



North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

222th Meeting

Marriott Suites Old Town, Scottsdale, AZ

March 28-30, 2022 (Note that all times listed are MST, 3 hours behind EDT)

AGENDA and [MINUTES](#) (page 4)

Date/Time	Agenda Item	Topic	Presenter	Action Requested
Monday, March 28				
2:00-5:00 pm	Multistate Research Committee (MRC) Meeting (for MRC members only, although others are welcome to attend if interested).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New/renewal multistate proposals Midterm reviews NC Multistate Research Award NC Emerging Issues Proposals Review (and RFA revision) 	Germán Bollero, MRC Chair 2022	Group Discussion, MRC passes seconded motions as recommendations for NCRA action
5:30 pm	<i>Dinner on your own; meet in the lobby if interested in dining as a group.</i>			
Tuesday, March 29				
7:00 am	<i>Breakfast provided in the meeting room</i>			
8:00 am	1.0	Call to Order and Introductions	Hector Santiago, NCRA Chair 2022	
	2.0	Approval of Fall 2021 Minutes: (https://www.ncra-saes.org/agendas-minutes)		Approval of fall 2021 minutes
	3.0	Adoption of the Agenda		Approval of agenda

	4.0	Interim Actions of the Chair 4.1 NCRA Nominations for ESS Leadership Award 4.2 NCRA FY2023 Office Budget	Hector Santiago	Discussion, then NCRA approval of: ESS Leadership recipient and NCRA FY23 office budget
8:20 am	5.0	NRSP-RC Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRSP_temp1 (renewal proposal): https://www.nimss.org/projects/18866 NRSP3 (up for midterm review): https://www.nimss.org/projects/18621 	Jeff Jacobsen (for Doug Buhler)	For information
8:25 am	6.0	ESS Chair's Report	Chris Pritsos	For information, discussion
9:20 am	7.0	NIFA Director's Report	Carrie Castille, via Zoom	For information, discussion
10:00 am	<i>Break</i>			
10:20 am	8.0	NCRCRD Director's Report	Maria Marshall	For information. See also: https://rrdc.usu.edu/files/assessment-of-stakeholder-priorities-for-rural-development_oct2021.pdf
10:40 am	9.0	ARS Report	Alberto Pantoja	For information
10:55 am	10.0	BP Group Discussion: Effective Strategic Re-organization	Shibu Jose, Hector Santiago, Greg Cuomo, Germán Bollero	Group discussion
11:25 am	11.0	MRC Report and Recommendations Approval Votes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New/renewal multistate proposals Midterm reviews NC7 FY23-FY28 Budget NC Multistate Research Award Winner NC Emerging Issues Climate Proposal Selection 	Germán Bollero, Chris Hamilton	Approval of all MRC recommendations as presented
11:40 am	12.0	NC 2022 Summer Mini LGU Update	Anne Dorrance, Gary Pierzynski	For information
11:50 am	13.0	ESCOP STC Report	Bernie Engel, via Zoom	For information
12:00 pm	<i>Lunch – buffet style, provided in meeting room.</i>			

1:00 pm	14.0	Professional Development Session – <i>Understanding and Working with Communities & Tribal Sponsored Projects & Research</i> NIFA Land-grant Universities Map	Trent Teegerstrom, Claudia Nelson, University of Arizona	For information, group discussion
3:00 pm	<i>Break</i>			
3:30 pm	15.0	BP Group Discussion: Prioritizing Future Discussions on: Succession Planning, Recruiting Administrative and Staff Positions, Sunsetting Programs, NC Communications Collaborations	George Smith, Germán Bollero, Caroline Lawrence-Dill, Hector Santiago, Greg Cuomo, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton	Group discussion
4:05 pm	16.0	Other Business, as needed	All	TBD
4:15 pm	17.0	NCRA Spring Meeting 2023 Location Ideas	Hector Santiago, Chris Hamilton	Group discussion
4:25 pm	18.0	NCRA Office 2021/2022 Activities and Accomplishments	Chris Hamilton, Jeff Jacobsen	For information and discussion during Executive Session
4:40 pm	19.0	Executive Session	NCRA Directors Only	Group discussion
<i>Meeting Adjourns, meet in hotel bar for networking/social time, then we'll leave at 6 pm for our 6:30 pm reservation at Los Olivos Mexican Patio (http://losolivosrestaurants.com/). Please bring cash, as they will only give us one check due to the size of our group. Address is 7032 E 2nd St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251.</i>				
Wednesday, March 30				
6:30 am	<i>Breakfast provided - Note earlier time to allow for trip to Maricopa Ag Center</i>			
7:30 am	Meet in lobby and carpool to Maricopa Ag Center for tour (37860 W. Smith-Enke Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85138-3010)			
11:00 am	<i>Meeting Adjourned – Carpool back to hotel or airport</i>			

Future Meetings:

- NC Mini LGU meeting, July 10-12, 2022, Columbus, OH
- Joint COPs Meeting, now July 19-21, 2022, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC
- Fall Joint ESS-CES Meeting, September 25-28, 2022, Baltimore Waterfront Marriott, Baltimore, MD September 25-28, 2022

NCRA Spring Business Meeting MINUTES
Marriott Old Town Scottsdale, AZ
March 29, 2022

Attendees: Hector Santiago (UNL), George Smith (MSU), Carrie Castille (USDA-NIFA, via Zoom), Chris Pritsos (ESCOP Chair, Univ of Nevada – Reno), Greg Cuomo (UMN), Frank Casey (NDSU), Marty Draper (KSU), Ruth MacDonald (ISU), Carolyn Lawrence-Dill (ISU), Shibu Jose (MU, via Zoom), Maria Marshall (Purdue/NCRCRD). Germán Bollero (UIUC), Alex Winter-Nelson (UIUC), Anne Dorrance (OSU), Gary Pierzynski (OSU), Bernie Engel (Purdue, via Zoom), Dana Infante (MSU), Alberto Pantoja (USDA-ARS). Jeanette Thurston (KSU), Deb Hamernik (USDA-NIFA), Archie Clutter (UNL), Trent Teegerstrom (Univ of AZ), Claudia Nelson (Univ of AZ), Majed El-Dweik (Lincoln Univ, via Zoom), Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA Executive Director), Chris Hamilton (NCRA Assistant Director, recorder)

[Click here to jump to all slide shows referenced in the notes.](#)

Agenda Item	Topic	Notes	Action Taken
1.0	Call to Order and Introductions	Chair Hector Santiago welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the room.	Chair Hector Santiago welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the room.
2.0	Approval of Fall 2021 Minutes: https://www.ncra-saes.org/agendas-minutes		Fall 2021 NCRA business meeting minutes were approved by consensus.
3.0	Adoption of the Agenda		Today's agenda approved by consensus.
4.0	Interim Actions of the Chair 4.1 NCRA Nominations for ESS Leadership Award 4.2 NCRA FY2023 Office Budget	Possible nominations presented were Karen Plaut, Dave Benfield, Bill Barker, Shawn Donkin, and Marshall Martin. Much discussion occurred around each of the nominees. Given the number of excellent individuals eligible for the award, it was decided that Jeff will reach out to the respective AES directors for each and the nominees to collect information on each of the award criteria, then share with the NCRA for a final decision by mid-April, likely held electronically.	Action: Jeff will reach out to the respective AES directors for each and the nominees to collect information on each of the award criteria, then share with the NCRA for an electronic vote and final decision by mid-April. Action: The FY23 NCRA office budget was approved as presented during the Executive Session held at the end of the day. Chris will prepare and send the state assessment invoices out in April.

		Chris briefly reviewed the FY23 NCRA budget tables included below in the agenda brief. There were no questions or concerns from the group. The budget will be voted on for approval at the Executive Session later today.	
5.0	<p>NRSP-RC Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRSP_temp1 (renewal proposal): https://www.nimss.org/projects/18866 NRSP3 (up for midterm review): https://www.nimss.org/projects/18621 	<p>NRSP3 midterm review conducted this year. All is going well, no issues with this project.</p> <p>NRSP1 is renewing as the new NRSP capacity type and submitted a renewal proposal. NRSP1 supports NIMSS and the national impact writing program led by Sara Delheimer. More information to come after the NRSP-RC meeting on June 9, 2022.</p>	None, for information only.
6.0	ESS Chair's Report	Chair Pritsos presented his slides and discussed several issues, priorities, and discussions occurring with ESCOP leadership. Please refer to Chris' slides for details. Chris' presentation was cut short when NIFA Director Castille joined, so there was some later group discussion led by Jeff that clarified and added to Chris' presentation on topics such as the federal budget process, ESCOP's reps on the BAA, how APLU works, and possibilities for change when the new APLU president starts. Please see Jeff's notes included below with the agenda briefs.	None, for information and discussion only.
7.0	NIFA Director's Report	<p>Director Castille joined the meeting virtually via Zoom and she (and then later Deb Hamernik) discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NIFA RFA calendar and website have been updated. Please reach out with any comments or suggestions. 2021 was an excellent year for on-time RFA and grant releases. 	None, for information and discussion only.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnerships with LGUs are key and of great importance to NIFA. The NC’s LGU2U program was an excellent way to get to know staff and build relationships. NIFA hopes it will continue, grow, and encourages LGUs to invite NIFA staff to come to their institutions once travel opens up more. Please also reach out with other ideas on improving NIFA/LGU partnerships.• The new Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities opportunity provides up to \$1 billion for pilot projects that create market opportunities for commodities produced using climate-smart practices. USDA is now accepting project applications for fiscal year 2022. NCRS will administer this program. https://www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities• Director Castille attended the national 4-H conference in March where \$60M of AFRI integrated education grants were announced. NIFA is committed to supporting youth development and the next generation of agricultural scientists.• NIFA encourages new investigators to apply for new investigator AFRI grants and sign up to serve on panels to help increase diversity and the science represented.• NIFA is working to ensure that DEI/Civil Rights reviews are customer service driven. Again, reach out with any questions or concerns on this effort.• Staffing at NIFA is strong and they continue to fill vacancies. They now have over 300 experts on staff and that number is growing.	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NERAOC will occur in mid-April and will be a great opportunity for LGU staff to connect with NIFA in person. • Please be sure to share your institution's stories and accomplishments with NIFA communicators. They can help amplify the work of LGUs. • Parag Chitnis will be leaving NIFA and taking the VPR position in Wyoming on June 1. Unsure who will serve as the interim NIFA director at this time, although discussions are occurring now with NIFA leadership. • All AFRI RFAs have been released for this year. • NIFA is preparing to review the annual report of accomplishments which is now due in mid-April, not April 1. 	
8.0	NCRCRD Director's Report	Maria Marshall, NCRCRD Director, gave a presentation on the work being conducted at the Center. Please refer to her slideshow (included at the end of this document) for more details.	None, for information only.
9.0	ARS Report	ARS MWA Director Alberto Pantoja gave a brief ARS update. Please refer to Alberto's agenda brief and slide presentation (included at the end of this document) for details on his ARS update.	None, for information only.
10.0	BP Group Discussion: Effective Strategic Re-organization	Shibu Jose presented a slideshow on the efforts undertaken at MU to go from 22 farms and centers down to 4 REECs (research, education, and Extension centers) and group discussion ensued around this topic. Strong preparation and stakeholder support before initiating the changers were identified as keys to success. Refer to Shibu's slides included at the end of this document.	Group discussion.

11.0	<p>MRC Report and Recommendations Approval Votes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New/renewal multistate proposals • Midterm reviews • NC7 FY23-FY28 Budget • NC Multistate Research Award Winner • NC Emerging Issues Climate Proposal Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All MRC new/renewal/midterm review proposal/project recommendations were approved by the NCRA as presented in the agenda brief, with the change to approve NC7’s proposal and budget pending minor revision to include details on species included, how each are funded, and how the work of NC7 is impacting PIs at each institution. More information is needed in the proposal on how NC7 is having a regional impact. • NCERA137’s submission was approved as the NC nomination to the national Excellence in Multistate Research Award. Jeff will work with Marty on final edits before it’s submitted to ESCOP STC for review. • Two proposals were submitted for the NC Emerging Issues Climate RFA, but neither project was selected because it was unclear if either would be able to have the intended impact within the 2-year term of funding. Jeff will prepare a communication on behalf of the MRC to send to each project team. The NCRA may re-evaluate the RFA and re-release next year, making the emphasis on short-term impacts and multistate amplification clearer to applicants. Anne Dorrance also observed that NC1189 might be a good candidate for next year’s RFA, allowing them to use the funds to collect NC data baseline data, rather than using data from only other regions as they are doing currently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All MRC new/renewal/midterm review proposal/project recommendations were approved by the NCRA as presented in the agenda brief, with the change to approve NC7’s proposal and budget (\$50,000 increase) pending minor revision to include details on species included, how each are funded, and how the work of NC7 is impacting PIs at each institution given the use of Hatch funds. More information is needed in the proposal on how NC7 is having a regional impact. • NCERA137’s submission was approved as the NC nomination to the national Excellence in Multistate Research Award. Jeff will work with Marty on final edits before it’s submitted to ESCOP STC for review. • Two proposals were submitted for the NC Emerging Issues Climate RFA, but neither project was selected because it was unclear if either would be able to have the intended impact within the 2-year term of funding. Jeff will prepare a communication on behalf of the MRC to send to each project team.
12.0	NC 2022 Summer Mini LGU Update	Ohio State will host the 2022 summer NC Mini LGU meeting in Columbus, OH, July 10 to 12. Optional tours will be offered on Sunday, July 10. Monday,	None, for information only.

		<p>July 11 will include a welcome from VP and Dean Kress, a keynote speaker (TBD), and other sessions, plus a BBQ dinner. Tuesday, July 12 will include updates from APLU, others, and regional meetings. Gary/Anne are looking for ideas on a meeting theme, so please reach out to them with your thoughts.</p>	
13.0	ESCOP STC Report	<p>Bernie Engel, STC Chair, joined via Zoom to give a brief STC update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STC is an active committee, meeting monthly with good attendance. http://escop.info/committee/stc/ • ESCOP Grand Challenge documents have been customized and made fillable so institutions can use them as templates for sharing their own, related accomplishments and impacts for a consistent message across LGUs. • The AES interactive map is currently being updated and a call went out for stations to offer edits. • A multistate project survey is underway, aligning projects with NIFA and ESCOP priorities. Jeff/Chris submitted a table for NC projects already. • A communications individual is being hired to assist with several projects. • The committee is gearing up to select the national Excellence in Multistate Research award winner. 	None, for information only.
14.0	Professional Development Session – <i>Understanding and Working with Communities &</i>	<p>Drs. Trent Teegerstrom and Claudia Nelson from the University of AZ provided the group with a presentation and Q&A on best practices for partnering with tribal communities/colleges. Group</p>	None, for information and discussion only.

	<p><i>Tribal Sponsored Projects & Research</i></p> <p>NIFA Land-grant Universities Map</p>	<p>discussion followed. Please refer to provided slides at the end of this document for details.</p>	
15.0	<p>BP Group Discussion: Prioritizing Future Discussions on: Succession Planning, Recruiting Administrative and Staff Positions, Sunsetting Programs, NC Communications Collaborations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group agreed that all these topics are valuable and could be for either future in-person meetings or on our Friday monthly NCRA calls. • Succession planning: What to do when staff leaves/retires and replacements aren't trained, institutional knowledge is lost. George also indicated that his idea for succession planning is how to prepare people to possibly transition into administrative positions, see if they're interested, experience what these roles are like, etc. Building depth at the faculty level. Important to show people the day-to-day activities of an administrator in addition to leadership training. UNL uses a "lead faculty" program, with about 10% time in an admin role. UMN does "CFAN leads" and gives associate faculty in that program part of a problem the college is working on and has them work together in a group on solutions. Case studies are also part of the mix of practical experiences. • Anne: Is there an opportunity for an "esteemed emeritus" program, to allow those at or beyond retirement age to stay involved but also open positions to new faculty? Lots of HR issues come up for this that need to be handled. • Sunsetting programs (Carolyn): Turns into a discussion about Centers/Institutes every time. She hears more about what's been done wrong, rather than learning how to do it properly. Consider ties to physical infrastructure, as well. 	<p>The group agreed that we'll go down the list and add these discussion topics to our monthly NCRA calls and future in-person meetings.</p>

		<p>To successfully do this, we need clear expectations, metrics, and the strength to end these programs. It's important to know how to set them up properly with a regular review process so later they can be closed effectively, as needed. Consider also external advisory committee roles, other colleges involved, budget lines, Centers created for a certain person versus to address issues/topics, conducting external reviews, rules in place for sunseting that aren't being followed, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications: Jeff/Chris will follow up once NIFA communicators are more settled into their role. Jeff will check with Robin Shepard to determine if he is involved with NC communicators now. 	
16.0	Other Business, as needed	None identified.	None identified.
17.0	NCRA Spring Meeting 2023 Location Ideas	San Diego was chosen as the 2023 location. Chris will investigate booking hotel and meeting space. Carolyn and Ruth will look into Iowa State-owned properties in the US VI for a possible 2024 location.	San Diego, CA was chosen for the 2023 NCRA spring meeting location.
18.0	NCRA Office 2021/2022 Activities and Accomplishments	Chris Hamilton reviewed highlights of her included 2021/2022 activities and accomplishments. On behalf of the NCRA, Hector thanked Chris for her dedication and good work for the association. Jeff Jacobsen announced his retirement to the group. He offered to continue full time through the end of his current contract in June, then go part-time from July to December 2022. The NCRA heartily thanked and applauded Jeff for all his work for the association and jokingly demanded that he needs to stay through a pretend 3-year retirement notification period.	For information and discussion during Executive Session.

