

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC): <http://escop.info/committee/blc/>

April 2024 Agenda - **Members**

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 3pm (CT)/4pm (ET)

**Attendees:** Vernon Jones, Steve Lommel, Laura Jolly, Wendie Cohick, Anton Bekkerman, Alton Thompson, Glenda Humiston, Scott Senseman, Gary Thompson, Derek McLean, Sreekala Bajwa, Kelly Dalton, Jeanette Thurston, Cindy Morley

**Committee Members:**

<p><b>Chair:</b> Anton Bekkerman (NERA) <b>Past Chair:</b> Glenda Humiston (WAAESD) <b>Incoming Chair:</b> Steve Lommel (SAAESD)</p> <p><b>Members:</b> Alton Thompson (ARD) Vernon Jones (ARD) Gary Pierzynski (NCRA) Derek McLean (NCRA) Wendie Cohick (NERA) Steve Lommel (SAAESD) Scott Senseman (SAAESD) Sreekala Bajwa (WAAESD) Shawn Donkin (WAAESD)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons:</b> Jason Henderson (ECOP) Katie Frazier (CARET) Caron Gala (APLU) Elizabeth Stulberg (Lewis-Burke, Advocacy) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Laura Jolly (BHHS)</p> <p><b>Executive Vice-Chair</b> Gary Thompson (SAAESD ED) Cindy Morley (SAAESD)</p>
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**Meeting Agenda and Notes:**

1. Welcome – Anton
2. Approval of the January 23 and April 2 meeting notes – Anton
  - **Approved by Acclimation January 23 notes.**
  - **Approved by Acclimation April 2 notes.**
3. Approval of today’s agenda – **Approved by Acclimation**
4. Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS): Initiatives and Engagement – Laura Jolly and Kelly Dalton)
  - Laura- Dean of College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University.
  - Kelly Dalton- Executive Director of the Board of Health and Human Sciences at APLU located in Washington DC. Also, a Director in FANR providing leadership in national nutrition priorities.
    - New vision for advancing nutrition from Biden-Harris administration that calls for an increase in nutrition research.
    - Working on connecting federal priorities across agencies.
    - Working with other professional associations focusing on how to build individual and family health.
  - Board on Health and Human Sciences

- Name change last November to include “Health”.
- Led by a 4-person Executive committee and has 10 directors.
- Vision is to holistically advance human development and economic vitality in a sustainable world.
- 2024 priority focus areas:
  - **Advocacy** - creating a white paper designed to educate stakeholders on the value of health and human sciences. Will also have a one-pager and will share when available.
  - **Leadership** - leadership fellows program designed to lift emerging leaders to engage with BHHS. The fellows program involves special projects and mentorship with the intent is to provide opportunities to leaders in the field.
  - **Membership** - with their enhanced focus on health, they are looking to engage additional aligned institutions. Currently looking at APLU members and exploring how to reach out to other units.
    - ESCOP also has a goal of exploring additional partnerships.
    - ECOP has a focus on health equity.
- This is a broad interdisciplinary field, and they welcome the opportunity to partner with others in APLU with the goal of improving lives across a whole range of topics.
- General discussion/questions for BHHS
  - One of the goals of the BLC is to look at ways to position food and ag research leaders to advocate on our behalf. Who are the stakeholders that you are targeting and are there opportunities for our two groups to integrate our messages?
    - USDA/NIFA to ensure that relevant program areas are fully updated.
    - Discipline-specific professional associations and federal agencies including the CDC and all the major health associations.
    - BAA decadal document is ripe for opportunities for us to work together where priorities align. Looking to Lewis Burk to message our priorities.
  - How would you envision interacting with us on an initiative to increase the nutritional quality of food?
    - Interest in nutritional improvement as well as plants in general for textiles, biosynthetics, etc.
    - You need to change people’s behavior and give them access to healthier foods. Health and human scientists help bridge that gap.
  - To solve the complex challenges of today and tomorrow we must be more transdisciplinary. Are you aware of any tricks to help with this?
    - VPR at Iowa State hosts a couple facilitated roundtable discussions each semester on big topics such as climate, rural vitality, health, etc., inviting faculty based on their research trajectory. Seed funding for projects that emerge from those conversations.

