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NIFA Update: USDA's Extramural Funding for Pasture and Grazing Land Research, Education and Outreach

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An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground shows a large field of golden corn. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills with patches of green and brown fields, interspersed with clusters of trees. A small farm with a red barn and white buildings is visible in the lower left. The background consists of more rolling hills under a clear sky.

Major Challenge Areas for Agricultural Research and Education

- Budget--but NIFA did OK in the 2014 budget
- Management--New Farm Bill
- Societal Challenges—More with less



Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack's priority areas remain that agriculture must address:

1. Climate Change
2. Bioenergy
3. Food safety
4. Nutrition
5. International food security





NIFA has added a new challenge area:

6. Water

- Request for Application (RFA) is under review (out this month?)
- Coordinated Agricultural Projects
- Integrated at large scales





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FOCUS:

NIFA will focus resources on delivering bold results with great power to improve human and animal health and protect our environment

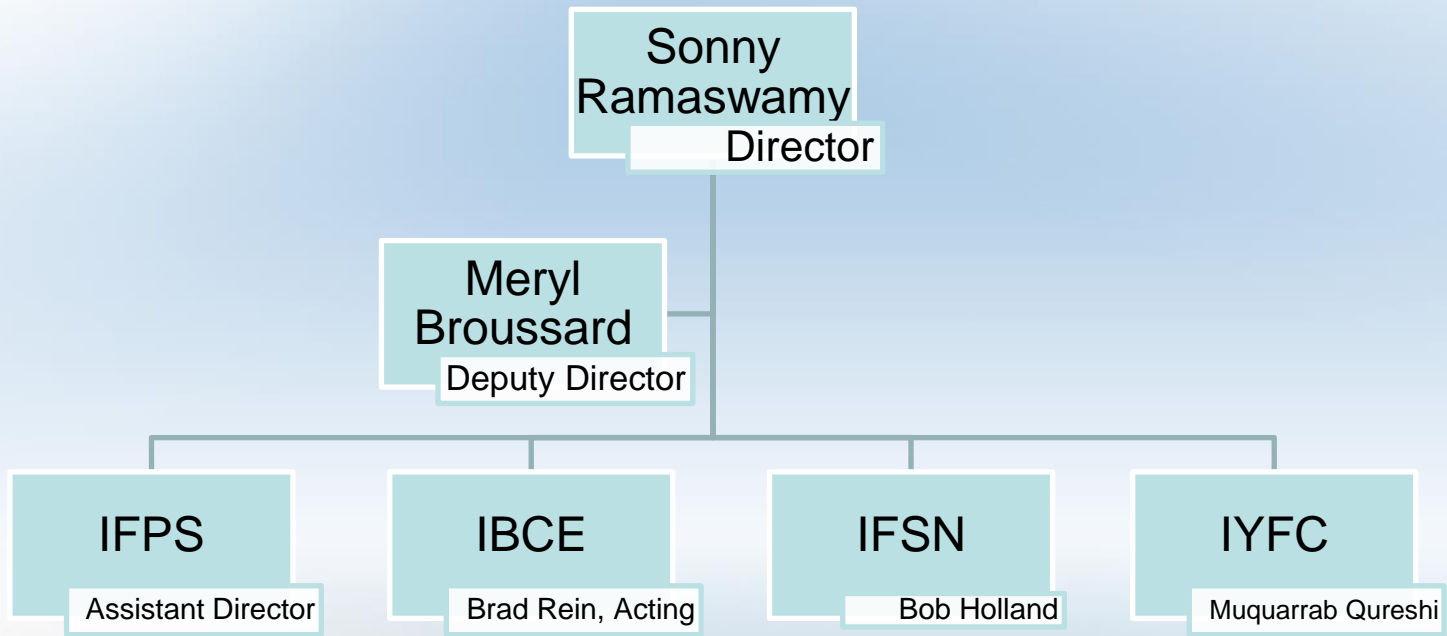
SCALE:

NIFA will work on large projects where we see great potential for breakthroughs on a scale never before seen or imagined

IMPACT:

NIFA will award research where we know the impact on human health and wellbeing can be tangible and meaningful







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FY2014 Budget

- We are a small agency with a big budget:

~\$1.277 billion





Operationally.....

- We are into the fourth year of the original Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAP) and standard grants (e.g., Corn CAP in Iowa; Wheat CAP in Washington)
 - Budgets are reduced, so project budgets are reduced
 - We have funded large grants for wheat, conifers, dairy and rangeland beef. In FY2014 there are no Climate Change, Bioenergy CAPS





Agency Extramural Funding for Grazing Land Research, Education and Outreach.

- AFRI

- Last year the Climate Change Challenge Area (rangeland and grassland commodity focus in 2012-13)

- Dairy in Wisconsin (\$19 M)
- Beef in Oklahoma (\$9 M)





•AFRI

- Sustainable Food Systems to Improve Food Security Challenge Area (Standard Grants \$6 M, up to \$1.5 M per project)

Reduce crop and livestock losses in U.S. agricultural systems by developing and extending sustainable, integrated management strategies that reduce pre and post-harvest losses caused by diseases, insects, and weeds in crop and animal production systems, while maintaining or improving product quality and production efficiency.



•AFRI Foundational

– Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment (RENRE)--managed agroecosystems (\$9 M, 2014 RFA released in December 2013)

- Connect biodiversity specifically as an ecosystem service to production system functionality, productivity, socioeconomic viability, sustainability and the production of other ecosystem services related to air, water, soil, habitat and land use
- Agroecosystem projects designed to develop management systems that significantly increase the output and/or value of at least three ecosystem services compared with the current management system for the region.



- AFRI Foundational

- Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE) (\$5 M, 2014 RFA released in December 2013),
- Despite prior investments in basic and applied research, critical problems continue to impede the efficient production and protection of agriculturally-important plants and animals.





•AFRI Foundational—CARE

- These problems may be local, regional, or national, and may call for work focused on one or more scientific disciplines. However, all need immediate attention to meet producer needs. Finding and implementing solutions to these critical problems require partnership and close coordination among researchers, extension experts, and producers.





•AFRI Foundational—CARE

- Led by either research or extension, rapid implementation coordinated with stakeholders
- Education is not an eligible function in this integrated program
- Both the research and extension functions have to be involved throughout the project
- Projects must be unique and may last up to three years
- Projects must address pressing, stakeholder-driven issues
- Funds are limited - \$150,000 total for the three years.



•Non-AFRI:

- National Integrated Water Quality Program—Funded pasture-related water quality and quantity efforts (e.g., Chesapeake Bay watershed (\$4 M in 2014), RFA out in the Spring 2014)
- RREA National Focus Funds—Back to \$300 K in 2014)
- Alfalfa and Forage Research Program—(\$1.35 M in 2014), RFA is under construction





• Non-AFRI:

- Alfalfa and Forage Research Program—(\$1.35 M in 2014), RFA is under construction
 - Research into alfalfa and forage holds the potential to increase forage yields, increase milk production, improve forage genetics to increase biomass for cellulosic ethanol
 - Research should be directed to the improvement of yields, creation of new uses of alfalfa and forages for bioenergy and the development of new storage and harvest systems





•Non-AFRI:

- Beginning Farmer and Rancher—currently back in the new farm bill (\$20 M each year through 2018, provisional),
- Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)—currently in the new farm bill (\$20 M each year through 2018, provisional)
- SARE—currently increased (\$22.7 M)
- Hatch—raised to above FY2012 levels (\$243 M)





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Thanks! jdobrowolski@nifa.usda.gov





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