19.0	Executive Session	NCRA directors only remained in the meeting room to discuss the NCRA budget and how to proceed with the new executive director search.	Group discussion.
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Meeting adjourned at approximately 5 pm MST.

Item 4.2 NCRA FY2023 Office Budget

Presenter: Hector Santiago

Action Requested: For information and approval for FY23 budget

(as of 3/8/2022)

NCRA FY2022 Working Budget Budget with Proposed FY2023

INCOME

Description	FY2021	FY2022		FY2023
	Final	Budget	YTD	Budget
State Assessments	483,849	483,849	483,849	483,849
Account Carryover (MSU Actual)****	96,463	195,883	195,883	<i>tbd</i>
TOTAL INCOME	580,312	679,732	679,732	483,849

EXPENSE

Description	FY2021	FY2022		FY2023
	Final	Budget	YTD	Budget
NCRA				
Regional Initiatives	-	120,000		
NCRA Subtotal	-	120,000	-	

MICHIGAN STATE				
Executive Director Salary*	210,215	217,464	217,464	221,813
Fringe**	41,450	47,994	45,254	52,237
Office Operating	1,064	3,000	4,837	3,000
Travel	305	35,000	3,124	35,000
Training	-	-	-	-
MSU Admin/Service Fees (\$5/month as of FY20)	60	60	40	60
MSU Subtotal	253,094	303,518	270,719	312,110

U of WISCONSIN				
Assistant Director Salary*	83,252	86,032	86,032	87,753
Fringe***	34,232	35,273	35,273	35,979
Office Operating	629	3,000	537	3,000
Travel	285	12,000	2,234	12,000
Training	9,750	500	-	500
Meeting Support	-	2,000	-	2,000
UW Admin/Service Fees (now 5% CALS, 7% UW)	17,760	16,657	5,602	16,948
UW Subtotal	145,908	155,462	129,678	158,180

TOTAL EXPENSE	399,002	578,980	400,397	470,289
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BALANCE	181,310	100,752	279,335	13,560
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*MSU and UW Salaries (and related fringe) returned to pre-pandemic levels on 7/1/2021.

**MSU FY23 ~23.55%

***UW estimated fringe: ~ 41% (includes monthly UW term leave fee).

****MSU FY21 carryover will be used for NC Emerging Issues (\$60,000 per year for 2 years)

NCRA Accounts at MSU and UW

Account at MSU	FY21	FY22	FY23
MSU Starting Balance	96,463	195,883	<i>tbd</i>
MSU Income	483,849	483,849	483,849
MSU Budgeted Expenses	253,094	423,518	312,110
MSU Budgeted Expenses + UW invoice	384,428	576,805	470,289
<i>MSU Operating Reserve (3 mo)</i>	-	75,000	75,000
Estimated MSU Ending Balance/Carryover	195,884	27,927	<i>tbd</i>
Actual MSU Ending Balance/Carryover*	195,883	<i>tbd</i>	<i>tbd</i>

Account at UW	FY21	FY22	FY23
UW Starting Balance	16,749	2,175	-
UW Income	-	-	-
UW Expenses	145,908	155,462	158,180
Actual UW Ending Balance/Carryover	2,175	<i>tbd</i>	<i>tbd</i>
<i>UW Operating Reserve (3 mo)</i>	35,000	35,000	35,000
<i>Estimated UW Invoice to MSU**</i>	128,514	153,286	158,180
<i>Actual UW Invoice to MSU</i>	131,334	<i>tbd</i>	<i>tbd</i>

*We have now included in the FY2020 MSU carryover all of the budgeted MSU fees that were never charged in 2017-2020.

**UW will invoice MSU mid-quarter for actual expenses (\$38,322 in August 2021; \$38,322 in November 2021; \$38,322 in February 2022, and ?? in May 2022 to cover final 2021 expenses).

FY2022 and Proposed FY2023 NCRA Assessments Distribution by State

State	60% State Equal Share Assessments	40% Proportional to State's Share of MRF*		FY22 Assessment	FY23 Assessment (Proposed)
Illinois	\$24,192	9.87%	\$19,104	\$43,312	\$43,296
Indiana	\$24,192	8.30%	\$16,064	\$40,306	\$40,256
Iowa	\$24,192	10.54%	\$20,393	\$44,283	\$44,586
Kansas	\$24,192	7.63%	\$14,768	\$39,007	\$38,961
Michigan	\$24,192	8.68%	\$16,804	\$41,159	\$40,997
Minnesota	\$24,192	8.71%	\$16,856	\$41,101	\$41,048
Missouri	\$24,192	7.78%	\$15,058	\$39,298	\$39,251
Nebraska	\$24,192	8.99%	\$17,391	\$41,334	\$41,583
North Dakota	\$24,192	5.86%	\$11,347	\$35,575	\$35,539
Ohio	\$24,192	9.44%	\$18,267	\$42,517	\$42,460
South Dakota	\$24,192	5.91%	\$11,444	\$35,672	\$35,636
Wisconsin	\$24,192	8.29%	\$16,044	\$40,287	\$40,237
TOTAL	\$290,309	100.00%	\$193,540	\$483,849	\$483,849

*Proportion of State share of MRF based upon rolling 3-year actual average (FFY18-20) as provided by NIFA. NRSP and NC off-the-top allocations (IA, MI, NE, WI) not included.

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Item 4.1: NC Leadership Award

Presenter: Hector Santiago

Action Requested: For discussion and vote on NC winner

Past NCRA Winners (All except Arlen Leholm, a former NCRA ED, served a full leadership cycle from MRC chair through NCRA chair):

- 2021: Deb Hamernik
- 2020: Marc Linit
- 2019: Joe Colletti
- 2018: Doug Buhler
- 2017: Ernie Minton
- 2016: Steve Slack
- 2015: Fred Cholick
- 2014: Arlen Leholm

From the 2022 Leadership Award Call:

Eligibility:

Individuals eligible for this award are former or current State Agricultural Experiment/Research Station (SAES or ARD) leaders who have provided service as assistant director, associate director, director, administrator or as chief operating officers with equivalent, but variant titles (e.g. vice chancellor, associate vice chancellor, associate vice president, dean for research) and/or as a regional executive director. This award is distinctive in its expectations and not necessarily coincident with retirement, election to specific office or any other specific professional benchmark.

Nominations:

The formal call initiating the annual process will reside with the ESCOP Chair. Each region will establish its own nomination and review process, while adhering to the below elements, leading to the national award recognitions. Nominations shall address the contributions of the nominee to the Land-grant ideal through service to include offices held, committee assignments, and other service and, in particular, special and extraordinary service activities. Such service should include for example: active participation in the affairs of the Regional Association and/or ESCOP; regional, national and/or international special assignments with distinctive performance that has advanced the mission of the ESS and the Land-grant ideal; systemic efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion; and a record of significant accomplishments in the agricultural sciences. Specific examples of contributions may include: the enhancement of cooperation across institutions, creation of model administrative systems useable by other institutions, and development of new strategic directions for the Regional Associations or the ESS.

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Item 6.0: ESS Chair's Report

Presenter: Chris Pritsos

Comments on Chris Pritsos, ESCOP Chair, Slides (3/27/2022)

General

- APLU is often used in lieu of the more appropriate BAA (Board on Agriculture Assembly) which is a subcomponent of the large APLU structure. This occurs on many slides.

Slide 3

- The ESCOP BLC (Budget and Legislative Committee) studied numerous approaches over many months to derive a defensible and meaningful approach for the ESCOP budget advocacy (amount over multiple years). Ultimately, we mimicked China's 14% annual increase from published literature.
- Approved through ESCOP BLC, ESCOP, BAA BAC, BAA PBD.

Slide 4

- Gordian report funded by ESS concluded at least \$11.5B was necessary (2020, released in 2021) meaning that it is likely much more in 2022 and for each year thereafter.
- Democratic-led initiatives took this information and integrated it into the first Build Back Better (BBB) bill for \$3.65B for colleges of ag with special consideration for the 1890s, insular areas and HSIs.
- A second (and last) iteration identified ~\$1B for 1890s, insular areas and HSIs. A minority of 1862s would have qualified as HSIs.
- \$365M was approved by the BAA BAC and BAA PBD for ag research infrastructure for each of 10 years. Most problematic as that APLU BAA staff and Lewis-Burke Associates under the memo from BAA BAC Paul Patterson said that ESCOP had approved the amount when asking the group to vote. This was not true, no ESCOP approval had been given. Very little discussion has occurred on next steps with infrastructure including advocacy approach and amount.

Slide 9

- LGU2U was initially an NC-led effort. After 5 sessions, NC released it to the larger ESCOP group for continuation now as national effort and Chair's Initiative.

Slide 11

- While the opportunity to provide the individual input of an ESS budget increase and justification is good, only a select few even know that it occurred via a Chair letter to NIFA Director. Hence, how can it be part of any advocacy effort?
- The 28% increase to Hatch mimics the PBR request for a \$70M increase to the enacted FFY2021 budget.

Slide 16

- Good illustration of how ESS 'fits' into the BAA schematic and the larger APLU structure. The second part of this schematic following the red arrow is 'our' ESS organization as a point of information.

Slide 17

- FYI – The BAC and CLP operate more like the Senate than the House. Equal vote rather than by size and scope. In addition, historically speaking on research issues there would be 2 votes of 15 (BAC) or 10 (PBD) given alignment with 1862 and 1890 research on issues.

- APLU (large structure) is a mixture of LGUs and non-LGUs. This is irrelevant when talking about BAA and certainly ESS issues as mentioned throughout the presentation.
- Within the BAA there are many assessments and some pass throughs. For ESS the research assessments are based upon Hatch and competitive funds (1862s), and Evans-Allen and competitive funds (1890s) as prescribed.
- Not sure of the basis of the 73% figure.

Slide 18

- These principles have been part of the BAA approach for many years and added to the Fly-in meeting in 2021.

Slide 19

- Reflects the PBR numbers for Hatch and AFRI for FFY2022. Any increase beyond \$700M for AFRI would have to have a new authorization level. This was part of a concurrent discussion within CLP. The proposed AFRI increases for FFY23 was 14% above the FFY22 request, and the FFY24 was 14% above the FFY23 request.
- The Hatch request continued out the \$70M PBR request for each of the next two years reflected in Slide 18 principles.

Slide 20

- Some figures were rounded throughout the Table.
- AFRI requests only went up to the current authorized amount (\$700M).
- There should not be a Research Total that includes AFRI. AFRI is a competitive program that has all functions embedded in its RFAs.
- This slide and the Options presented reflect Lewis-Burke Associates and, possibly, BAA leadership.

Slide 21

- Related to Slide 11.
- Not sure of the rationale of the 28% other than twice the China increase number and close to the PBR request for 2023. This was applied to all three research capacity lines.
- As with AFRI should the authorized level of \$700M be reached, then a new authorization level would be needed. This would apply to McIntire-Stennis as the current authorization level is \$46M.

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Item 9.0: ARS Report

Presenter: Alberto Pantoja

Action Requested: For information

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
Report to NCRA State Agriculture Experiment Station Directors

March 2022

Area Leadership

Midwest Area

Area Director: Alberto Pantoja

Associate Area Directors: Jay Johnson; Jeff Vallet

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin

Plains Area

Area Director: Larry Chandler

Associate Area Directors: Bryan Kaphammer; Joseph Rich

Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming

Budget Information

FY 2021 Enacted Budget for ARS

- Salaries and Expenses:
 - \$1,491,784,000
 - Increase of \$77.4 million from the FY 2020 appropriation
 - Increases
 - Program Increases 77,418,000
 - Decreases 0
 - Proposed Location/Laboratory/Worksite Closures
 - Proposed Project Terminations
- Buildings and Facilities. 35,700,000
 - Locations Co-located at Universities
 - Design NCRPPA¹ (Lincoln, NE) 11,200,000

¹ National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture

FY 2022 Enacted Budget for ARS

- Salaries and Expenses:
 - \$1,653,496,000
 - Discretionary 1,633,496,000
 - Mandatory² 20,000,000
 - Increase of \$141.7 million from the FY 2021 appropriation

 - Increases
 - Program Increases 141,712,000

 - Decreases 0
 - Proposed Location/Laboratory/Worksite Closures
 - Proposed Project Terminations

- Buildings and Facilities. 127,805,000
 - Locations Co-located at Universities
 - NCRPPA³ (Lincoln, NE) 20,000,000
 - Center for Agricultural Animal Genetic Eng. & Health (Columbia, MO) 4,000,000
 - Plant Germplasm Research Facility (Madison, WI) 39,700,000
 - National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (Peoria, IL) 4,500,000

FY 2023 President’s Proposed Budget for ARS

- Release of the FY23 budget proposal is expected sometime in March at the earliest

² Responsive Agricultural Food Systems Research Unit, College Station, TX

³ Description of program increases by research area is given in Table 1 below.

New Leadership and Vacancies

Midwest Area

- Illinois
 - Peoria, National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research
 - Bioenergy Research - vacant; Bruce Dien, Acting RL
 - Bio-oils Research - Steve Cermak, RL
 - Crop Bioprotection Research - vacant; Jose Ramirez, Acting RL
 - Mycotoxin Prevention & Applied Microbiology Research - Martha Vaughan, RL
 - Plant Polymer - vacant; Gordon Selling, Acting RL
 - Renewable Product Technology - Christopher Skory, RL
 - Urbana
 - Soybean/Maize Germplasm and Pathogen Genetics Research - Glen Hartman, RL
- Indiana
 - West Lafayette
 - Livestock Behavior Research - vacant; Jay S. Johnson, Acting RL
 - National Soil Erosion Research - vacant; Chad Penn, Acting RL
- Iowa
 - Ames, Campus
 - Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research - Michelle Graham, RL
 - Plant Introduction Station - David Peters, RL
 - Ames, National Animal Disease Center (NADC)
 - Center Director – Mark Ackermann, CD
 - Ames, National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment
 - Center Director, vacant; Tom Sauer Acting
 - Agroecosystems Management Research - vacant; Brian Kerr, Acting RL
 - Soil, Water, and Air Resources Research - vacant; Daniel Olk, Acting RL
- Minnesota
 - Morris
 - Soil Management Research - Jane Johnson, RL
- Missouri
 - Columbia
 - Cropping Systems & Water Quality Research - Kenneth Sudduth, RL
 - Plant Genetics Research - Bruce Hibbard, RL
- Wisconsin
 - Madison, US Dairy Forage Research Laboratory
 - Cell Wall Biology & Utilization Research - Michael Sullivan, RL
 - Dairy Forage Research - Heathcliffe Riday, RL
 - Madison
 - Cereal Crops Research - vacant; Ramamurthy Mahalingam, Acting RL

New Leadership and Vacancies

Plains Area

- Kansas
 - Manhattan, Center for Grain and Animal Health Research
 - Center Director – James Campbell, CD
 - Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit – Dana Nayduch, RL
 - Grain Quality and Structure Research – Fadi Aramouni, RL
 - Stored Product Insect and Engineering Research – vacant; Erin Scully, Acting RL
 - Manhattan, National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility
 - Center Director – Alfonso Clavijo; CD
 - Foreign Animal Disease Research (Plum Island) – Luis Rodriguez, RL
 - Foreign Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research – Chad Mire, RL
 - Zoonotic and Emerging Disease Research – vacant (selection pending)

- Nebraska
 - Clay Center, US Meat Animal Research Center
 - Animal Health Genomics Research – vacant; Carol Chitko-Mckown, Acting RL
 - Livestock Bio-Systems Research – Clay Lents, RL
 - Lincoln
 - Agroecosystem Management Research – Virginia Jin, RL
 - Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research – Scott Sattler, RL