- APLU can work with funding agencies to encourage language that requires transdisciplinary approaches.
  - Does BHHS have a set of goals/visions to create bridges with other parts of APLU?
    - Currently, it is about networking and is important that you have a BHHS liaison.
- 5. Engaging NIFA as they set their budget priorities – Jeanette Thurston (**SEE slides attached**)
  - Goal: process of developing the President’s budget request and timely engagement with USDA and NIFA to discuss our priorities.
  - Within a single year NIFA is dealing with 4 different fiscal year budgets.
  - April/May is the time when NIFA starts on the FY26 budget that is due in June/July.
    - Should have already engaged NIFA to talk about FY26.
  - 3 budget scenarios are developed by NIFA each year.
    - Everything and more (ultimate wish list that is seldom realized)
    - Small cut budget
    - Large cut budget
  - We should be talking to NIFA about FY27 budget in October/November 2024.
    - Educating NIFA is always a good thing.
    - Remember that USDA/NIFA is in the Executive branch, and they report to the President. Engaging so much earlier could be influential.
  - When and who should carry the message?
    - Carry the message multiple times throughout the year. No one person can take the message to DC during all the opportune times.
    - Chair and incoming chair of agInnovation along with BLC and STC chairs.
  - What is the message?
    - Should we be thinking far enough in advance so the FY26 message is appropriate? Core message may not change, but the messaging could change based on politics.
  - Who should we be engaging with in this process?
    - NIFA Director, Associate Director for Programs (Dionne Toombs), Institute Deputy Directors, Josh Stull.
    - Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS), Deputy Undersecretary, OCS Director (Deirdra Chester).
    - Outside of USDA?
  - General Discussion/questions
    - Is our strategic plan the message to use when talking to these folks?
      - Yes, but what we “need” might change based on new technologies, etc.
    - Thoughts on the utilization of external stakeholders?
      - Always good to have external stakeholders engaging with USDA. ARS stakeholders are talking about interests for FY 26 now.
    - How do we engage with ARS and other agencies so that our agendas are aligned?

- When agencies are told to cut budgets, they must make hard decisions and sometimes recommend cuts in lines that have a strong stakeholder base where they are sure those lines will be put back in (by Congress).
- This might be a broader topic for continued discussion.

6. Other business - none

# President's Budget Request

agInnovation-BLC

4-23-24

Jeanette Thurston

Jan. 2024

NIFA continues to implement **FY23** programs

Mar.– May

**FY25** President's Budget released

**FY24** Appropriations Act Signed by President, agency begins to implement programs

NIFA begins Budget Planning Process for **FY26**

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If missed the opportunity to engage NIFA last fall on **FY26** priorities, now is the time (preferably before April)!

Secretary attends **FY25** appropriations hearings and agency helps to address Congressional requests (March through June)

June– July

NIFA submits proposed **FY 26** budget to USDA Secretary through the Undersecretary for REE

Aug.– Sep.

USDA submits **FY26** budget proposal to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Oct–Nov

**FY25** begins

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Every other year, NIFA will collect stakeholder input via NIFA Listens

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Great time to engage the agency on the **FY27** budget

December

OMB pass back (final changes prior to releasing President's budget)

