

Introduction to the Plan of Work Web Conference (December 10, 2009)

Presenter: Bart Hewitt

1. Has the Plan of Work expert panel already been appointed? Can you tell us who the members are?
Yes. The Panel has already been appointed. The members of the panel are:

Northeast Region:

Charlene Herrick (University of Maine)
Mary Jane Willis (Rutgers)

Southern Region:

Bill Brown (University of Tennessee)
Nancy Franz (Virginia Tech)

North Central Region:

Marshall Martin (Purdue University)
Ellen Taylor-Powell (University of Wisconsin)

West Region:

Deb Segla (University of Alaska)
Karen Hinton (University of Nevada)

1890's Region:

J. Ulises Toledo (West Virginia State University)
Oscar Udoeh (Southern University)

Plus, one representative at large:

Steve Loring (New Mexico State University)

2. How will POW and REEport interact?

It is anticipated that POW and REEport will indeed interact in the future so information we receive from the Land-grant Universities will only have to be entered in one system and be reused by the other system. However, REEport will need to be fully developed in conjunction with any changes that need to be made to the Plan of Work given the recommendations from the expert panel which will meet in May 2010 to help NIFA further streamline the Plan of Work.

3. It was my understanding with the annual reports that all grant activities could be mentioned as they support the outcomes. If I mention grant-funded activities, should I identify the source of funding? REEport will be launched when the new software has been fully tested and all critical issues found during testing have been addressed. We intend to provide ample time for testing and a training period using the REEport sandbox. We are reviewing considerations for what time of year is best for our partners to transition to the new system, and we understand there are peak times. Ample notice will be given before the switch over.

4. Why not put the multistate extension and integrated research/extension in web-based system?
Originally the multistate extension and integrated research and extension provision was conceived as a part of the web-based software. However, policy issues prevented its use when it was issued. We will consider its inclusion in a web-based software in the future.
5. Why do the accomplishments reporting for each program area have to be limited to 2000 characters?
We desire brevity and conciseness in all our reporting and written in plain language for the general public to understand. Limiting each outcome statement helps achieve this. Moreover, in the reporting that NIFA does on evidence of performance, we also are limited to about 5-7 sentences on each outcome to get our point across.
6. Is there any plan to include reporting of 3d S-L programs in the Plan/Report of work?
No, we plan on using REEport to collect information on Smith-Lever 3d programs.