- North Dakota
 - Fargo, Edward T. Shafer Agricultural Research Center
 - Cereal Crops Research – Rajeev Gupta, RL
 - Insect Genetics and Biochemistry Research – Joseph Rinehart, RL
 - Sugar Beet and Potato Research – Melvin Bolton, RL
 - Sunflower and Plant Biology Research Unit, – vacant; Brent Hulke, Acting RL
 - Grand Forks, Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center
 - Healthy Body Weight Research Unit – Kate Larson, RL

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Item 11.0: MRC Report

Presenters: Germán Bollero, Chris Hamilton

Action Requested: Approval of MRC Recommendations

MRC FY22 Members:

Germán Bollero, MRC Chair

Bernie Engel

Anne Dorrance

Bill Gibbons

Jeff Jacobsen, ex-officio

Agenda:

1. [New/Renewal Projects](#) – All
 - Action needed:
 - Briefly discuss each review.
 - MRC motion to approve all review recommendations
2. [Midterm Reviews](#) – Chris
 - Action needed: MRC motion to approve all review recommendations (all are OK to continue)
3. [NC7 FY23-28 Proposal and OTT Budget](#), (refer to NIMSS link) – Anne, Germán
 - Action needed: MRC motion to approve 5-year proposal and OTT budget
4. NC Multistate Research Award Submission, NCERA137 (attachment; updated from 2021 submission), Germán
 - Action needed: MRC motion to approve NCERA137 as NC regional winner/nominee for national competition
5. Emerging Issues Multistate Project Discussion (attachment) – Germán
 - Action needed: Discussion and MRC motion to approve winning proposal, if applicable this round.
6. MRC Next Steps – Chris
 - Action needed: None, for information only
7. Other, as needed
 - New MRC member suggestions for FY23

New/Renewal Proposals:

Current Proj # (Temp #)	Title	Project/Proposal Homepage	MRC Lead Reviewer	MRC Recommendations
NCCC215 (NCCC_temp215)	Potato Breeding and Genetics Technical Committee	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18918	Anne	<p>It is inferred in a few places in the proposal of the level of collaboration within and external to these potato breeders. they participate in the evaluation of varieties through cooperative agreements, but also hold five the top 15 leading potato varieties. Is there an overall exchange of germplasm among these breeders and with others? This should be documented to show the enhanced coordination and impact that this group is having. The participating states is greatly reduced from earlier lists, should be updated, please encourage greater participation, especially from previous project member lists.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve pending minor revision.</p>
NCERA184 (NCERA_temp184)	Management of Small Grain Diseases	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18919	Anne	<p>This committee has matured to a well coordinated/collaborative committee. The proposal is written as a general overview for all of the activities and not by the individual states/Pis. The number of resources that this team has developed are highly impactful. As a team they have developed a number of publications, websites for decision tools for fungicide applications, and general background on diseases. The coordinated research across the region – highlighted by fungicide trials followed by recommendation guides. Current participant list is not reflective of the previous year, so a reminder to former members to fill out the schedule E is needed. Note: this group could be a great candidate for the multistate award; also a great example of how the proposals should be written to reflect the collaborative theme.</p>

				Recommendation: Approve as is, encourage greater participation (Chris re-sent invitation on 3/17/2022)
NCERA224 (NCERA_temp224)	IPM Strategies for Arthropod Pests and Diseases in Nurseries and Landscapes	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18875	Anne	<p>Overall, this is a very thorough overview of all of the challenges that face nurseries/landscapes – the number of invasives and problem pests/diseases is quite long. Unfortunately, this group presented their work still by state and not as how the team is going to approach the monitoring/development of management strategies as a collaborative effort.</p> <p>Request that they rewrite this based more on how the collective membership will work together – and get away from the “state report” style. Example – numerous workshops and educational materials were prepared – but were any of them from the collective group – or were these all individual efforts only in their state.</p> <p>Minor edits. Objective 1 is missing a couple of words and still has comments. Change to: Monitor and characterize new and emerging arthropod pests and host plant pathogens (including invasive species and climate change induced range expansion). Investigate and develop detection methods, biology, and management.</p> <p>New invasives and emerging plant pathogens in this nursery landscape covers roles played by other agencies (USDA APHIS, State Dept of Ag Plant Industry)- are there linkages with these groups to help foster communication and potential funding for key objectives to the members of this team.</p> <p>The same is true for the Research divisions now of the larger landscape management companies – who in some ways would be the primary clientele.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve pending minor revision.</p>

NC7 (NC_temp7)	Conservation, Management, Enhancement and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18881	Anne, Germán	<p>Germán: Plant genetic resources acquired from all over the world and conserved at the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station (NCRPIS) support the role of the NC region as the major grain production area of the world. The NC_temp7 (NC7) project is a long standing successful project part of the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) to conserve, characterize, evaluate, and distribute germplasm to stakeholders including researchers, educators, and commercial producers worldwide. It addresses multiple priorities, including global food security, value-added genes in conventional breeding and molecular biology, new plant species for agricultural production, the nutritional quality of plant and food products, and natural resource and ecosystem quality. The NCRPIS has been partially funded as NC7 since 1947 and by the USDA-ARS. Iowa State serves as its host institution. The multi-state committee members include an array of prominent plant breeders, primarily from the NC region. Participants in NC7 have used these germplasm and information resources to improve crop genetics and production technologies and enhance society's health and nutrition. As in previous renewals, the project identifies six objectives that revolve around a general theme of a coordinated national acquisition and management of plant germplasm. The project proposal includes a thorough and sufficiently detailed section on Methods and discussion of contributions of individual stations to the project. Milestones for measuring progress and results are well presented. Recommendation: Approve.</p> <p>Anne: This project shares a wide collection of attributes and research associated with the germplasm collection. this project focused more on the use of germplasm by the members of the committee and in the methods –</p>
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				described a collection of uses of germplasm. This seemed to all encompassing and not directed under the NC7 guidance - potentially missing some highly impactful outcomes. There is no doubt the benefit of these collections to the region, from general public to the many organizations it takes to evaluate and maintain these collections. Recommendation: Approve.
NC1201 (NC_temp1201)	Methods to Increase Reproductive Efficiency in Cattle	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18857	Bernie	The current institutions committed to working together for each objective are identified in the project document. The team has a good plan building on prior successes for dissemination of the research findings. The participant list has reasonable representation from the north central region (others in the region should be encouraged to connect to this project) and good national representation. Recommendation: Approve.
NCERA225 (NCERA_temp225)	Implementation and Strategies for National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18914	Bernie	This project is a continuation of efforts started in NCERA199. It appears the project that preceded this ended in 2016. The temporary project met in December 2021. The meeting notes are detailed and document significant accomplishments and impact (labeled SAES-422 Multistate Research Activity Accomplishment Report in the system). The project has potential to compliment other multistate effort – NC1010 was identified as an example but there are other potential opportunities as well that should be explored. The project has excellent national representation and reasonable north central participation (opportunities for others in region to be involved). There are several external associations and USDA ARS that are also engaged in the project. The project has four objectives: 1. Provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information for the many disconnected and diverse research activities--biological, statistical, computational, and economical--that support National Cattle Evaluation (NCE). 2. Develop through this exchange

				<p>new tools for delivery and use of beef cattle genetic research, including genomic information, to beef breed associations and beef cattle producers. 3. Update the beef cattle industry on current developments in beef breeding and genetics research. 4. Collaborate with appropriate groups (eg. NBCEC, BIF, and USDA/NIFA funded Integrated Projects) on research and outreach. The project justification seems to be somewhat backward looking rather than forward looking (e.g. citations to support need are from 2002, 2003 and 2005). A strong case for this being a multistate effort could be made in the proposal but is not. Recommendation: minor revisions to be more forward looking about current and future needs in the project area and better make case for this being multistate effort.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve pending minor revision.</p>
NC1202 (NC_temp1202)	Enteric Diseases of Food Animals: Enhanced Prevention, Control and Food Safety	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18887	Bernie	<p>This project was previously NC1041 which was successful. The temporary project team met in December 2021 with nearly 50 participants. The project report provides a long list of accomplishments from the group. The project participants represent a range of expertise that is useful in addressing the range of issues this project pursues. The project has good participation from the North Central Region and additional participants spread nationally. The project makes a good case for this being a multistate project given collaborative and shared work are needed to address the challenges of diseases in food animals. The project has 4 objectives: 1. Focus on emerging diseases: We will identify, characterize and develop improved detection and prevention methods related to newly recognized, novel or emerging causes of zoonotic enteric disease and enteric pathogens of food animals. 2. Focus on preventions and interventions: We will develop and improve preventative measures and interventions to</p>

				<p>reduce the incidence and prevalence of infections of food animals with enteric pathogens of livestock and foodborne and waterborne pathogens. 3. Focus on disseminating knowledge: We will provide training or continuing education to disseminate new information to students, producers, veterinarians, diagnostic labs and others to implement interventions and preventative measures. 4. Group interaction: The group will interact in a variety of ways to facilitate progress including direct collaborations with joint publications, sharing of resources (pathogen strains, gene sequences, statistical analysis, bioinformatics information/expertise), and friendly feedback and facilitation for all research efforts at annual meetings. This project is well written and builds on prior successes of the group. The likely impacts are important and significant.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve.</p>
NC1198 (NC_temp1198)	Enhancing the Resilience of Agriculture and Food of the Middle: Building for the Future	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18896	Bill	<p>It appears that these mid-sized operations could be competing with small scale niche producers that have established solid, direct marketing approaches to their clientele. How do we support these mid-sized operations while not inadvertently damaging the small, direct market producers. Are there separate and distinct market niches that each group could focus? Can the two groups work together to jointly access other markets, or to provide a more uniform supply chain to the market?</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve.</p>

NC1206 (NC_temp1206)	Antimicrobial Resistance	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18856	Bill	<p>Solid proposal. Strong and continuing need. I like the continuing mention of "one health," but are there some mechanisms that this group could use to incorporate the other groups across this "one health" spectrum? This should include not only the academic/research community, but ideally some members in the value chain such as companies that transport and process animals. It would be helpful to describe more clearly that the objectives will include developing practices and recommendations to reduce the development and spread of AMRs, and to then track the effectiveness of these practices and programs.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve.</p>
NC1200 (NC_temp1200)	Regulation of Photosynthetic Processes	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18886	Germán	<p>This is a long standing successful project with an extensive publication record. All required components of the project are included and well documented. Collaborative efforts are apparent and have been mentioned repeatedly. A truly multidisciplinary approach is used to tackle clear objectives. A particular strength of the proposed project is how it brings together basic and more applied scientists to cover the spectrum of expertise needed to address the issues. The proposed work should lead to novel outcomes that will advance our understanding of photosynthesis regulation, thereby addressing important questions of agricultural sustainability given a changing environment.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve.</p>

<p>NC140 (NC_temp140)</p>	<p>IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN TREE-FRUIT PRODUCTION THROUGH CHANGES IN ROOTSTOCK USE</p>	<p>https://www.nimss.org/projects/18883</p>	<p>Germán</p>	<p>The tree fruit industries need new technologies to mechanize orchard operations to reduce their dependence on an unreliable labor supply. The overriding goal of NC140 is to combine rootstocks with tree training and pruning practices adapted to local conditions to develop orchard systems that facilitate orchard mechanization. NC140 has a long (started in mid 70's) history of multidisciplinary collaborative research to address the needs of the North American tree fruit industries. Over the years, the project goals have evolved to use new research technologies to address changing needs of the industry. The research proposed here, combined with the outreach proposals, will provide the industry with improved rootstocks along with new tree training and pruning techniques to allow the industry to remain sustainable.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve.</p>
<p>NC170 (NC_temp170)</p>	<p>Personal Protective Technologies for Current and Emerging Occupational and Environmental Hazards</p>	<p>https://www.nimss.org/projects/18894</p>	<p>Germán</p>	<p>Equipment (PPE) that provides protection in hazardous environments but retains flexibility and comfort that do not interfere with the performance of essential tasks. Participants represent a broad range of disciplinary expertise. Development of PPE requires analysis and research in a wide range of component areas, including functional textile and materials science, advanced materials testing and evaluation, anthropometrics and ergonomics, implementation of textile sensing technologies, garment design and testing, and outreach and policy-making. The project proposal includes a well-done discussion of related, current, and previous work. New objectives are specific (a. Develop and evaluate textile-based/wearable smart PPE systems to meet users' needs, b. To assess, develop, and improve PPE performance, comfort, sizing and fit inclusivity for underserved populations), and contributions of individual stations to addressing each objective are identified. A</p>

				<p>timely and impactful project that directly addresses NIFA goals.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve.</p>
NC1189 (NC_temp1198)	Understanding the Ecological and Social Constraints to Achieving Sustainable Fisheries Resource Policy and Management	https://www.nimss.org/projects/view/mrp/outline/18925	Jeff	<p>Statement of Issues and Justification: Good justification on the need for this work based with inland and marine fisheries necessary for conservation and sustainable uses feeding into policy and management of these resources. Directly addressing the importance to agriculture and rural life would be appropriate given the use of Hatch multistate funds. No mention is made on the negatives if this multistate work is not conducted. Expanding upon the need for this research and its impact with regional/national collaborations is warranted. Related Current and Previous Work: Given that three of four Objectives are from the prior project, some explicit explanation of progress to date and why these remain the majority of objectives to the renewal project should be provided. No mention is made of database searches addressing duplication and/or prior work by other multistate committees. Both of these should be addressed with the requested revisions. Objectives: The Objectives are clear, ambitious, and appropriate for the demonstrated needs. Examples of contributions and leveraging of resources across institutions should be added. In addition, given the policy and management implications from the outcomes of this research, how will other participant (e.g. USDA ARS, industry, state and federal agencies) relationships be built and be integrated into the project throughout the duration? Methods</p>

				<p>(Procedures): Methods are generally descriptive of activities by objectives. The creation, curation and accessibility of various databases and by whom should be described in more depth. External reviewers requested more details on all methods, yet this is not necessary for multistate projects although the writers should feel free to provide more information. Measurement of Progress and Results: Good. Participation (Resources) Report: In addition to the comprehensive membership with the current proposal, if warranted and possible, more participants from industry, NGOs, state agencies and others, could be added as participants to demonstrate linkages and broad engagement with managers and policy makers. How they will be cultivated and remained engaged throughout the project, could be illustrative of leveraging and integrating activities. Outreach Plan: Adequate. Organization: Adequate. Scientific Quality: Good and a positive observation on the quality of named participants from external reviewers. Format: A review of Appendix H, the MRC Evaluation Review Form, would be beneficial to ensure the proposal meets or exceeds requirements. Please refer to comments above as they are based upon the evaluation criteria. Literature Cited has two publications that have no dates (Cooper et al. (likely 2019), Yu et al. (likely 2020) that need to be completed.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve with Minor Revision.</p>
NCERA103 (NCERA_temp103)	Specialized Soil Amendments and Products, Growth Stimulants and Soil Fertility Management Programs	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18908	Jeff	Goals and objectives clearly stated and appropriate to an activity involving: Emerging or revised amendments and non-traditional products continually are brought to the marketplace. While there is not funding or time available to research all products a coordinated and prioritized approach by relevant NC faculty members and with on-farm testing is viable. Approaches to validate the most promising products are outlined, results will be widely