January 2025

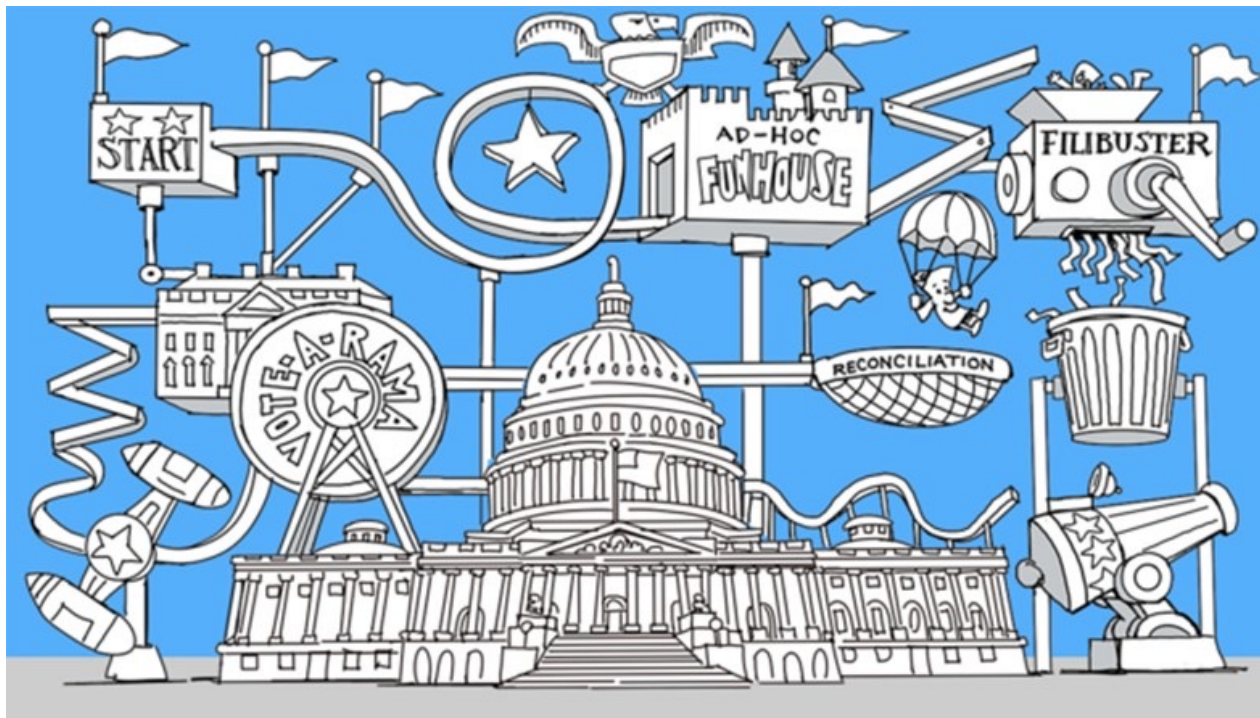
Final **FY26** President's Budget submitted to USDA via OMB

February 2025

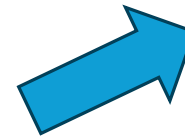
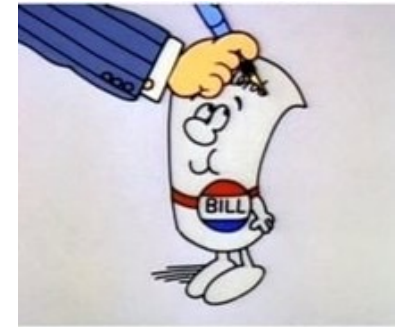
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Ideally, **FY26** President's Budget Released

## President's Budget Request: Estimated Timeline of Activity

The rest of this crazy theme park ride...



<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/09/30/how-a-bill-gets-passed-into-law-gridlock-congress-514532>



**FY20XX Appropriations Act**

# Questions/Thoughts: Engagement & Education for Research Support



- ***When and who should carry the message?***
  - Need to be engaging much earlier in the process
  - Should engage more than once—to manage this, should we “share the love”?
    - In addition to agInnovation chair: BLC chair, Incoming agInnovation chair, S&T chair, current and incoming Vice chairs
- ***Our Message and Proactive planning***
  - Priorities may same the same but should the message on the need be? Especially in consideration what the prior year’s appropriations looked like.
- ***Who should we be engaging with concerning this process?—building relationships and maintaining them***
  - *NIFA—Director but also...Assoc Director for Programs, Institute Deputy Directors, Josh Stull*
  - *OCS—Office of the Chief Scientist*
    - *Chief Scientist*
    - *Deputy Undersec for REE*
    - *Director OCS*
  - *Others outside of USDA? Importance of agInnovation research in other agencies?*