. This will help with priority setting for IPM grants, grant panel selection, guidance and reviews, program collaboration, and leveraging of resources and expertise. IPM should serve as a key influencer in advancing pesticide safety education as an essential element of the chemical component of IPM.

The National Stakeholder Team for Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding requests that a national dialogue take place on the following recommendations. This dialogue must include groups that have significant influence on IPM and PSE; e.g. the Federal IPM Coordinating Committee, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators, Association of American Pesticide Control Officials, Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials, and Extension Committee on Organization and Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

IPM Emphasis

1. That all components of IPM be given proper attention, including the safe and proper use and timing of pesticides.
2. That IPM and pesticide safety education not be treated as mutually exclusive.
3. That the priorities for IPM include PSE – and that this not be defined as IPM training of pesticide applicators with only a minor PSE component permitted.

IPM Leadership

4. That the Federal IPM Coordinating Committee and IPM Center Stakeholder Committees tasked with setting priorities are well-balanced, understand the importance of PSE in protecting human health and the environment, and contain strong advocates for PSE.
5. That USDA, the Regional IPM Centers, and the state IPM Coordinators actively work to advance PSE in Center/Coordinator activities and IPM grant criteria.
6. That more State IPM Coordinators and State PSE Program Coordinators work together to advance core principles of PSE as part of IPM educational materials, and to advance core principles of IPM as part of PSE educational materials.
7. That the planned Federal Agency Core IPM Certification Training Program includes PSE as a key component, and that strong advocates for PSE be part of the development and implementation teams.
8. That State IPM Coordinators get appropriate support and credit for PSE done in association with or in support of the PSE Program Coordinator.

IPM Procedures

9. That the priorities of the IPM Centers be well-communicated to all stakeholders.
10. That the required content of new and revised Crop Profiles includes information on high priority and unique pesticide safety education needs for current products and alternatives.

11. That the guidelines for creating Pest Management Strategic Plans be modified, going forward, to include an actual pesticide safety education component, rather than only specifying the need to “*identify* effects on beneficial organisms and pollinators...*highlight* RM issues...*identify* environmental issues...and *identify* critical issues for research, regulatory, and education.” All components of IPM, including PSE, should be covered in the critical issues and priorities.

12. That Pest Management Strategic Plans do not require “priorities for research, regulatory activity, and education/training programs needed for transition to alternative pest management practices” without also requiring priorities for PSE for the large number of IPM programs that do not or cannot transition to alternative pest management practices.

IPM Grants

13. That more IPM grants support development of educational materials that help advance PSE as a critical component of IPM. There are examples where IPM grants have given exemplary support to the advancement of PSE.

14. That more IPM grants support research projects that help advance PSE, because of its important role in reducing potential human health risks and adverse environmental effects from pests and from the use of pest management practices (goals of both the USDA National Roadmap for IPM and the Extension IPM Coordination and Support Logic Model).

15. That IPM grants and outreach focus as much attention on reducing pesticide risk as on reducing pesticide usage. Both goals are often expressed, but the actual focus is more often on reducing pesticide usage as the means to reduce risk. For the many IPM programs that utilize pesticides, proper pesticide use learned through PSE is the primary way to reduce risk.

16. That IPM grants which “enhance IPM understanding among pesticide applicators” do not exclude or minimize PSE as part of that IPM training.

17. That IPM grants support more joint projects between IPM coordinators and PSE Program coordinators to develop outreach materials and courses having a strong focus on all components of IPM, including PSE.

18. That, with the exception of the Pest Management Alternatives Program, IPM grant introductory language does not specify an objective to “adopt alternative pest management practices” (automatically excluding PSE).

19. That more IPM grants focus specifically on enhancing national PSE efforts.

20. That all IPM grants clearly indicate the types of PSE proposals that are eligible.

21. That IPM grant schedules (Requests for Applications or RFAs) and content be well-communicated to all stakeholders.

IPM Education

22. That IPM education reinforces all of the basic principles of safe pesticide use.

23. That IPM education concerning PSE never be relegated to brief directives (e.g. follow the label, practice judicious use) or misleading statements (e.g. select least toxic pesticides, use pesticides as a last resort).

24. That IPM education not promote certain cropping methods (e.g. organic) as more sustainable than others. IPM, safe pesticide use and sustainability are not restricted to any particular cropping method.

Pesticide safety education teaches applicators to use pesticides properly, and re-certification is the only existing mechanism that guarantees this ongoing training. Strong IPM support of pesticide safety education translates to strong support of IPM.

— COOPERATIVE — EXTENSION

Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives

Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)

ECOP Report to ESCOP

Beverly Durgan, Liaison; Delbert Foster, ECOP Chair, 7.21.15

ECOP Core Theme -- Build Partnerships and Acquire Resources

- *Private Resource Mobilization* – Retained Changing Our World, Inc., a philanthropy management consulting firm, to develop a strategy for national private fundraising complementary to federal funding and not in competition with existing university-based efforts.
- *Federal Resource Development* – Monitoring FY 2016 capacity and competitive funding appropriations, emphasizing water security for the FY 2017 federal budget request, and using outcomes from the producer education project with USDA-Farm Service Agency, funded through the Agriculture Act of 2014 (farm bill) Title I, to position for additional resources.
- *Partnership Focus* – Following a CES-NIFA Retreat in late 2014, outlined actions related to clarifying expectations of the partnership, enhancing communication, aligning CES and NIFA impact reporting requirements, and developing a process to discuss joint priorities and national initiatives.
- *ECOP-ESCOP Health Implementation Team* – Established five action teams on health literacy, health insurance literacy, chronic disease prevention and management, health public policy education, and positive youth development for health charged with bringing educational programming to scale, outlining evaluation strategies, connecting with appropriate science, and advising on resource development. This aligns with the BAA-BoHS *Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee* to establish a federal funding request.

ECOP Core Theme -- Increase Strategic Marketing and Communications

- *Strategic Opportunities and Measuring Excellence* – Together with ESCOP, publically launched the new website www.landgrantimpacts.org designed as a one-stop point for program impacts.
- *AES-CES-AHS Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)* – Together with ESCOP and the BAA Administrative Heads Section (AHS), established an emphasis on water security.
- *Extension Centennial Social Media Focus* – Named an ECOP Social Media Associate to continue visibility for Cooperative Extension established during the 2014 centennial year.

ECOP Core Theme -- Enhance Leadership and Professional Development

- *National Extension Directors and Administrators (NEDA)* – The meeting, October 12-14, 2015 in Indianapolis, is based on an Extension Innovation Inventory currently in process of development.
- *Celebrating Excellence* – Naming Excellence in Extension and Diversity Award winners for 2015.

ECOP Core Theme -- Strengthen Organizational Functioning

- *eXtension* – The new membership-based eXtension Foundation has named a new CEO and will focus on innovative electronic strategies for state and local Extension implementation.
- *4-H National Leadership Committee* – This new priority is designed to address high level program and management issues for youth development programming.

More Information: www.extension.org/ecop and <http://ecopmondayminute.blogspot.com/>

ECOP is the representative leadership and governing body of Cooperative Extension, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state, and local governments.