				<p>shared and archived in a searchable database. The issue of moving the website has been mentioned in prior projects. This needs to be resolved as-soon-as-possible. There is good potential to attain the objectives identified in the proposal. The historical performance and continuity with the North Central Fertility Conference offers very good potential for success. Notably, the website will be moved and need to be up-and-running as soon as permissible. Potential outcomes from the activity are identified for: Performance of selected products are published on the website and potentially in Extension publications or in regional materials as available. The long-standing presence of NCERA103 is not duplicative of any regional efforts and is complimentary to any other regional product with similar focus. Activity has moved beyond individual activity (s) and ideas to a collective, collaborative activity with appropriately balanced involvement of research, extension and/or academic participants. Given the lack of funding, the sheer number of products, time availability and low contributions of this work to professional performance metrics, the collaborations and integration of effort across states has been very good and consistent over the years. This is projected to continue successfully.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve, pending a clear plan/movement of the website ASAP.</p>
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<p>NCERA180 (NCERA_temp180)</p>	<p>Precision Agriculture Technologies for Food, Fiber, and Energy Production</p>	<p>https://www.nimss.org/projects/18888</p>	<p>Jeff</p>	<p>Three objectives are provided that are very broad. If these objectives were to be followed up with more specifics in the proposal, then a complete picture of 5-year project activities addressing these objectives would be more apparent. If these objectives remain, more information must be included in other components of the proposal that transparently connect with each objective. As mentioned throughout this review and with the NCAC review, more details need to be provided that would conceptually support the stated objectives. In addition, descriptions of activities which will address providing direction and vision for PA with industry and funding agencies; and describing how stakeholders will be engaged beyond literacy would enhance the overall project activities and productivity over time. While these additions do not need to address every possibility given the nature of PA, several illustrations of likely or primary activities would greatly enhance reviewers understanding of the overall project intent and its likelihood of success. With additions and refinements on the research program priorities and their subsequent link to Extension and teaching, please refine the Expected Outcomes and Impacts as appropriate. Activity is not duplicative with existing activities and address priorities. NCERA180 is a long-standing multistate committee that has an excellent record of productivity and leadership within PA, nationally and internationally. Historical membership has been strong and diversified by institutions (LGUs and USDA ARS) and discipline with stakeholders engaged with project participants. Although there are only seven participants officially signed up on this renewal proposal, it is anticipated that many more will join when (if) the proposal is officially approved by NCRA. Activity has moved beyond individual activity (s) and ideas to a collective, collaborative activity with appropriately balanced</p>
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			<p>involvement of research, extension and/or academic participants. If the above items are addressed, new and expanded descriptions would clearly demonstrate the coupling of research with Extension and teaching.</p> <p>Although ERAs allow for scientists, specialists, and others to work cooperatively to solve problems that concern more than one state, share research data, and coordinate research and other types of activities (Extension, teaching), specificity is required in outlining objectives, approaches, methods, and with expected outcomes that illustrate the integration and coordination with research and, in the case of NCERA180, Extension and teaching. Some general information is provided throughout the proposal, yet more defined and detailed descriptions would be helpful and anticipated given the prior work with NCERA180 projects. For example, new technologies, magnitude of spatial and temporal variation, zone definition with associated inputs, decision-making, innovative scientific research, numerous data streams, IOT devices, and remote sensing are all mentioned as researchable areas. Yet there is no mention of which PA elements that multistate committee participants might focus on with collaborative, coordinated, and integrated research. More detail is requested on the primary research focal areas. Will the efforts with PA address crop and livestock systems? How will stakeholder engagement efforts occur and through what mechanisms will their perspectives and needs drive prioritization within the multistate committee? Provide more in-depth information on research topics and approaches that also include the integration, collaboration, and coordination with Extension and teaching efforts. In addition, how will the current list of participants grow to be more</p>
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				<p>multidisciplinary and likely more membership given the current list of project participants?</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve pending revisions stated in the above review.</p> <p>FYI: Chris resent participation invite on 3/18/2022.</p>
NC1205				No proposal submitted, allow to expire as scheduled.
NCERA218				No proposal submitted, allow to expire as scheduled.

Midterm Reviews:

Current Proj # (Temp #)	Title	Project/Proposal Homepage	MRC Recommendations
NC1171	Interactions of individual, family, community, and policy contexts on the mental and physical health of diverse rural low-income families (NC223)	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18553	Recommend continuation.

NC1173	Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Bee Health	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18589	Recommend continuation.
NC1177	Agricultural and Rural Finance Markets in Transition	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18588	Recommend continuation.
NC1178	Land use and management practice impacts on soil carbon and associated agroecosystems services	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18600	Recommend continuation.
NC1180	Control of Emerging and Re-emerging Poultry Respiratory Diseases in the United States	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18557	Recommend continuation.
NC1181	Sustaining Forage-based Beef Cattle Production in a Bioenergy Environment	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18592	Recommend continuation.
NC1182	Nitrogen Cycling, Loading, and Use Efficiency in Forage-Based Livestock Production Systems	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18596	Recommend continuation.
NC1208	Biology, Etiology, and Management of Dollar Spot in Turfgrasses	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18590	Recommend continuation, assuming reports continue to be uploaded annually.

NC229	Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Disease (PRRS): Methods for the Integrated Control, Prevention and Elimination of PRRS in United States Swine Herds	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18593	Recommend continuation with suggestion of looking into Sara's impact workshop.
NCCC210	Regulation of Adipose Tissue Accretion in Meat-Producing Animals	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18572	Recommend continuation, assuming reports continue to be uploaded annually.
NCERA137	Soybean Diseases	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18582	Recommend continuation.
NCERA215	Contribution of 4-H Participation to the Development of Social Capital Within Communities	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18586	Recommend continuation.
NCERA216	Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18598	Recommend continuation.
NCERA217	Drainage design and management practices to improve water quality	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18580	Recommend continuation.
NCERA3	Soil and Landscape Assessment, Function and Interpretation	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18578	Recommend continuation.
NCERA57	Swine Reproductive Physiology	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18581	Recommend continuation.

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Item 18.0: NCRA Office 2021/2022 Activities and Accomplishments

Action Requested: For information and discussion during Executive Session.

Jeff Jacobsen, NCRA Executive Director

1. NCRA ACTIVITIES (many with Chris)

- Participate in monthly Executive Committee (EC) calls and COVID19 operations calls. Routine calls, Zoom meetings, and emails with Chris. Monthly financial reports by the MSU enable the AD and ED to reconcile the budget across the NCRA accounts. Develop NCRA meeting agendas and the NCRA FY2022 budget, all vetted through the EC.
- Integrate elements of the NCRA Plan in meetings and future activities.
- Participate with the MRC, NCRA Multistate Research award and NCRA Leadership award processes. Provide NCRA feedback through the MRC Chair to successful regional nominations recognized with a NCRA Certificate for our top regional multistate project. Work with a state-level communications expert and project leads to refine the NC multistate award nomination to be more nationally competitive.
- Multistate Committees – NCAC1 Crop and Soil Research, NCERA222 Integrated Pest Management, NC1187 The Chemical and Physical Nature of Particulate Matter Affecting, Air Water and Soil Quality, National Executive Director and Administrative Committee member, and NCRA MRC. NC AES position on the NC Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC). Transition the NCRA office management of the NRSP Review Committee to WAAESD management.
- NRSP1 as NCRA representative and lead AA. Chris Hamilton is the NIMSS lead. Executive Committee with Paula Agudelo, Bill Miller, Jeff Jacobsen and Bret Hess for Sara Delheimer (as needed). Assist in the five-year renewal proposal development with the AAs, Chris Hamilton, Sara Delheimer and Clemson University.
- Successfully implement the concept of LGU professionals from selected 1862, 1890 and 1994 NC Institutions engaging with NIFA in Kansas City, MO when unit staffing reaches a critical mass. Coined the term LGU2U to capture LGUs leading the rebuild effort on the partnership with NIFA. Over the course of several days, across formal and informal sessions, NC professionals and the NC EDs (Robin and Jeff) engage with NIFA. The first programmatic connector was the Office of Grants and Financial Management (OGFM). Currently, virtual training is the approach. Attendance from NIFA OGFM and the NC LGUs has been very good. We actively engage with the LGUs with leadership opportunities during interactive sessions. Nearly all NC LGUs across research and Extension routinely participated. With Chris's technical assistance the work-to-date is at <https://www.ncra-saes.org/nc-lgu2u-initiative>. Initiating work on LGU2U with the NIFA program groups.
- Contact all AAs with the NCACs to discuss activities, reviews, and roles and responsibilities.
- Regularly engage with the NC Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) at Purdue University with Robin Shepard.
- Assist with the Mini Land-grant meeting hosted by the University of Missouri.

- Create and refine a *draft* version of a NCRA-funded multistate project proposal with a focus on climate based upon NC Executive Committee discussions. Proposals will be reviewed at the NCRA 2022 spring meeting.

2. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES (many with Chris)

- New Beginning for Tribal Students, NIFA Panel Member.
- Facilitate the ESS Finance Committee effort to oversee ESS Financial Investment Policy implementation for ESS. Maintain official performance record and support the Chair with quarterly meetings and reporting to ESS. Read only access (for me) has been attained to the TD Wealth account and semi-annual meetings are to be scheduled with TD Wealth and the Finance Committee.
- Chris and Jeff are active participants and support to the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC). With this position, Jeff in turn, supports the ESCOP representative (Glenda Humiston) on the BAA Budget and Advocacy (BAC), the ESCOP representative to the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) and episodic work with other committees (e.g., Strategic Realignment Implementation Committee). With the selection of Lewis-Burke Associates as the new BAA advocacy firm, changes in processes and procedures will be frequent causing changes in the function and operation of the above committees. Provide feedback and guidance to APLU BAA on budget, member assessments and other priorities as they arise.
- Allied with ESCOP BLC activities, participate with the COVID Supplemental funding (\$300M), all Ag Research Infrastructure activities (\$11.5B), 2023 Farm Bill, and annual budgets for FFY23 and 24 requests and modifications for ESS.
- ESCOP website monitoring and nudging to keep current across regional offices and committee assignments.
- Initiate the discussion with research EDs to capture ESS capacities, gaps and program priorities with climate research. This led to a national survey and a climate program focus at the 2021 ESS Annual Meeting.
- Create and edit materials as needed. For example, ESCOP agenda briefs; feedback and monitoring on NIFA with the Time and Effort reporting; Advocacy efforts with the Unified Ask; and the group ED edits on the one-pagers managed by Cornerstone Government Affairs (*now* Lewis-Burke Associates) and used by CARET/AHS during their Hill visits.
- Assist with the planning committee for the 2021 ESS Annual Meeting.
- Work with the research and Extension EDs, and APLU staff throughout the year.

3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HONORS

- USDA Ag Outlook Forum
- APLU BAA Annual Meeting, Joint COPs
- NC Mini Land-grant, MILES Conference, FALCON Conference
- 2022 APLU New Administrators Orientation Meeting.
- Agronomic Industry Award Committee, American Society of Agronomy
- Soil Science Industry and Professional Leadership Award Committee, Soil Science Society of America
- Conferences, readings and self-study activities as appropriate

4. TRAVEL

- **ESS Annual Meeting, Lake Tahoe, NV/CA, September 27-30**
- **BAA BAC, Kansas City, MO, October 4-6**
- **International IPM Symposium, Denver, CO February 28-March 3**
- **NCRA Spring Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ, March 28-30**
- **NEROAC, St. Louis, MO April 10-13**
- ***UNKNOWN when travel will be allowed and appropriate***

Chris Hamilton, NCRA Assistant Director

1. NCRA ACTIVITIES (Jeff, too)

- Manage all aspects of the NCRA office (meetings, financials, website maintenance, etc.), working closely and effectively with UW's CALS business services and MSU (NCRA and ED budget).
- Worked with NCRA ED and Executive Committee on the FY2022 NCRA budget with new implementation options.
- Participate in monthly NCRA Executive Committee calls and quarterly calls with Deb Hamernik at NIFA.
- Assisted Jeff and Robin with behind-the-scenes technical support for the five LGU2U sessions hosted regionally with representatives from USDA NIFA and NC LGUs.
- Plan and participate in monthly NCRA discussion calls (previously our bi-weekly COVID-19 calls) and capture individual institution best practices and data for sharing across NCRA.
- Partner with Robin Shepard of NCCEA to maintain strong communications between NCRA and NCCEA. I maintain NCCEA.org and the NCCEA Twitter account (@NCCEA) and can coordinate social media activities to maximize our joint regional research and Extension social media impact.
- Create reports and spreadsheets useful to the NC region, as needed and upon request (salary data, AES allocations, facilities inventories, etc.).
- Maintain NCRA and NCCEA Twitter accounts (@NCRegionalAssoc; @NCCEA).
- (On hold for now but stay tuned) NC Admin Boot Camp planning committee with AES and EXT directors and our regional EDs.
- Participate on the NC Mini Land Grant meeting planning team and arrange planning calls. (TBD on 2022 meeting).
- Solicit regional nominations and coordinate the selection of the NCRA Leadership and Multistate Research awards. Helped create the NCRA Certificate Award for our top multistate project.
- Provide project assignments and guidance to NCAC AAs for NCRA multistate project reviews. Updated and streamlined the NCAC review process and communications with NCAC AAs.
- Provide high-level technical services to the NCRA and other regions, upon request, and maintain friendly and close working relationships with NC AES staff on NIMSS and other multistate issues. They often contact me first with questions and I either have the answer or direct them to someone who does.
 - Maintain NCRA website (www.ncra-saes.org).
 - Zoom video conferencing and screen shares for conference calls, NIMSS help, and other training as needed.
 - Regular cloud back-ups of all NCRA office files at UW-Madison using local CALS servers and Box.com accounts.
 - File and data sharing through Google Drive and Box.com.
 - Online Qualtrics Survey creation.
 - Manage all NC email lists and NCRA Directories.
 - Continue to host virtual NIMSS Q&A workshops. In 2021, we have two general ones in March and April, with an AA-specific session in October.
- For Ag Hall at UW-Madison, I serve as one of two Research Division members to the Bronze Level Green Certification team. We meet via Zoom as needed and work with members of Ag Hall to improve the environmental sustainability of the building.

- Served on the beta-testing team for UW-Madison's new purchasing card online reconciliation system in early 2021. The system went live in December 2021.
- Served on the UW-Madison CALS CASI (Committee on Academic Staff Issues) until my term ended in June 2021.

North Central Region Multistate Research Portfolio

- **Regular Support:** Regularly provide support and technical assistance to users navigating NIMSS and interpretation of national and regional multistate guidelines.
- **FY2023 New/Renewing NC Projects:** Facilitated the renewal of 15 NC multistate projects expiring in 2023 and 16 midterm review evaluations, reminding and assisting AAs and committees with submitting on-time, quality, collaborative reports to NIMSS. Coordinated project assignments and review activities of the NC AAs, NC ACs, and the MRC. See the March 2023 MRC report for details.
- Assisted with the creation and distribution of the first NC Emerging Issues RFA (Climate for 2022) and review of the submitted proposals.
- As time allows, I attend and provide NCRA updates to the virtual meetings of NC multistate projects.
- Met via Zoom with each NCAC AA to discuss activities, reviews, and other NCAC directions and responsibilities.

2. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES (Jeff, too)

- Provide administrative leadership and assistance to NRSP1. Schedule calls, take minutes, coordinate committee activities, etc. Also, I serve as the NIMSS lead Regional System Administrator.
 - NIMSS is the Experiment Station's national workflow database for managing all multistate project activities.
 - I continue to communicate regularly through emails and monthly calls with the Clemson NIMSS development team to solve issues, improve efficiency, and enhance the user experience within the NIMSS database. These efforts enable us to solve NIMSS issues quickly and efficiently and avoid the need for tedious software versioning issues, since changes are made in real time.
 - This year I also coordinated the renewal process of NRSP1 and worked with Sara Delheimer, our Clemson developers, and project AAs to create and submit the NRSP_temp1 proposal to the NRSP-RC committee.
- Provide administrative leadership and assistance to the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC). Schedule calls, take meeting minutes, participated on calls, and coordinate committee activities.
- Member of the ESS Finance Committee, schedule meetings, participate on calls.
- Served on the ESCOP DCC (Diversity Catalyst Committee) before rotating off June 2022. Cindy Morley in the S region took my place.
- Assist Dave Leibovitz (NERA AD) with updates to the ESCOP website (www.escop.info) and ESCOP email list serves.
- Provide general NIMSS support to NRSP3 and NRSP8 AAs (Doug Buhler and Archie Clutter, respectively) by authorizing annual meetings, uploading reports.
- Creator and owner of the online NIMSS manual, a living document outlining all functions, tips, and tricks to make using NIMSS easy. The NIMSS manual is located at <https://www.ncra-saes.org/nimss-manual>, and I update it, as needed.

- Partner with the NIFA multistate research office to coordinate NIMSS project/participant approvals, occasionally serve as the NIMSS liaison for NIMSS/REEport issues, and other regional-USDA administrative tasks, as needed. Effective 2021, we eliminated the NIFA-approval step for NIMSS multistate projects and participants. I worked with NIFA and Clemson to make sure all necessary changes were made in NIMSS and that NIFA was clear on their new, reduced role in the process. This included updating automatic emails, training NIFA staff on assigning NIFA representatives, updating project NIFA reps, etc.
- Continue to serve as a NIMSS representative on the NIFA Research Reporting Group team, which meets biweekly via Zoom to discuss updates to the new NIFA reporting tool. Coordinate communications between the NIFA development team and the NIMSS team at Clemson.
- Joined the publication focus group assisting NIFA and the National Agriculture Library's contractors responsible for building the publication intake application.
- Served on the Fall ESS 2021 meeting planning committee.

