Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Overview

• Premier agricultural competitive grants program in the US, established in 2008.
• Designed to fund high priority fundamental and applied research, education, and extension grants that address food and agricultural sciences.
AFRI Grant Types

• Standard Grants;
• Coordinated Agricultural Project Grants;
• Conference Grants;
• Collaborative Grants;
• Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants;
• Sabbatical Grants;
• New Investigator Grants;
• Equipment Grants; and
• Seed Grants.
AFRI Priority Areas

- Plant health and production and plant products;
- Animal health and production and animal products;
- Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment;
- Agriculture systems and technology; and
- Agriculture economics and rural communities.
New Program Initiatives

• Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE) – local, regional, or national projects designed to quickly yield solutions that can be rapidly implemented by producers; and

• Exploratory – encourages innovative ideas that have not been addressed before with a focus on food security, climate change, environmental quality and natural resources, nutrition, obesity, and food safety.
AFRI Challenge Areas

- Childhood Obesity Prevention;
- Climate Variability and Change;
- Food Safety;
- Food Security;
- Sustainable Bioenergy; and
- Water for Agriculture.
Fellowship Grants Program

• Predoctoral Fellowships
  – Technical and functional competence for predoctoral students
  – tuition, fees, supplies, travel, etc.

• Postdoctoral Fellowships
  – The research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students
  – primarily for salary support, expenditures other than salary support may not exceed $30,000 per year
Eligible Applicants - General

- State Agricultural Experiment Stations;
- Colleges and universities;
- University research foundations;
- Other research institutions and organizations;
- Federal agencies,
- National laboratories;
- Private organizations, foundations, or corporations;
- Individuals who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents; and
- Any group consisting of 2 or more entities identified above

NOTE: Eligible institutions do not include foreign and international organizations.
Eligible Applicants – Integrated Projects

- Colleges and universities;
- 1994 Land-Grant Institutions; and
- Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities.
Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE)

- Designed to help institutions develop competitive projects, and to attract new scientists and educators into careers in high-priority areas of national need in agriculture, food, and environmental sciences.
- Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowships, New Investigators, and Strengthening Grants have specific eligibility requirements, see the request for applications for details.
- 2.5% of AFRI budget set aside for fellowships, 7.5% set aside for Strengthening Grants.
- Limited to EPSCoR states, small and mid-sized or minority-serving degree-granting institutions with limited institutional success.
Matching Funds

- Equipment Grants – may not exceed 50% of the cost or $50,000, whichever is less;
- Applied Research Grants – equal match of non-Federal funds if research is commodity-specific and not of national scope; and
- Commodity Promotion Grants - equal match of non-Federal funds required.
AFRI Coordinators

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