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USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) EPSCoR

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INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE



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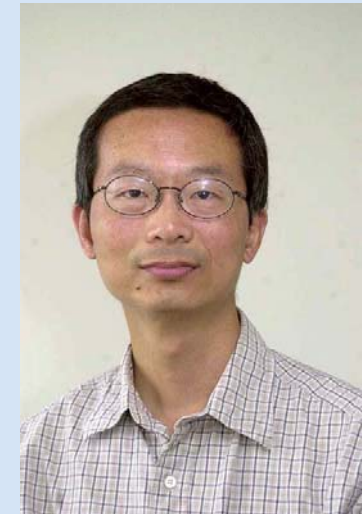
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USDA-NIFA EPSCoR Team

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Cavallaro**



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Outline

- Update on the new National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- Significant changes to NIFA competitive programs, including EPSCoR



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National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)

- USDA's Extramural funding to advance agricultural research, education, & extension (Competitive & Non-Competitive Programs)
- Initiated October 1, 2010
- Dr. Roger Beachy:
*1ST Presidentially-appointed
NIFA Director*





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Proposed NIFA structural concepts*

- 4 Institutes led by scientists + effective administrators with experience in USDA policies
 - Identify best practices for institute operations (NIH, NSF, CSREES, etc.)
 - Seek input from external stakeholders

- 1 Center



* Pending USDA approval



4 NIFA Institutes

1. Institute of food production & sustainability
2. Institute of food safety & nutrition
3. Institute of bioenergy, climate, & environment
4. Institute for youth, family, communities

1 Center

Center for International Programs

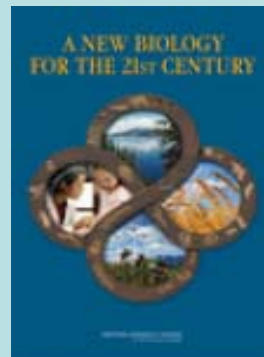


NIFA Science priorities for food, energy, environment & health (Societal Challenges)

NIFA Priorities

New Biology 21st Century (NAS)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Global Food Security & Hunger----- | Sustainable Food Production |
| 2. Climate Change----- | Ecosystem Restoration |
| 3. Sustainable Energy----- | Optimized Biofuel Production |
| 4. Childhood Obesity----- | Improvement in Human Health |
| 5. Food Safety----- | Improvement in Human Health |





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Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

- USDA's largest competitive grants program for research, education, and extension, including integrated approaches
- EPSCoR funding is included

- FY 2010:
 - **Tighter FOCUS:** 5 NIFA priorities
 - **Greater SCALE:** Larger awards
 - **Bold IMPACT:** Translational science





7.5% AFRI budget set-aside for meritorious proposals below the funding line cut-off for:

- EPSCoR institutions
- Small or mid-sized or minority-serving institutions with limited success for federal funding

2.5% budget set-aside for AFRI pre- and post-doctoral proposals open to individuals at ALL institutions