3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- In 2021 and early 2022, I attended the following conferences and workshops (all virtual):
 - 2021 UW Madison Diversity Forum.
 - UW-Madison CALS Monthly Diversity and Inclusion Lunch & Learns.
 - UW's Cyber Security Awareness and Cyber Security for Work-from-home/Remote Teams Trainings
 - LEAD21 sessions I and II for Cohort 17 (June and October)
 - Racial Equity in Public Admin Series session, Leading for Racial Equality, Increasing Racial Consciousness and Racial Literacy
- Served for my fourth year in a row April 2021 as a presentation session observer for the World Food Prize – WI Youth Institute at UW Madison. We review all the high school applicant papers and presentations and decide which will be nominated to go forward for the national prize. The 2021 session was held virtually again. I plan to volunteer for this activity again, if asked.
- Attend all required UW Madison and monthly CALS financial staff trainings (travel, p-card, purchasing, etc.). UW purchasing systems were updated in 2021, so the training for these was more significant than in past years.
- I also briefly met with Casey Hillmer, WI AES Assistant Director, in February and had her walk me through what she does with NRS (annual and progress reporting) and a brief overview of the WI AES Plan of Work. Since I don't do state-level reporting, I was able to get a high-level view of how that all works at WI.
- Going forward in 2022, I have already or will attend the following professional development opportunities:
 - LEAD21 Session III for Cohort 17 (last week of February 2022)
 - UW-Madison CALS Monthly Diversity and Inclusion Lunch & Learns (on-going).
 - 2022 Diversity Forum.
 - 2022 UW-Madison's Leadership and Management Development Conference.
 - 2022 UW-Madison Women & Leadership Symposium.
 - 2022 APLU New Administrators Orientation Meeting.
 - UW-Madison's College of Ag also hosts regular Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity virtual trainings and discussion groups, which I attend as often as my schedule allows (I've only had to miss one so far).
 - UW's online Disability & Ableism Awareness Training

4. TRAVEL (other meetings attended in 2021/2022)

- NCRA Virtual Spring Meeting
- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting
- NC Mini LGU Virtual Meeting
- Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop (in-person, Tahoe, CA)
- FALCON Virtual Conference
- APLU Annual Meeting (ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting)
- Spring 2022 NCRA meeting
- Summer 2022 NC Mini LGU Meeting

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Start Slideshows (next page)

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL ASSOCIATION
SPRING MEETING
MARCH 29, 2022
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

BACKGROUND

- Ph.D. – Biochemistry – Univ. of Nevada, Reno – Oxidative Stress
- Post-doc – Biochem/Pharmacol. Yale University
- University of Nevada, Reno – Dept. of Nutrition – Dept. of Agriculture, Nutrition and Veterinary Sciences
 - Chair – 2000 – 2015
 - Director NAES – 2015 – Present
- WAAESD – Executive Committee 2016 – Present
 - Chair 2018 and 2019
- ESCOP Chair Elect – 2020; Chair 2021

ESCOP PRIORITIES/PROGRESS

- Support increased appropriations for USDA-NIFA to enhance capacity funding for research, Extension and education and fully fund the AFRI competitive grants program.
- BLC recommendation for a 14% increase in appropriations for Hatch and AFRI was approved through the APLU process.

ESCOP PRIORITIES/PROGRESS

- Develop new funding opportunities to address critical infrastructure for Colleges of Agriculture at Land-Grant Universities
- Acting on Gordian report of infrastructure needs/deferred maintenance (\$11.5 B) for Colleges of Agriculture APLU/BAA proposed funding through the Research Facilities Act. Funding for 1890s and minority serving institutions (~\$1.0 B) in Build Back Better but none for 1862s.
- BAC and Policy Board of Directors recommended \$365 M for FY 23 NIFA budget for 1862 and other land grant universities infrastructure funding.

ESCOP PRIORITIES/PROGRESS

- Strengthen strategic partnerships with traditional and nontraditional entities
- Developing stronger relations with NIFA through interactions with their leadership.

ESCOP PRIORITIES/PROGRESS

- Fully Integrate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as an essential component of all our programs.
- Call to action by Diversity Catalyst Committee to recognize how racial injustices may have occurred in the past and to ensure that these programs/practices do not perpetuate these injustices.
- Improve the organization readiness and strategic capacity to deal with the next major crisis. **Ongoing**

ESCOP PRIORITIES/ PROGRESS

- Adopt and implement a strategic plan for communications and marketing, including transitioning the National Impact Database Committee to a subcommittee of APLU's CMC.
- Transition was approved by ESS leadership and is now pending a vote for approval.

ESCOP PRIORITIES/PROGRESS

- Implement national and regional research among universities/institutions to help control the COVID-19 pandemic, support economic development, tackle climate change and advance racial equity as well as retain America's position as the world leader in agricultural research.
- Science and Technology Committee asked all regional associations to crosswalk their multistate committee portfolios with both NIFA priorities related to the Administration's goals and the Grand Challenges from the ESCOP roadmap.

CHAIRS INITIATIVES

- Strengthen partnership and engagement with NIFA, including Project CAFÉ, the NIFA reporting system, Land Grant University to You (LGU2U) comprehensive map of all branch experiment station sites and other items that may arise.
- Northcentral Region continued work with NIFA on LGU2U efforts with sessions on Accountability and Compliance and Sustaining the Partnership since the beginning of my term.
- Updating a 2015 interactive map of the branch stations for the 1862 Land-grant experiment stations.

CHAIR INITIATIVES/PROGRESS

- Develop and implement strategies to equitably distribute potential funding for critical infrastructure for Colleges of Agriculture at Land-grant Universities.
- The ESS funded the Gordian Study (refresh of the 2015 Sightlines study on deferred maintenance and replacement costs for colleges of agriculture facilities across the nation).
- Continue to monitor congressional funding of the Build Back Better bill.

CHAIR INITIATIVES/PROGRESS

- Develop and implement a strategy to make increased capacity funding a priority for 1862, 1890 and 1994 land grant colleges and universities.
- I sent letter to NIFA requesting an initial increase of 28% for FY 23, with subsequent 14% increases for at least the next 5 years.
- I also support the efforts of the 1994 Land-grants to increase each of their capacity lines to a total of \$17.5 M.

CHAIRS INITIATIVE/PROGRESS

- Position ESS and its LGU members to take a leading role in addressing climate change challenges as they impact agriculture and natural resources.
- Climate change challenge session was held at ESS meeting in Lake Tahoe in October. Three strategies developed:
 - Organize interdisciplinary teams to support specific climate change programs
 - Enable climate change research initiative through strategic investment
 - Engage internal and external agencies to address specific climate change issues

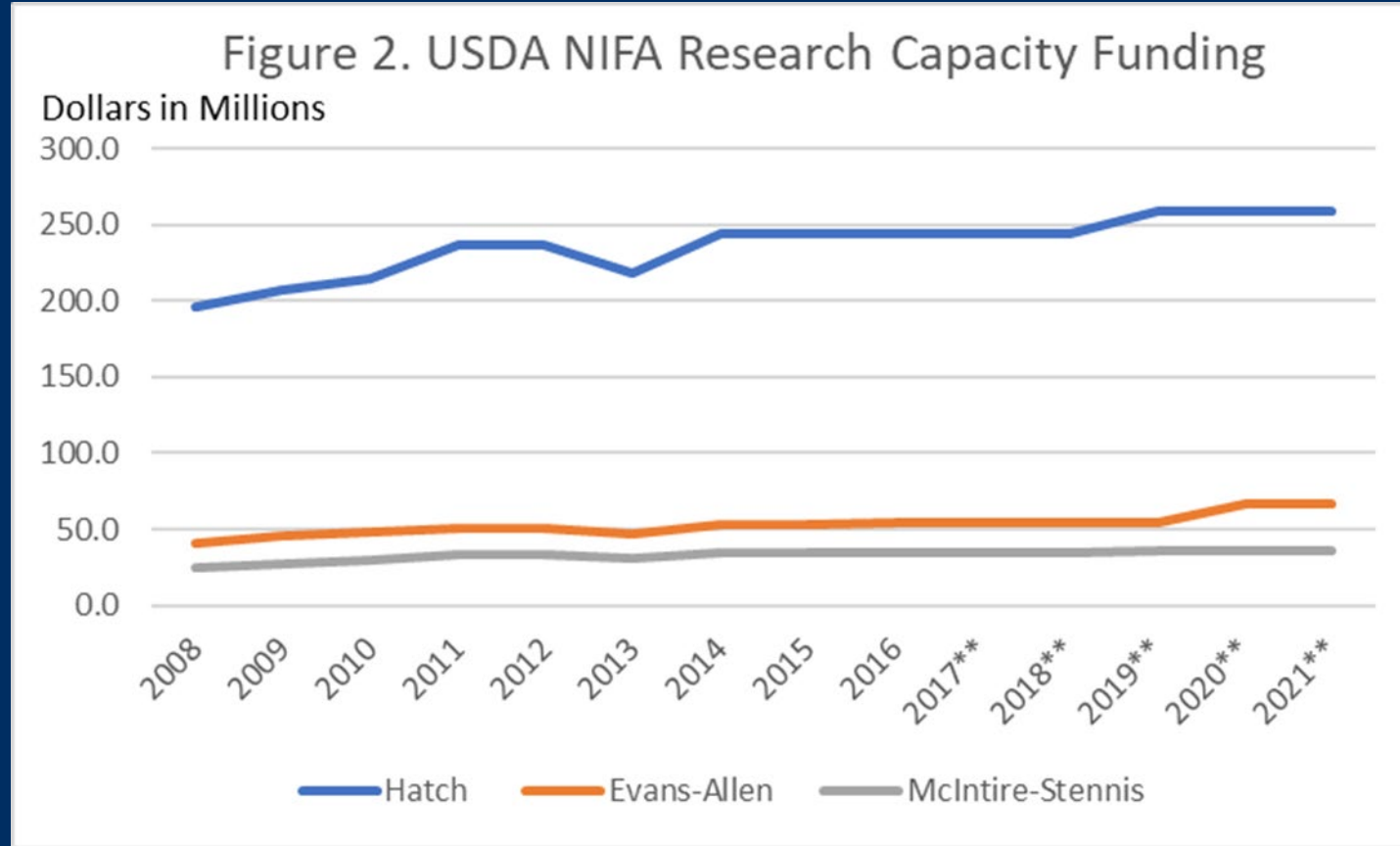
CHAIRS INITIATIVE/PROGRESS

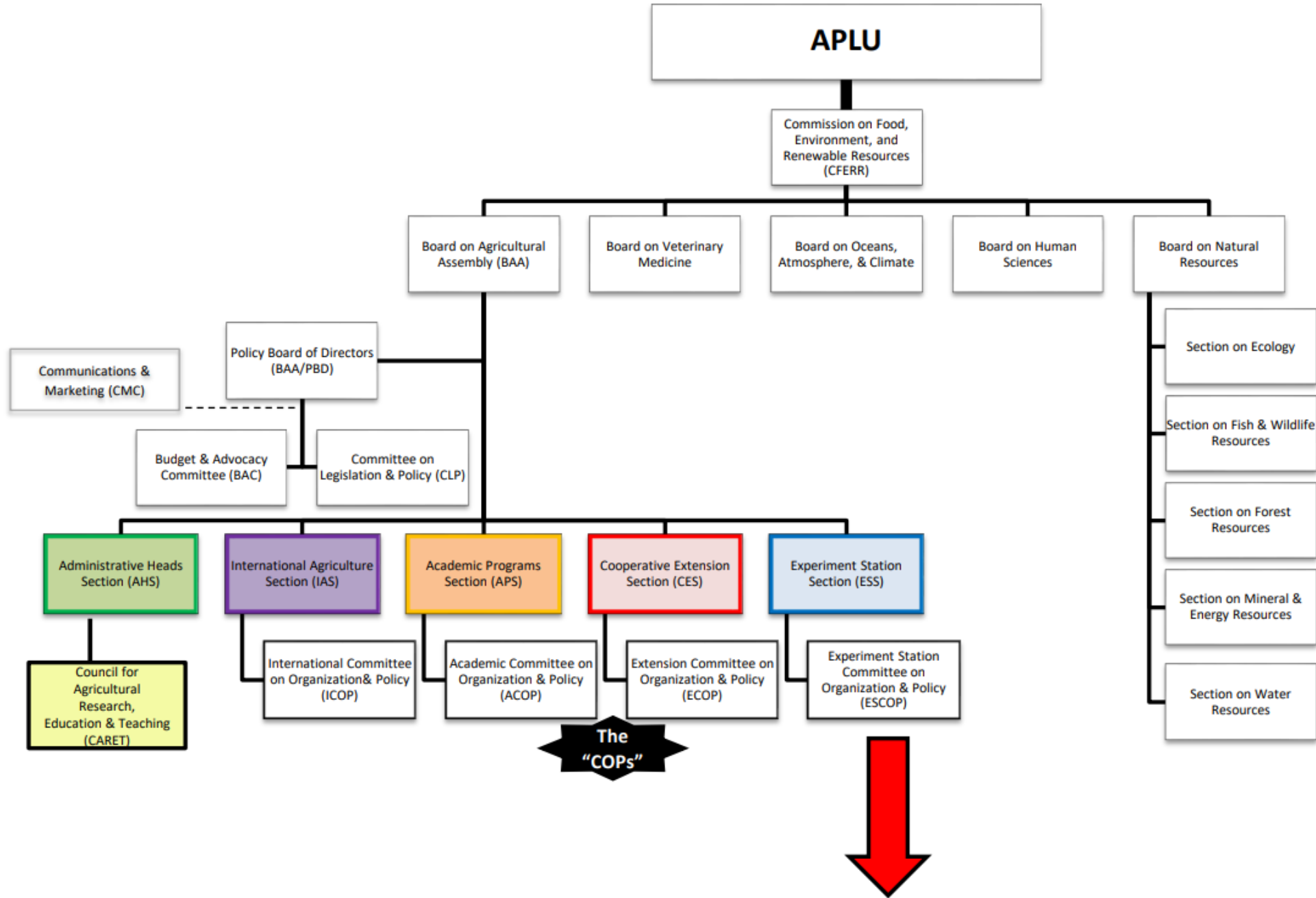
- Develop an ESS Brand and Advocacy Toolkit to provide ESCOP leadership and ESS members with consistent messaging and resources focused on ESS advocacy and educational priorities.
- Solicited proposals and interviewed marketing firms to help with a brand refresh and development of an advocacy toolkit.
- Next step will be the formation of an ad hoc committee to help develop the ESS brand and toolkit with representation from all regions.

MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING ESS

- Development of a highly recognizable brand that our stakeholders and the public will immediately associate with the Experiment Stations of the Land-grant University System.
- Evaluating our current relationship within the APLU system and developing and implementing a strategy so that our priorities are represented by APLU.

CAPACITY FUNDING





— Research by —

Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station

BUDGET RECOMMENDING COMMITTEES TO BAA

- Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) – 15 voting members recommend budgets for NIFA funding to Policy Board of Directors - 1 of 15 voting members selected by ESS
- Policy Board of Directors (PBD) – 10 voting members – Vote to approve BAC recommendation – 1 of 10 voting members selected by ESS
- Board of Ag Assembly* – Overarching umbrella - BAA assessment funds all activities of BAA including BAC and PBD – BAA assessment primarily supported by 1862 land grant universities (ESS and Extension).

*Note that APLU has more non land-grant members than land-grant members. BAA – Research assessment based upon NIFA funding over average of 3-year period at a rate of 60% for capacity and 40% for competitive funding.

