REEport

Why Should I Care?

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Planning Accountability & Reporting Staff
Why You Should Care About REEport

• Project Initiation
• Annual Reporting
• Financial Reporting
Project Initiation

• This is how you get your money
• Project is publicly available
Annual Reporting

- **Strong Impacts and Outcomes**
  - Your opportunity to show the good work you are doing

- **We use them at the federal level to demonstrate the public value of these federal funds**
  - Annual budget justification process
  - USDA Secretary
  - Congress
  - White House

- **We really do read them!**
Financial Reporting

• Important for all the same reasons as Annual Progress reporting
• Used by NIFA for planning and reporting purposes
• Allows us to see other sources of funding generated in support of the project
• It’s required
• NOTE: Different from the SF-425
How Do I Get Help?
All the Answers You Need
(Please use these first)

• **Your best two resources are:**
  – REEport Guide for Project Directors

• All resources can be found at:
  [https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/reeport](https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/reeport)
After you have scoured the manuals:

- **Help Desk:** electronic@nifa.usda.gov
  - This reaches at least 5 people at the NIFA “Tier 1” help desk, and you are assured to get the fastest response this way. The help desk works closely with the REEport team to troubleshoot issues.

- **REEport Customer Service Team:**
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Bonus Material
How to Write Strong Accomplishment Reports
Think about it like this...

The accomplishments section of your report should include **outputs**, **outcomes**, and **impacts**; and the following questions should be answered:

1. **What is your project about?**
2. **What did you do about it?**
3. **What were the results of your actions? / What are the benefits thus far?**
4. **Why is this important? / What is the value?**
Output, Outcome, IMPACT?
What’s the difference?
Output

- **Activities**: conducting and analyzing experiments or surveys; assessments; facilitating; teaching; or mentoring.
- **Events**: conferences; demonstration sites; field days; tours; symposia; workshops; and trainings.
- **Services**: consulting; counseling; and tutoring.
- **Publications**: journal articles; books; conference abstracts.
- **Other Scientific Products**: methods, or techniques; data or databases; equipment or instruments; patents and patent applications; applications for Plant Variety Act protection; models; new germplasm, or genetic maps; decision support tools.
Output

- **Communication Products**: audio or video products; website(s) with the appropriate URL(s); information; media impressions (coverage); Policy briefings.

- **Education Products**: curricula; networks and/or collaborations fostered by the project or activity; physical collections or resources; train-the-trainer manuals

- **Other Technology**: software; technology skills; and apps

- **Graduates**: students graduated in agricultural sciences
Outcome

• Outcomes lead to project impacts. An outcome is defined as a measurable and documented change in knowledge, action, or condition as a result of the project.

• Outcomes relate directly to the project objectives and are supported with quantitative data.
  – "Increase in the numbers of acres that..."
  – "Decrease in the number of children that..."
  – "Increased profits from the sale of..."
Change in Knowledge

For a research project, a change in knowledge can be an incremental change in the understanding of scientific knowledge

- The genome for this plant species was annotated and markers for drought tolerance were found
- A new variety of plant seed has been released
- A sequencing of a portion of a plant or animal gene
Change in Action

A change in action occurs when a change in behaviors or practices results from the project’s activities.

- A drought tolerant cultivar was released and planted by farmers on a trial basis.
- A new variety of plant seed has been accepted by farmers, with 10% of the farmers in Monroe County using this seed this past year.
- A significant increase in food safety practices was observed after a new website was posted that had over 10,000 unique users within the first year of posting.
A change in condition occurs when there is a measurable difference within a large group, community, region.

- There is a reduction in the proportion of youth who have overweight or obesity.
- The drought tolerant cultivar was planted on 35% of the acreage, resulting in a 50% reduction in irrigation. This saved 5 million gallons of water and reduced power consumption by 2.5 Kw.
- A trend in increasing healthy food consumption in grammar school children was paralleled with a 50% increase in school gardens from 2010 to 2012.
IMPACT

• What did your project do about the problem that it addresses?
• Who or what will be helped by your work, and how?
• **Think:** PEOPLE!
Impact Occurs at Different Levels

- **Individual**: graduation rates, post-graduation plans
- **University**: Increased appreciation for other cultures evidenced by increased participation in Peace Corps, Teach for America; new methods of teaching/learning that result in more students graduating in 4 years.
- **Societal**: Train a Hmong veterinarian and now Hmong producers have improved veterinary services
Potential is OK!

Potential Impact of Multicultural Program:

As retention of students of color rises, what changes has that had on the university?

- Types and content of classes (new knowledge)
- New collaboration (new behavior)
- Motivated and supportive student body as evidenced by improved grades of minority students (new condition)
- Changes in how the university services the people of Minnesota, or the level of service to minority populations (new social value)
What is needed to convince a decision-maker?

- Concise and logical
- Context and interpretation
- Local, regional, national importance
- Public value
Helpful Hints

• State it for a broad audience and use general terms
• Explain things simply and directly
• Use quantitative values and/or trends to validate impact
• Consider a change in knowledge, action, or condition
• Remember most people who read these reports are not technically trained or educated in your field of expertise. Write in a manner that is meaningful to readers, stakeholders, USDA administration, and Congress.
Increasing the nutritional value of wheat:

Researchers cloned a gene, GPC-B1, from wild wheat that increases the protein, zinc and iron content in the grain, offering a potential solution to nutritional deficiencies affecting hundreds of millions of children around the world. The researchers found that all commercial pasta and bread wheat varieties analyzed so far have a nonfunctional copy of the GPC gene, suggesting the gene was lost during the domestication of wheat. Reintroducing the functional gene into commercial wheat varieties could increase their nutritional value.
Air Heat Recovery System:
A new system is being developed by researchers at the University of Missouri that saves up to 50 percent of energy expenses by recycling heat previously wasted. The Air Heat Recovery System works by capturing the air ventilated from poultry barns. The system can save the typical Missouri poultry operation about half of the 7,000 gallons of propane used each year, more than $10,000 in savings at today's prices. The cost reduction would be even greater in colder regions. The recovery system also improves the air quality going into the barn, reducing dust, ammonia and carbon dioxide levels. There is evidence that improved air quality helps birds gain weight faster, have greater feed conversion and less mortality.
Off-bottom Oyster Farming:
Researchers at Alabama A&M University have established that off-bottom oyster farming is economically viable. In collaboration with Auburn University and other partners, eight commercial oyster farms have been established in Alabama with more than 12 acres in production. Since the aquaculture project began, over one million oysters have gone to market with a wholesale value of at least $500,000, and this is expected to more than double in the coming year. The oyster farms have created at least six long-term, part-time jobs.