Land Grant University To You (LGU2U)

Finding Shared Priorities
Session 3
LGU2U - Session 3
Priorities and Collaborating on Common Goals

Today’s Topics

How do LGUs set priorities?
How does NIFA set priorities?
Where are the opportunities to collaborate on shared goals?
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SYSTEM
FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY
REvised JUNE 23, 2022

N2025
STRATEGIC PLAN
"Where every person and every interaction matters"

Bold Collaboration And Thinking
Propelling Nebraska Forward

Communities
NIFA LAND-GRA nt COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Strategic Priorities

- Continue to advance our framework for graduate education: https://casnr.unl.edu/framework-graduate-education

- Smart, sustainable pathways to grow enrollments - be the destination for diverse educational pathways at the nexus of food, energy, water, and societal systems (FEWS²)

- Focus on the continuum of learners

- Teaching and learning innovation

- Amplify our impact through partnerships

#ThisIsCASNR

EDUCATION PATHWAY

Pathways to college

Pathways to timely graduation

Pathways to internships and career experience

Pathways to careers in Nebraska

THE CASNR CHANGE MAKER COMPETITION

How Do You Want to Make a Difference in the World?

Sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR)

Here is your chance to share what you will tackle to leave your mark on the world.

Do you have an idea for making a difference in the world? Pitch us your idea in a 2-minute video. If your idea is selected you could earn a CASNR scholarship and have the chance to work directly with mentors on tackling your big ideas.
Some VERY Recent Examples of....

**External Awards** -

- Husker research hones in on sorghum's genetic makeup to improve nitrogen efficiency
- Husker-led team exploiting oilseeds’ potential in biofuels, bioproducts
- $25M federal award to expand robotics development, entrepreneurship, outreach

**Institutional Awards for Leverage** -

- With Catalyst award, Helikar sets five-year goal for draft of digital immune system

**Round 2 Coming Up....**
USDA official visits university to discuss $25M grant for Rural Prosperity Nebraska

by Russell Shaffer | Rural Prosperity Nebraska

Jennifer Lester Moffitt, under secretary of agriculture for marketing and regulatory programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s East Campus on May 23 to participate in a roundtable discussion on the $25 million grant awarded to Rural Prosperity Nebraska to create the Heartland Regional Food Business Center.
LGU2U - Session 3
Priority Setting for Competitive Funding
Non-Discrimination Statement

https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement

• In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs, are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

• Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

• To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

• USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.
Welcome – Dr. Manjit Misra
Session Moderator – Dr. Steve Zeng
Approach

- Farm Bill process – Gary Mayo
- Budget / Appropriations process – Wayne Schintgen
- Stakeholder Engagement process – Josh Stull
- Priority Setting in AFRI – Dr. Mark Mirando
Farm Bill Process
June 2023
General Overview of Congress

Party Composition

1. **House**
   - Republicans (Majority) – 222
   - Democrats (Minority) – 213

2. **Senate**
   - Democrats (Majority, with Independents) – 48
   - Republicans (Minority) – 49
   - Independents – 3 (AZ, ME, VT)
Committee System

Both Chambers

- Bills referred to Committees for consideration
- Committees hold hearings on issues/bills under jurisdiction
- Seniority is key to advancing to be head of Committee (Chairman / Ranking Member)
General Overview of Congress

Impact on USDA / NIFA

1. Authorizing Committees
   • House / Senate Agriculture Committees
   • Farm Bills reauthorize every 5-6 years most of NIFA’s programs and provides mandatory funding for eight NIFA programs
   • Current programs expire September 30, 2023
   • Farm Bill reauthorization will be busy for House / Senate Agriculture Committees, Congress, and USDA/NIFA

2. Appropriations Committees
   • House / Senate Appropriations Committees
   • Specifically, Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees
   • Funds USDA and agencies, including NIFA
Farm Bill legislative process, part I

House Budget Committee sets budget targets

Stakeholders testify and lobby for provisions
- USDA provides proposals and consultation on technical details
- Farm organizations
- Agribusiness
- Environmental groups
- Taxpayers
- Rural communities
- Research scientists

House Agriculture Committee (committee members introduce legislative proposals)

House debate and passage of House bill

Conference Committee

Senate debate and passage of Senate bill

Senate Agriculture Committee (committee members introduce legislative proposals)
Farm Bill legislative process, part II

Conference Committee
House passes conference bill
President signs bill into law

Senate passes conference bill

USDA establishes rules and regulations to implement Farm Bill
Farm Bill Regular Order / Process

- Winter 2022
  - March, April, and May 2022
- Spring 2022
  - June, July, and August 2022
- Summer 2022
  - September, October, and November 2022
- Fall 2022
  - December 2022, and January and February 2023
- Winter 2023
  - March, April, May 2023
- Spring 2023
  - June, July, and August 2023
- Summer 2023
  - September, October, and November 2023
- Fall 2023
  - November 2023

Events:
- House and Senate Agriculture Committees Hold Hearings
- House and Senate Agriculture Committees Markup (consider & vote) Respective Bills
- Full House and Senate Consideration and Vote on each Chamber’s Farm Bill
- Conference Held to Resolve Differences, then Conferred Farm Bill brought to each Chamber for Vote
Budget Process Stages