73% of Agricultural Research in US conducted at Land-grant Universities

BAC ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES – SLIDE TAKEN FROM PAUL PATTERSON'S PRESENTATION AT KANSAS CITY FLY-IN MEETING OCTOBER 5-6

- Focus on widely-beneficial programs (appropriations lines)
- Do not harm the entire NIFA budget
- **Maintain year-to-year consistency**
- Be realistic
- **Don't undercut President's Budget Request** (e.g. AFRI)
- Focus on the core (79% - 89%)

BLC PROPOSED REQUEST SUBMITTED TO BAA/BAC ON 11/7/2021
 AND THEN APPROVED BY THE
 ESCOP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Program	Enacted 2021 <i>\$ Millions</i>	BAA Rec 2022 <i>\$ Millions</i>	Proposed 2023 <i>\$ Millions</i>	Proposed 2024 <i>\$ Millions</i>
AFRI	435.000	700.000	798.00	910.00
Smith-Lever	315.000	400.050		
Hatch Act	259.000	329.380	399.38	469.38
Evans-Allen	73.000	92.837		
1890 Extension	62.000	78.740		
McIntire-Stennis	36.000	45.783		
Extension 1994	8.500	10.000		
Education Grants 1994	4.500	6.000		
Research Grants 1994	4.000	6.000		

BAC/BAA PRIORITY COMPARISON TABLE

Program	Enacted FY 2021	House Bill FY22	Senate Bill FY22	Option 1*	Option 2	Option 3	BAC FY 2023 Proposed Level/% over FY 2021
		\$ Millions	\$ Millions	\$ Millions	\$ Millions	\$ Millions	\$ Millions
AFRI	435.0	450.0	445.0	700.0	700.0	700.0	496M (14%)
Hatch Act	259.0	265.0	275.0	329.4	352.6	399.0	295 (14%)
Evans-Allen	73.0	92.8	73.0	92.8	99.4	118.1	99.4 (36%)
McIntire-Stennis	36.0	38.0	40.0	45.8	49.0	46.0	46 (28%)
Research Grants 1994	4	4.5	5.0	6.0	6.4	17.5	17.5 (337.5%)
Research Total	\$807	\$850.3	\$838.0	\$1,174	\$1,207	\$1,281	\$953.9 (18.2%)
Smith-Lever	315.0	320.0	330.0	400.1	428.2	455.8	428.2 (36%)
1890 Extension	62.0	67.0	62.0	78.7	84.3	100.2	84.3 (36%)
Extension 1994	8.5	9.5	10.0	10.0	10.7	17.5	17.5 (105.9%)
Extension Total	\$385.5	\$396.5	\$402.0	\$488.8	\$523.2	\$573.5	\$530 (37.5%)
Education Grants 1994	4	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.4	17.5	17.5 (288.9%)
Women & Minorities in STEM	0.4	1	2			10	10
Education Total	\$4.4	\$6.5	\$8			\$27.5	\$27.5 (525%)

*Option 1 – FY2022 Unified Ask; Option 2 – FY2022 Unified Ask +7% (inflation); Option 3 – Individual Section/Group Ask

BUDGET REQUEST IN CHAIRS LETTER TO NIFA DIRECTOR

- Proposed 28% increase for FY 23 and subsequent 14% increases for next 5 years to keep up with China investment rate of 14%/year.
- \$331.52 Million is consistent with President's proposed FY 22 budget for Hatch of \$329

Table 1. Requested budget increases in research capacity lines to support Ag Research

Research Line	2021	2022 CR	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Hatch	\$259.000	\$259.000	331.520	377.933	430.843	491.161	559.924	638.313
Evans-Allen	\$67.000	\$67.000	85.760	97.766	111.454	127.057	144.845	165.124
McIntire-Stennis	\$36.000	\$36.000	46.080	52.531	59.886	68.270	77.827	88.723

NRCRD Update

Maria I. Marshall

Professor, James and Lois Ackerman Endowed Chair in Agricultural Economics

Director, NRCRD



**NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**



THREE THEMES

Creating Resilient Communities and Economies

Developing Leadership and Civic Engagement

Promoting Community Health and Wellness



NORTH CENTRAL
REGIONAL CENTER
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Board of Directors

- [Amber Marlow](#) (Chair), Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa College
- [Elizabeth Dobis](#), USDA Economic Research Service
- [Bernard Engel](#), Purdue University
- [Lynette Flage](#), North Dakota State University
- [Jason Henderson](#), Purdue University
- [Joe Parcell](#), University of Missouri
- [Sarah Rocker](#), USDA NIFA





Advisory Committee Members

- [John P. Beck](#), Michigan State University, Associate Professor, School of Human Resources & Labor Relations
- [Andrea Bjornestad](#), South Dakota State University, Associate Professor & Extension Mental Health Specialist
- [Jennifer Hawkins](#), University of Minnesota, Extension Educator, Community Economics
- [Zach Kennedy](#), University of Illinois, Extension State Specialist, Community and Economic Development
- [Thomas Krumel](#), North Dakota State University, Assistant Professor, Agribusiness and Applied Economics
- **Program Leaders**
- 4-H, [Tim Tanner](#), South Dakota State University, Director of 4-H Programs
- Community Development, [Dave Ivan](#), Michigan State University, Director of Community, Food, and Environment Institute
- FCS Program Leader Liaison, [Pat Bebo](#), The Ohio State University, Assistant Dean O&E Assistant Director FCS

Facilitating Career Pathways for Rural Students: Cooperative Extension as a Community Connector

- An effort to build and pilot a model for creating career pathways for low-income rural students while addressing the needs of rural employers
- We will support a team of Cooperative Extension professionals as they work to create a model to identify rural workforce needs, develop stakeholder partnerships, map workforce pathways, recruit and support low-income rural learners, and build entrepreneurship and leadership skills.
- Two-year \$200,000 grant



Collaboration between NCRCRD and NACDEP

- The CD Extension Library is a way for Extension professionals to share programs and resources that support a comprehensive, logical and theoretically sound community development process.
- **Webinar:** *How to Get the Most Out of the Community Development Extension Library*

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Community Development Extension Library. The header is dark blue with the library's logo and name on the left, and social media icons and a 'SUBMIT A RESOURCE' button on the right. Below the header, the main content area is light gray. On the left, there's a 'Resource Library' section with a description and a search bar. Below the search bar are several filter dropdown menus: Topic, Phase, Keywords, Institution, Content Type, and Cost. A blue 'SEARCH RESOURCES' button is at the bottom of this section. On the right, there's a 'TOPICS' section with a list of topic categories, each with a green arrow icon pointing right.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
EXTENSION LIBRARY

RESOURCE LIBRARY PHASED PLANNING MODEL CASE STUDIES ABOUT

Resource Library

The CD Extension Library is a way for Extension professionals to share programs and resources that support a comprehensive, logical and theoretically sound community development process.

Search the Resource Library

Topic Phase

Keywords Institution

Content Type Cost

SEARCH RESOURCES

TOPICS

- Business Development
- Community Health
- Community Planning, Resilience, and Sustainability
- Community-Based Economic Development
- Human Capacity Building
- Inclusive Processes and Engagement
- Natural Resources
- Organizational Development
- Planning Processes

Small Grants 2022-2023

1. Illinois: *Resilient Couples, Resilient Communities: Enhancing family and community well-being through sustainable, evidence-based programming for couples in the North Central Region*
2. Indiana: *Enhancing cost estimates of rural childcare in Indiana*
3. Kansas: *Supporting rural resilience through the Rural Grocery Specialist certificate*
4. South Dakota: *Translational research in rural economic development and health psychology: Sleep and cardiovascular health in a meatpacking community during COVID-19*
5. Ohio: *Gathering with extension professionals from historically black colleges and universities and tribal colleges and universities in the north central region to seek understanding and create collaborative partnerships in aging*



NC1100: A Systems Perspective to Community Resilience: Rural Healthcare at the Intersection of Households and Businesses

This project examines innovative and evidence-based approaches for enhancing workforce development and organizational wellbeing for small rural business owners.

Specifically, objectives of the NC1100 project are:

- Identify the strategies used by small rural businesses to maintain and develop a skilled and healthy labor force.
- Assess the effect of workforce wellness programs on firm outcomes such as employee retention and profitability.
- Assess the impact of health disparities on the wellbeing of households and business owning households in rural communities.
- Explore the role of rural small businesses in community-based efforts to address substance use disorder.





Panel Data Survey: NCR-STAT

Household
Survey Baseline:
April 2022

Proposed
Survey:
Caregiving



Baseline Survey

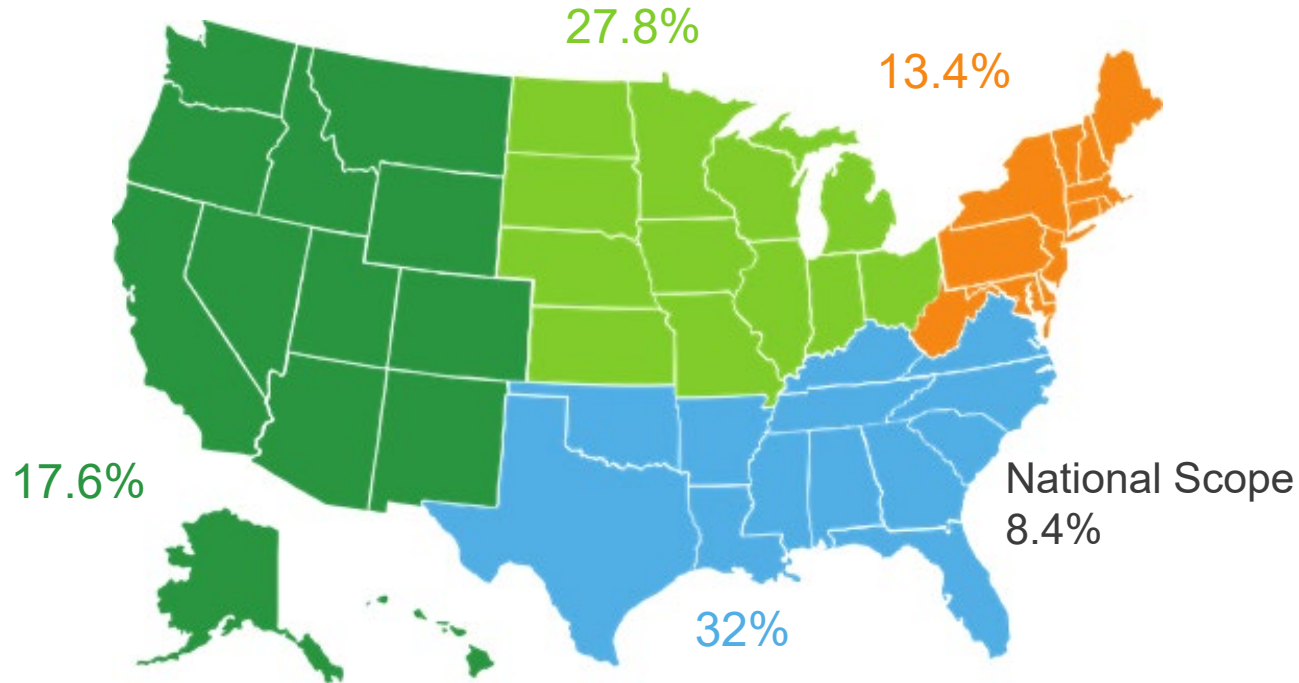
- NCR-Stat Household Survey is a 20-minute survey designed to provide a baseline from a social and economic perspective.
- The focus is on households in the NCR.
- The survey asks questions about household demographics, income, workforce participation, entrepreneurship, caregiving, human capital, housing, broadband access, placemaking, community leadership and civic engagement, health and wellness, food security, and environment.



Investing in Rural Recovery

Funded by New Technologies for Agricultural Extension Program, led by the Extension Foundation

CONTEXT: SURVEY PARTICIPANTS



680 unique respondents

Predominately within Higher Education (61.9%), especially Land-Grant Universities (54.5%)

- 1862 Institutions – 45.2%
- 1890 Institutions – 7.8%
- 1994 Institutions – 1.5%
- Most have roles related to Extension – 39%

Private Industry and NGOs (23.5%) and State and Local Government (10.4%) also well represented

Most indicated that they are...

- in a rural area or small city/town (77.1%)
- aged 41 to 65 (61%)
- women (53.2%)
- white, non-Hispanic (86.2%)

TOP NORTH CENTRAL REGION AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Priority Rankings of Topics (1 being most important)	North Central	National- scope
Economic development	1	3
Workforce development, training, and education	2	6
Physical infrastructure and public services	3	2
Community vibrancy	4	4
Health	5	1
Agriculture and food systems	6	8
Diversity, equity, and inclusion	7	5
Climate change, climate variability, and extreme weather	8	7



TOP NORTH CENTRAL REGION PRIORITIES, CAPACITY, & INTEREST IN EXPANSION

Rank	NCR Priorities	NCR Capacity	NCR Interest in Expansion
1	Economic development	Agriculture and food systems	Diversity, equity, and inclusion
2	Workforce development, training, and education	Climate change, climate variability, and extreme weather	Agriculture and food systems
3	Physical infrastructure and public services	Community vibrancy	Community vibrancy
4	Community vibrancy	Diversity, equity, and inclusion	Health

Listening Sessions

8 Sessions: 4 regional and 4 national

- **NCR Listening session was March 22nd**
- **National Listening Sessions:**
 - Workforce Development and Training: led by NCRCD-April 19th
 - Broadband and the Digital Divide: led by SRDC
 - Entrepreneurship and Innovation: led by NERCD
 - Community Engagement: led by WRDC

The screenshot shows the RRDC Stakeholder Survey website. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'ABOUT', 'BY REGION', 'BY TOPIC', and 'USER GUIDE'. The RRDC logo is prominently displayed, along with the title 'Stakeholder Survey on Priorities and Capacities for Rural Community, Economic, and Workforce Development'. A paragraph explains that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, RRDCs engaged stakeholders nationwide through a Listening Sessions Initiative. Below this, a text box states: 'Using the Dashboards (scroll down), survey results can be displayed by RRDC Regions and Rural Development Topics.' There are two main sections: 'RRDC Regions' with a map of the United States color-coded by region (Northeast in orange, South in blue, and National in green), and 'Rural Development Topics' with eight icons representing: Physical infrastructure & public services, Economic development, Workforce development, training & education, Health, Community vibrancy, Agriculture & food systems, Climate change, climate variability & extreme weather, and Diversity, equity & inclusion. A black button with white text says 'Need Help? Check out the User Guide'. At the bottom, there are two panels: 'Explore by Region' with buttons for 'REGION | Northeast', 'REGION | South', and 'REGION | National'; and 'Explore by Topic' with buttons for 'TOPIC | Community vibrancy', 'SUBTOPIC | Placemaking, culture, and arts', 'TOPIC | Economic development', and 'SUBTOPIC | Exports and international trade'.

Other Activities

- Collaborators on two USDA conference grants
- Monthly Webinars
- Monthly Blogs
- Quarterly Newsletter



WEBINAR VIDEO: LATINO FARMERS IN THE MIDWEST: PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES

Posted on November 18th, 2021

Webinar: Latino Farmers in the Midwest: Practices and Challenges Date: November 10 from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (ET)
Description:...



DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT IN THE NORTH-CENTRAL REGION

Posted on November 2nd, 2021

October 1st is the first day of the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) led by the U.S. Department of...



WEBINAR VIDEO: INSIGHTS FOR RURAL HEALTHCARE RESILIENCE: A QUANTITATIVE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Posted on October 29th, 2021

Webinar: Insights for Rural Healthcare Resilience: A Quantitative Survey Analysis Date: October 28 from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (ET)...



NORTH-CENTRAL REGION BECAME MORE RACIALLY OR ETHNICALLY DIVERSE OVER THE LAST DECADE

Posted on October 18th, 2021

In August 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau released the first results from the 2020 Census on race and ethnicity. These...



HISPANIC POPULATION IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Posted on October 1st, 2021

September 15 to October 15 is national Hispanic American Heritage Month. During this Month, Americans pay tribute to the generations...



WEBINAR VIDEO: USING Q METHODOLOGY TO MEASURE RURAL ENTREPRENEURIAL PERCEPTIONS & AN OVERVIEW OF HOMEGROWN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Posted on September 22nd, 2021

Webinar: Using Q Methodology to Measure Rural Entrepreneurial Perceptions & An Overview of Homegrown: Entrepreneurship in Your Community Date: September...

