



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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AFRI Agricultural Economics & Rural Communities Project Directors Meeting

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INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE

Welcome, to the Small and Mid-Sized Farms, Rural Communities, and Entrepreneurship

Project Directors Meeting



But First--Please Note: AFRI Foundational Program Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities (AERC) Competitive Grant

- *Application Deadline* – May 22, 2013 (5:00 p.m. ET)
- *Total Program Funds* – Approximately \$19 million
- *Proposed Budget Requests* –
 - Standard Grants must not exceed \$500,000 total (including indirect costs) for project periods of up to 5 years.
 - Conference and Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants must adhere to the guidelines.
- *Letter of Intent*– Is **NOT** required for this Program
- Proposals planned to be reviewed September, 2013



What are the Challenges of Public Research

- We face major challenges nationally and globally.
 - USDA key goals: Climate change, food security, food safety, childhood obesity and nutrition, and bioenergy.
 - AFRI is designed to develop new knowledge, both fundamental and applied, that addresses these challenges.



AFRI Priority Program Areas

- Plant health, production and products
- Animal health, production and products
- Food safety, childhood obesity, nutrition and health
- Renewable energy, natural resources & environment
- Agricultural systems and technology
- Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities



Goal of the Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities program

...is to advance our collective knowledge and ability to enhance economic welfare and economic opportunities in agricultural and rural communities through research, education and extension.



AERC Integrated Program

- The AERC program consists of three integrated projects areas:
 - Small and Mid-sized Farms,
 - Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation Policy,
 - Rural Families, Communities and Regional Development.



The Purpose of the PD meeting:

- To present and consider your research outputs, outcomes and impacts.
- Define outputs and outcomes broadly as:
 - Research Output: To build better science and knowledge base in agricultural economics and rural communities.
 - Research Outcome: Advance economic opportunity and economic welfare in agricultural and rural communities.
 - Impact: Who is affected, what caused it, and by how much?



Examples of Outputs and Outcomes

- **Research**
 - Outputs: refereed publications, student thesis, new theories, empirical models or techniques, new data for public use
 - Outcomes: changes in behaviors, adopted practices, economic welfare
- **Education**
 - Outputs: new educational programs, curriculums, course materials.
 - Outcomes: strengthens schools and universities to train the next generation of scientists, educators, producers and citizens
- **Extension**
 - Outputs: delivering knowledge gained through research and education to people who need it
 - Outcomes: behavioral change, increased production efficiency and profitability, policy change



To meet the research goals

- We want to share and learn of ongoing research
- Develop and advance approaches and techniques in economic and social science analysis
- Network people, ideas and approaches



To do that we've ...

- Panel sessions are formed around topics
 - Individuals present:
 - The questions being addressed
 - Why it's important and compelling
 - Approach used and challenges faced, (e.g., data limitations, etc.)
 - The expected findings, or actual findings and results
 - Implications for policy



So, when considering findings...

- We should ask:
 - how does the work advance economic welfare for the groups being studied?
 - what we learn here and think of new directions for research
- ...that's what we're doing here and hope to achieve.