- FORMULATION
- JUSTIFICATION
- EXECUTION
Main Participants

- **NIFA Leadership and Staff**
  - NIFA Budget Office coordinates

- **USDA Leadership** – OSEC/Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Senior Staff
  - USDA Office of Budget and Program Analysis (the Secretary’s budget office)

- **White House**
  - Office of Management and Budget (the President’s budget office)

- **Congressional Members and Staff**
Formulation Timeline

• Feb to May: Agencies generate request
• June/July: Agency Request due to OSEC
• August: Secretary decisions to agency
• September: Budget due to OMB
• First Monday in Feb: Budget due to Hill
Formulation - Inputs

- Development of budget with input from:
  - Director
  - Senior Leadership
  - Administration: OMB, Office of Science and Technology Policy
  - OSEC: Secretary/Under Secretary for REE
  - Partners, Stakeholders
Justification and Presentation

• The Budget Office:
  • Coordinates the preparation of materials used at Congressional hearings
    • Written witness statements
    • Written Questions for the (hearing) Record (QFRs) on NIFA’s budget as a result of hearings
  • Monitors Congressional appropriations process
Budget Execution

• Begins with an Appropriation of funds from Congress
  • Annual agriculture appropriations bill (discretionary)
  • Authorizing legislation, e.g., Farm bill, providing direct (mandatory) spending

• Documentation/Recording
  • Apportionments (OMB)
  • Warrants (Treasury)
  • Allotment (OBPA)/Allocation of funds (NIFA)
Budget Execution (cont’)

• Within NIFA, the Budget Office manages the budget execution process at the top level, to ensure appropriations are posted to our financial systems at the correct account and program level.

• Budget Office works with OGFM to ensure proper funds control following the basics rules of:
  • Purpose
  • Time
  • Amount
End of Fiscal Year

• The NIFA Budget Office helps ensure a timely close out of annual funds at the end of the fiscal year and works with OMB, Treasury, OBPA and the NIFA OGFM to perform close out duties associated with execution.
Rolling Years

• At this time we are working on:
  • Reporting on 2022
  • Managing execution of 2023
  • Answering questions and monitoring Congressional action on 2024
  • Planning for 2025 budget formulation
Questions

• Contact Information:
  • Budget Officer, NIFA
    • Paula Geiger
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  • Budget Formulation, NIFA
    • Ashley Riordan
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  • Budget Execution, NIFA
    • Wayne Schintgen
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Overview of Stakeholder Engagement Process
Stakeholder Engagement Process

• Agency listening sessions – NIFA Listens
  - Biennial stakeholder listening opportunity to collect input to understand key challenges, promising opportunities, and recommended top priorities related to advancing agricultural research, teaching, and outreach.
  - 700+ registered participants over two virtual sessions, providing both oral and written feedback. Input gathered from stakeholders in 87 distinct organizations, in 36 states and DC.
Stakeholder Engagement Process

• Program listening sessions
  - Typically held for new programs.

• NIFA Update
  - Weekly agency e-news update, includes listening sessions announcements and funding opportunities.
Stakeholder Engagement Process

• RFA - call for stakeholder input.
  - NIFA seeks comments on all RFAs, in order to deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments to the extent possible when developing RFAs.
Questions

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Priority Setting for AFRI

• Inputs
  – Authorizing legislation – Farm Bill
  – Congress – Congressional Directives
  – Administration’s priorities – President, Secretary of Agriculture, REE Under Secretary, NIFA Director
  – Stakeholders – formal and informal; meetings, email, etc.
  – Expertise of NIFA staff
Authorizing Legislation – Farm Bill

• Farm Bill Priorities for AFRI
  – Plant health and production, and plant products
  – Animal health and production, and animal products
  – Food safety, nutrition, and health
  – Bioenergy, natural resources, environment
  – Agriculture systems and technology
  – Agriculture economics and rural communities

• Each priority includes 5 to 10 sub-priorities
Congressional Directives

• Directives and suggestions are provided annually
  – Some directives reiterate the legislative authorization, others are additional directives
  – Lead up to the Federal budget process
Administration’s Priorities

- Priorities change with changing Administrations
- Current Administration’s priorities
  - Advancing racial justice, equity, opportunity, and rural prosperity
  - Addressing climate change via climate-smart agriculture, forestry, and clean energy
  - Tackling food and nutrition insecurity
  - Creating more, better, and new market opportunities
Stakeholder Input

- Input from many sources, multiple avenues
- Formal and informal processes
  - AFRI Requests for Applications have an email address for submission of stakeholder comments
  - Stakeholder workshops (e.g., NIFA Listens)
  - Informal meetings, email, phone calls
- NIFA staff obtain stakeholder input on a continuous (daily or almost daily) basis
Expertise of NIFA staff

- Sift through and filter many inputs
- Determine what must or should be done – what is best for society
- Determine what can be done within legislative authority and Administration’s priorities
- Assimilate into appropriate funding priorities
  - Maintain focus, impact and scale – avoid diminishing impact (i.e., can’t divide the pie into 500 tiny pieces)
  - Provide continuity – avoid whiplash to applicants
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Thank You For Your Time!

Please watch for follow up messages with “LGU2U” in the subject line.

For updates:
https://www.ncra-saes.org/nc-lgu2u-initiative