- NACDEP Workshop
- AAEA Track Session
- Conference in DC





NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NCRCRD.ORG



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Alberto Pantoja, PhD

Alberto.Pantoja@usda.gov

Director, Midwest Area, Peoria, IL

Larry Chandler, PhD

Larry.Chandler@usda.gov

Director, Plains Area, Fort Collins, CO

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service

Report to NCRA State Agriculture Experiment Station Directors

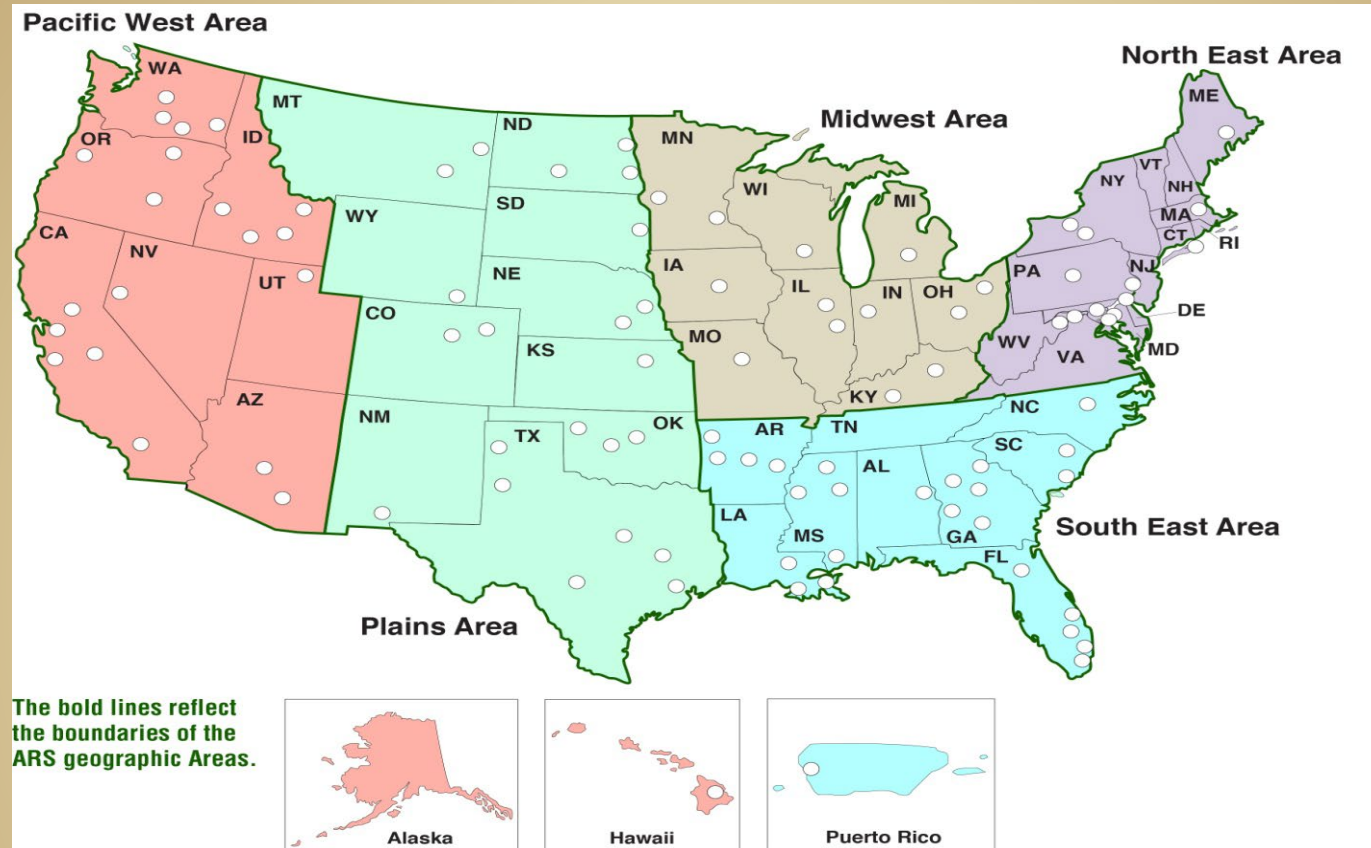
March 2022

ARS Mission

ARS conducts research to develop *and transfer* solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination...



Agricultural Research Service (ARS)



- ~ 2,000 Research Scientists & 6,000 other employees
- \$1.6 billions annual budget + extramural program
- ~ 90 Research Units including international labs

USDA-ARS Midwest Area

- 13 locations
- 9 States with ARS laboratories
 - **Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,**
 - **Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota,**
 - **Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin**
- Co-located with Land-Grant Universities in all 9 states
- 300 Ph.D. Scientists
- ~\$153.9 M/year



USDA-ARS Plains Area

- 22 locations
- 10 States with ARS laboratories
- 5 States are under NRCA
- Colorado, **Kansas**, Montana, **Nebraska**, New Mexico, **North Dakota**, Oklahoma, **South Dakota**, Texas, Wyoming
- Co-located with Land-Grant Universities in 8 states
- 400 Ph.D. Scientists
- ~\$313 M/year



FY 2021 Enacted Budget for ARS

- Salaries and Expenses: \$1,491,784,000
 - Increase \$77.4 million from FY 2020 appropriation
 - Program Increases 77,418,000
 - Decreases \$0
 - Proposed Location/Laboratory/Worksite Closures
 - Proposed Project Terminations
- Buildings and Facilities. \$35,700,000
 - Locations Co-located at Universities
 - Design NCRRPAA^[1] (Lincoln, NE) \$11,200,000

^[1] National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture

**FY 2022 Enacted Budget for ARS:
3 CR, Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2741) March 11, 2022**

• **Salaries and Expenses:** \$1,653,496,000

- Discretionary 1,633,496,000
- Mandatory^[1] 20,000,000

• Increase of \$141.7 million from FY 2021 appropriation

• Decreases \$0

- Proposed Location/Laboratory/Worksite Closures
- Proposed Project Terminations

• **Buildings and Facilities.** \$127,805,000

• **Locations Co-located at Universities: \$63.7M**

- NARRPA^[2] (Lincoln, NE): \$20,000,000
- Animal Genetic Eng. & Health (Columbia, MO): \$4,000,000
- Plant Germplasm Res. (Madison, WI): \$39,700,000

• **National Center for Ag. Utilization Res.** (Peoria, IL): \$4,500,000

^[1] Responsive Agricultural Food Systems Research Unit, College Station, TX

^[2] National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture.

New Leadership and Vacancies

- MWA (4 CD/LD; 39 RL) (53%)
 - 10 Research Leaders in Acting Role
 - 13 new Research Leaders
- Plains Area (10 CD/LD; 53 RL) (30%)
 - 5 Research Leaders in Acting Role
 - 14 new Research Leaders

FY23 Presidents Budget

- Released: March 28, 2022
- Based on the FY 2021 Annualized CR
- <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/budget>
- [FY 2023 Budget Summary \(usda.gov\) P 84](#)
- Addendum expected to compare with FY22 enacted Budget

Agricultural Experiment Station Restructuring

The Missouri Experience

Shibu Jose

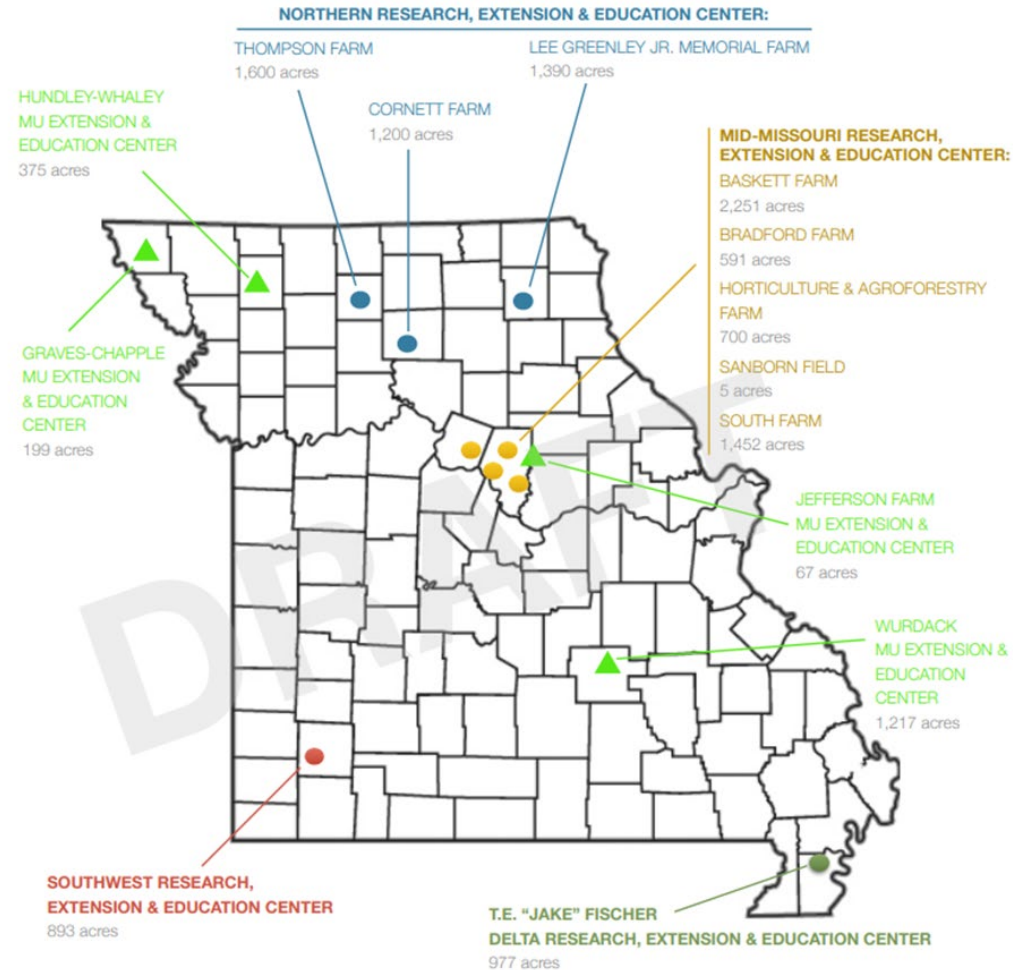
Associate Dean for Research

Director, Missouri AES

AES Restructuring: What's Done?

22 Farms & Centers

4 REECs



Why?

The Challenge

- AES Centers Funded at ~65%
- Lack of research on some farms
 - Duplication
 - Inefficiency
- Deferred maintenance
- Losing our relevancy

The Goal

Execute **structural changes** that will increase the **efficiency** and **effectiveness** of MOAES to maintain its **relevancy** for Missouri agriculture in the 21st century



The 4-Step Process

1. Brainstorming: Guiding principles

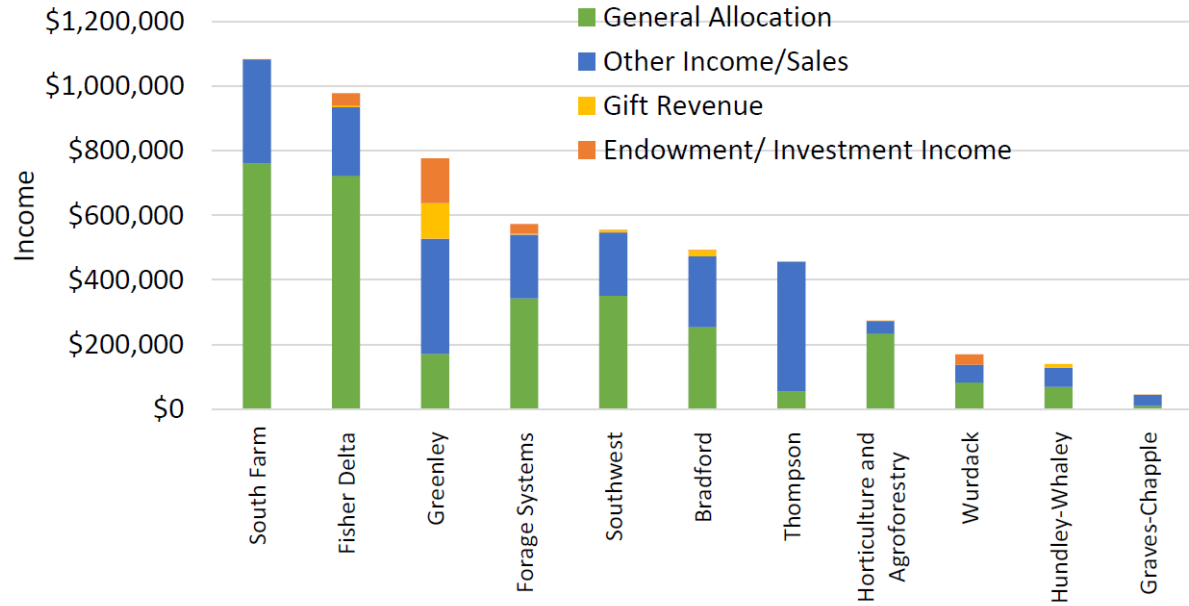
1. We are one state-wide experiment station
2. We should promote and reward a mission-driven approach to management that aligns with CAFNR strategic priorities, and
3. We should make MOAES more efficient, effective and relevant

2. Superintendents' Committee

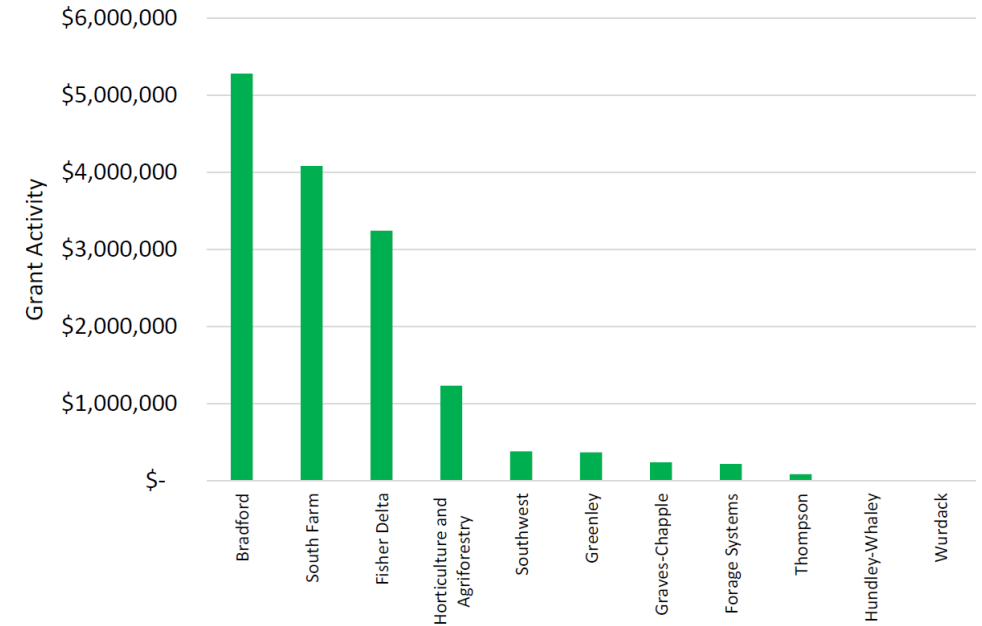
1. Continuing business as usual is NOT an option
2. Structural and fiscal changes are necessary to make us relevant again
3. It's time to emphasize the core mission, i.e., research (vs. farming)
4. The time to act is now

3. Internal Self-study

Source of Income



Grant Activity



4. External Review

Germán A. Bollero, Chair

Interim Dean & Director, Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station

Jerry Fankhauser Assistant Director, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station

Blake Hurst

Former President, Missouri Farm Bureau

Kenneth Scaife

Director, Agricultural Operations; The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

- No more than six main centers or hubs
- Unify financial management and HR
- Word of caution about part-time superintendents
- Some farms may need to be rented, some sold, some used in other ways
- Stronger faculty participation needed
- Uniform fee structure

The Plan

1. The Task Force appointed by President Choi prepared a plan
2. The Task Force took into consideration the recommendations from external review report and feedback from faculty, staff and stakeholders
3. The plan was approved by the President and communicated to the Curators and stakeholders; began implementing on August 1, 2021

Implementation

Phase One Action Items*

By October 31

- ✓ Establish four REECs; Redefine position descriptions for REECs - Director, Farm Manager and Other Staff; Post and recruit Directors
- ✓ Restructure fiscal and human resources
- ✓ Implement uniform and consistent policies
- ✓ Assess staffing needs and establish positions
- ✓ Develop transition plans for MEECs (MEECs)

Phase Two Action Items

By January 31

- ✓ Hire a director for each of the REECs
- ✓ Establish Council of REEC Directors
- ✓ Implement redefined position descriptions for Director, Farm Manager and other staff positions
- ✓ Review bylaws and policies of advisory councils

- ✓ Meet with advisory committees for advisory committee restructuring
- ✓ Establish initiatives regarding development and partnership opportunities
- ✓ Work with campus facilities to obtain more flexibility regarding non-campus funded facilities at centers

NM-REEC
CM-REEC
SW-REEC
FD-REEC

Action Items

revisions to bylaws
strategic advisory committee
plan
degree and certificate programs can be

5. Explore micro grad degree options
6. Determine how resident faculty at REECs can “teach back” to campus

Expected Outcomes

- Stronger MOAES focused on its core mission, including more resident faculty at REECs
- Annual financial savings of \$500K to \$800K
- New potential annual income if properties can be sold or repurposed
- Enhanced partnership with MU Extension
- Forward looking, nimble, and stakeholder-relevant, AES that will Drive CAFNR to Distinction



Thank You

Golden Legacy Bold Future

***University of Arizona Tribal Extension – Research and Engagement with Arizona’s
Native Nations***

UA Policies, Procedures, and Best Practices

Trent Teegerstrom & Claudia Nelson



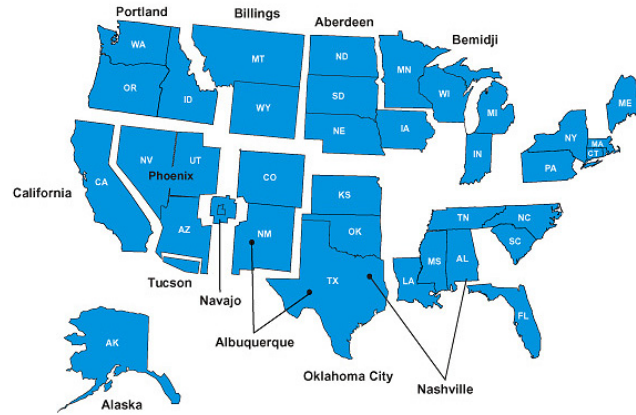
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension

Tribal Extension Programs

Session Objectives

- Indian Country (Land Ownership)
- Introduce *some* key University of Arizona programs collaborating with Arizona's Native Nations
- Outline policy and procedures to think about before engaging in university/Native nation research, extension services and other types of outreach.
- Steps to consider when developing contractual agreements including MOU's/MOA's/IGA's, as well as developing an awareness of specific Native nation laws, regulations, and policies, and forms of agreement (e.g., tribal resolution,



- 574 distinct federally-recognized sovereign Tribes
- ~400 non-federally recognized Tribes
- A direct Government-to-Government relationship between tribes and the federal government
- Tribes are **not** subordinate to state governments
- Tribes consult with federal departments at the Secretarial level, including the Executive Office of the President



American Indian Land Tenure

- General Allotment Act (1887) [Dawes Act] divided reservation lands into parcels, allocated parcels to household heads/families—Parcel size varied depending on reservation land base.
 - Later, under water settlements, some allotment sizes were changed and water rights were given.
- Indians who farmed allotments for 25 years would receive US citizenship
 - 1924 Act granted US citizenship to Indians

This is what makes every reservation land base unique.