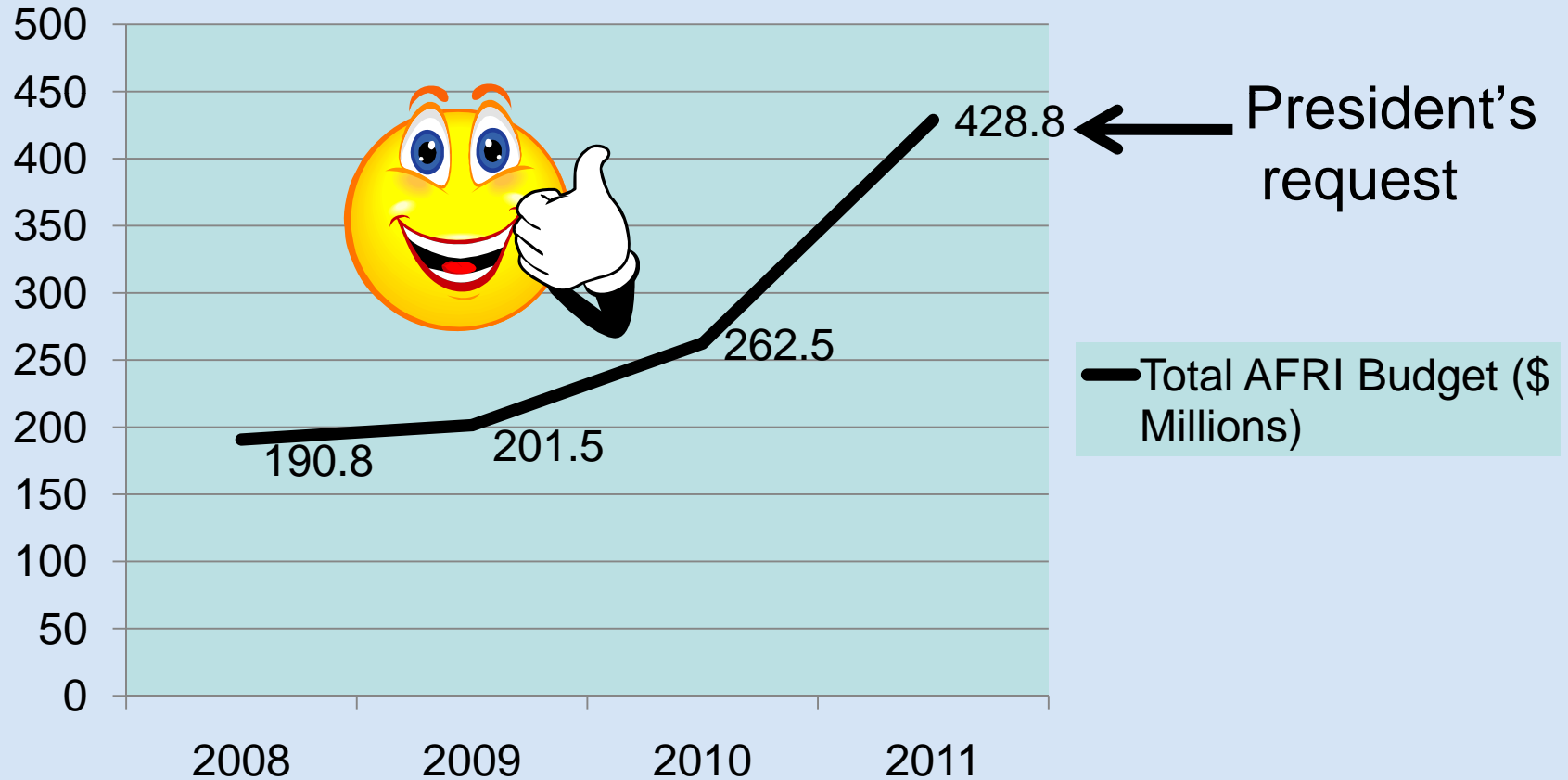


Benefit of Set-aside \$ to EPSCoR institutions: 2 funding chances in programs !

- Hypothetical Example:
 - 100 proposals
 - All institution proposals first compete against each other & ranked (including EPSCoR)
 - Program funds can support top 20 submissions (non-EPSCoR + EPSCoR)
 - 7.5% additional \$\$\$ to support other meritorious EPSCoR proposals below initial funding cut-off



AFRI Budget Heading Up





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CHANGE: Re-assess which states are eligible for USDA EPSCoR status annually instead of every 3 years

EPSCoR States – Every year, this list will be generated by calculating which states have had a funding level no higher than the 38th percentile of all states from AFRI (19 states)



2010 EPSCoR States:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Mississippi
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- North Dakota
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Vermont
- West Virginia
- Wyoming



Other USDA EPSCoR eligible Entities:

- American Samoa
- District of Columbia
- Guam
- Micronesia
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Puerto Rico
- Virgin Islands of the U.S.



FY 2010 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Five Challenge Area RFAs

1. Childhood Obesity Prevention
2. Climate Change
3. Global Food Security
4. Food Safety
5. Sustainable Bioenergy



Five Challenge Area RFAs

- Larger awards (up to \$ 25 million total)
- Inter/ trans-disciplinary
- Integrated (research + education + extension)
- Research or Education or Extension
- Up to 5 years duration
- Some renewable



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2010 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

One Foundational Program RFA

1. Build a foundation of knowledge for solving current and future societal challenges
2. Only research funding opportunities
3. Larger award sizes compared to previous years



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AFRI Foundational Program RFA **includes 6 areas:**

1. Plant Health, Production & Plant Products
2. Animal Health, Production & Animal Products
3. Food Safety, Nutrition, & Health
4. Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, & Environment
5. Agriculture Systems & Technology
6. Agriculture Economics & Rural Communities



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2010 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

One NIFA Fellowships Grant Program RFA

1. Offer individual fellowships for pre- and postdoctoral students – *NIFA Fellows*
2. Focus on the broad Challenge Areas



Strengthening Grants: *limited to EPSCoR & Small or Mid-sized or Minority-serving institutions with limited success*

- **Seed Grants:**
 - Collect preliminary data for future AFRI funding
- **Sabbatical Grants**
 - Up to one year of salary, funds for travel & supplies
- **Equipment Grants:** 50% of cost or \$50,000 for one piece of equipment (\$10,000-250,000)
 - Matching, but waivers possible < \$ 25,000
 - No IDC

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NIFA

EPSCoR

THANK YOU....