Restricted Indian Land

- Restricted Indian land title is held *in trust* by the federal government
 - Indian tribes have use of the land, but title to land remains in trust with federal government
 - Federal government is *trustee* for Indian tribes and *guardian* of Indian affairs through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Restricted Indian Land Examples

- Tribal lands - land owned by a particular Indian tribe or organized confederation of bands and tribes
 - Tribal governments manage the land, but tribal politics can impede management
 - and federal trust restrictions *may* include:
 - Prohibit leasing for various purposes
 - Prohibit use as collateral for loans

Restricted Indian Land Examples

- Assigned lands and/or land leases - tribal governments allow individual tribal member to live on for a lifetime or specified time period. Usually this involves a home site.
- Trust allotment - land parcel granted through General Allotment Act...certifies *beneficial ownership* – legal title in federal trust to an individual Indian.
 - Restrictions imposed include fate of lands upon death of Indian landowners
 - BIA officiates probate
 - Estate planning not cultural norm

Trust Allotments and Fractionation

- With each generation, number of undivided interests in trust allotment increases
- Ownership is a percent of interest in the land parcel
- Highly fractionated parcel is one with 50 to 99 co-owners with no individual holding an undivided interest greater than 10 percent....or 100 or more owners
- Some allotments can have as many as 500 or more co-owners that own an interest in the land parcel.

Checkerboard Lands

- Reservation land tenure pattern randomly combines restricted Indian (trust) lands and fee simple lands
 - Creates complex jurisdictional issues
 - Who provides local, state, and federal law enforcement? Public services?
 - Right-of-way to fee lands surrounded by trust allotments?
 - Do natural resources care about political boundaries?

Trust Responsibility and Land Tenure

- If the land has a trust title, whether owned by the tribe and/or individual allottee, the federal government still has some jurisdiction
 - The Individual Indian/Tribe does have beneficial use and can make land use decisions if they hold a 51% interest in said property.
- Fractionation creates several owners on one parcel. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has the responsibility of managing those interests in the parcel as a trust asset

Ownership and Using Indian Trust Land as Collateral

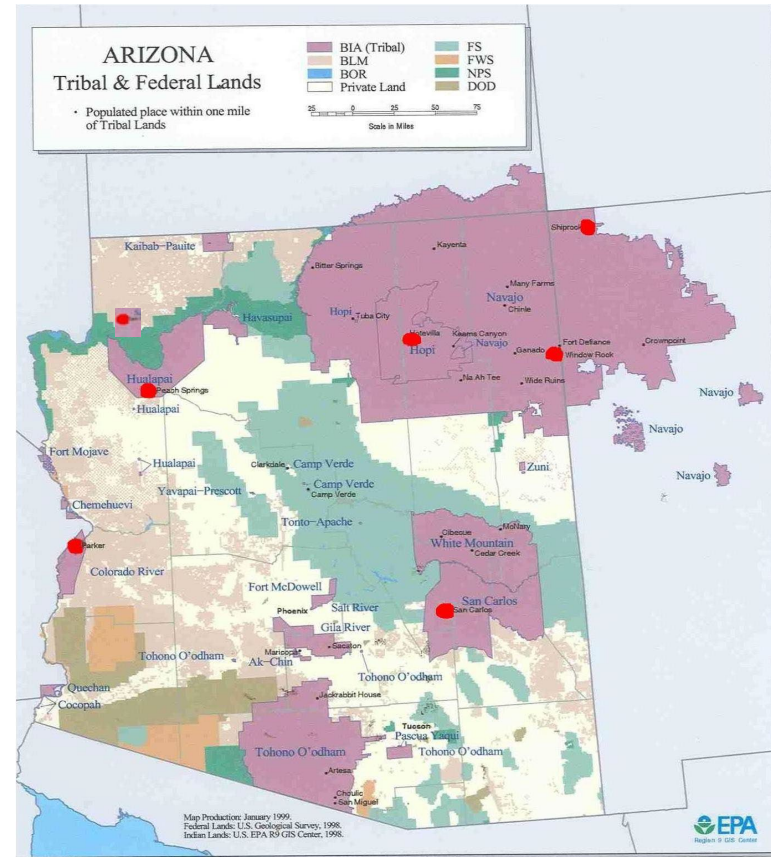
- Ownership of Indian land is complicated because of fractionation, trust titles, and land leases/assigned lands.
- If Indian land has a title held in Trust, it is very difficult to use it as collateral on a loan. There are exceptions to this rule, but the Bureau of Indian Affairs may have to approve the transaction.
 - Tribal lending programs
 - USDA, Farm Service Agency
 - USDA, Rural Development (Guaranteed Loans)

Arizona Indian Country

22 Tribes and 21 reservations

Co-located with all but 3 counties

- Tribal Lands account for >30% of land base in Arizona
- Currently U of A Cooperative Extension has 7 Extension offices on 5 of the Nations
- 8.85 FRTEP FTE's working on 17.5 million acres and serving 362,587 tribal community members.
- Approximately 50 Cooperative Extension FTE's working in Arizona Indian Country



• Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) Offices

Navajo Nation Division of Resource

Land Admin Forestry Agriculture Fish & Wildlife Parks & Recre Resource Enformnt

Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture

Window Rock-Tuba City-Kayenta-Chinle-Shiprock-Crownpoint

Grazing Mgmt Prog

Veterinarian Prog

Farm Board Prog

Tribal Ranch prog

Eastern Land Board Membrs

78 members

2 vets

43 members

75 Tribal Ranches

20

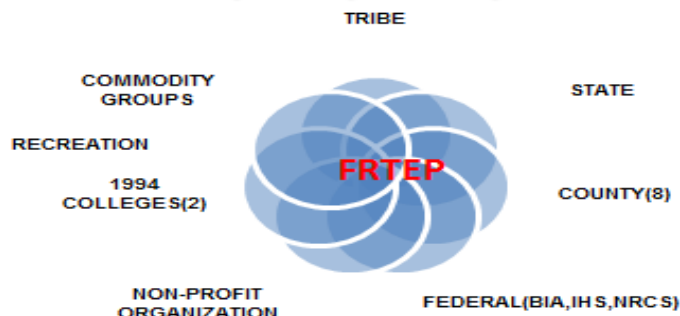
110 Chapter Houses (Town Halls)

→ Presidents, Vice, Treasure/secretary

Partners:

- Tribal, state, county governments
- Non-profit organizations
- 1994 Tribal Colleges(2)
- Commodity Groups
- Schools

Common Partners and Influences for Successful Deliverable Programs



Influences:

- Tradition
- Culture
- Politics
- Recreation
- Family & Health
- Inter-Agency Systems

Senior Vice-President for Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement (NAATE)



Honorable Levi Esquerra (Chemehuevi)

SVP NAATE

“The office of Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement’s (NAATE) goal is to increase Native American awareness and increase the health and well being of Native American students, faculty, staff and tribal nations.

“We recognize and acknowledge the contributions of Native Nations to the University of Arizona community and aim to create a physical space for the Center of Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement and establish the School of Indigenous Governance and Nation Building. These initiatives will establish new processes and lead the university to becoming the leading institution serving Native Americans.”

<https://naair.arizona.edu/about/naate>

RESEARCH, INNOVATION, and IMPACT (OSVPR) NATIVE PEOPLES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

As a *core service unit*, NPTAO serves as a primary research and resource liaison for Native affairs for the Office for (RII). This includes the Human Subjects Protection Program and Sponsored Projects review for compliance with [ABOR 1-118 Tribal Consultation Policy](#). NPTAO's website resources are continuously updated for the UArizona community who seek basic information on collaborating with [Arizona's Native nations](#) in research or institutional engagement on behalf of the University of Arizona.

NPTAO provides [training and consultation](#) for students, faculty and staff who have an interest in participating in research or institutional engagement with Arizona's Native nations.

NPTAO is also a key liaison providing technical assistance and resource identification on the request of tribal communities predominantly in Arizona.

→ Ganado School District Highschool Career Technical Education Facility Expansion Masterplan

Collaborators: Ganado School District; Navajo Nation, NPTAO; College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture; and College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Tribal Extension Programs.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Trent Teegerstrom -- Associate Director of the Tribal Extension Program at the University of Arizona and an Extension Specialist with the Department of Ag and Resource Economics

Mission:—Identifying and meeting the dynamic needs of tribal communities by developing and implementing culturally appropriate, science-based, programs that improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities throughout Native American land. providing education and other research-based knowledge to a historically underserved audience. Teegerstrom in strong collaboration with all UArizona tribal extension agents are part of the federally recognized Tribal Extension Program, which seeks to continue the land-grant mission to 1994 Institutions and tribal communities.

→ *During the height of the pandemic, Tribal Extension and partners located a source of funding and helped work out firewood delivery logistics with tribal extension agents Susan Sekaquaptewa (Hopi) and Grey Farrell Jr. (Navajo).*





SETTING THE CONTEXT:
*What key principle
governs our relationship
building and contracting
with Native Nations?*



KEY PRINCIPLE?

SOVEREIGNTY!

Sovereignty is the authority to self govern.

Federally recognized Native Nations are sovereign nations and have inherent rights and a political relationship with the United States government.

Throughout U.S. history, hundreds of treaties, executive orders, and laws have created a fundamental contract between Native Nations and the U.S., affirming Native Nations retain their inherent powers of self-government.



Key Principle?

SOVEREIGNTY!

This sovereign status is a defining feature of Native Nations and it differentiates them from other “communities” with whom universities may engage.

Therefore, any research or institutional engagement conducted on sovereign Native land is governed under the authority of that individual nation.

Each Native nation is the exclusive owner of all property on its lands and fully controls the disposition, development and use of its physical and intellectual property.



ABOR Tribal
Consultation Policy
and University of
Arizona Guidelines &
Resources



Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) Policy 1-118 (Feb 2016)

"The board and the universities value and desire to develop their relationships with sovereign tribes. This policy reflects the board's commitment to those important government-to-government relationships by recognizing and affirming fundamental principles of consultation and respect."

ABOR Tribal Consultation Policy:

<https://naair.arizona.edu/research-engagement/abor-consultation-policy-arizona-guidelines>

UArizona Guidelines for Research & Institutional Engagement with Native Nations (2018)

These guidelines were developed to complement ABOR 1-118 and adopted by the Vice President for Research Office in 2018. They outline specific activities where documentation of tribal consultation and approval is required.

UArizona Guidelines:
<https://naair.arizona.edu/research-engagement/abor-consultation-policy-uarizona-guidelines>

NPTAO Best Practice Suggestions

Prepare yourself in advance by learning as much as you can about the Native Nation(s) with whom you wish to engage. This means taking the time to review and understand the laws, codes and regulations that govern research, intellectual property, traditional cultural property, data ownership, dispute jurisdiction, and other data/information.

NPTAO Best Practice Suggestions

Familiarize yourself with the University of Arizona office of Grants & Contracts. Submit your request for assistance in the preparation of a Research Agreement, MOU or MOA as far in advance as possible. Contract negotiations with Native Nations may take many months to accomplish.

Grants and Contracts Office:
<https://rdibc.arizona.edu/content/grants-and-contracts>

“Federal agencies use various forms of financial assistance, including grants and cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts, to transfer funds to the University. All sponsored projects are managed through the University’s [Sponsored Projects and Contracting Services](#) office to assure compliance with the sponsors terms as well as applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

“RII Business Services provides research administration support and serves as a liaison between department and Sponsored Projects and Contracting Services.”



Contracting Services

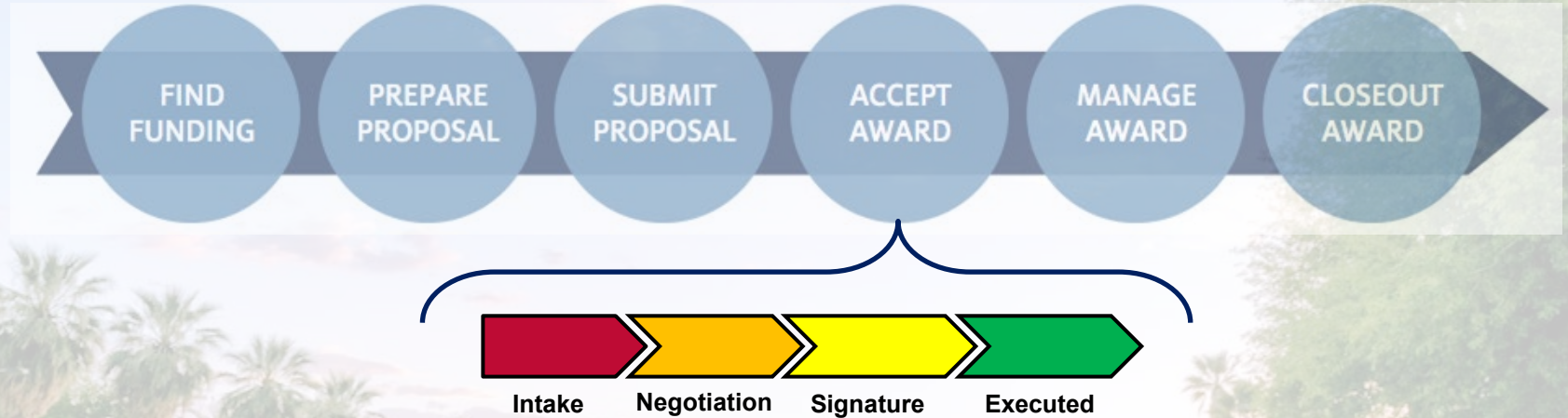
Contracting Services efficiently executes contracts to get UA researchers the outside resources they need to be successful

- Structure agreements to create the optimum agreement for the desired relationship
- Negotiate contract terms with sponsor that give researchers the rights needed to conduct projects, while minimizing risks and burdensome obligations
- Engage with offices across campus to manage terms in special circumstances
- Sign contracts and agreements as the authorized institutional signatory





The Contracting Process



FUNDAMENTALS:

Recommendations for Research and Engagement

- Understand and acknowledge tribal SOVEREIGNTY
- Engage in early and continuous CONSULTATION
- Demonstrate INFORMED CONSENT has been obtained
- Recognize COMMUNITY RISK beyond focusing on potential risks to individuals

University of Arizona Resources



- RII Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office NEW WEB PORTAL!:
<https://naair.arizona.edu/about/nptao>
- ABOR Tribal Consultation Policy and UArizona Guidelines:
<https://naair.arizona.edu/research-engagement/abor-consultation-policy-uarizona-guidelines>
- For more information on Arizona tribes and tribal research policies:
<https://naair.arizona.edu/az-tribal-research-policies>
- Human Subjects Protection Program:
<https://rgw.arizona.edu/compliance/human-subjects-protection-program>
- UArizona Research, Innovation & Impact: <https://research.arizona.edu/>

Questions?



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension

Tribal Extension Programs