



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Research,
Education, and
Economics

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

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TO: NIFA Partners

FROM: Andrea Brandon
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SUBJECT: System for Award Management

Eight federal procurement systems and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance will be combined into one new system, the System for Award Management (SAM). The overarching benefits of SAM include streamlined and integrated processes, elimination of data redundancies, and reduced costs while providing improved capability. Capability of the individual systems is expected to be made available to users via SAM in stages, starting with Entity Management ([Central Contractor Registration \(CCR\)](#), [Federal Agency Regulation \(FedReg\)](#), and [Online Representations and Certifications Application \(ORCA\)](#) and the [Excluded Parties List System \(EPLS\)](#)) beginning May 29, 2012.

After implementation of SAM, when users go to the CCR/FedReg, ORCA, or EPLS websites, they'll be automatically redirected to the SAM website.

Awardees and applicants of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) utilize some of the individual systems that will be affected by the impending change. Based on the individual systems used, the following is provided so there is a better understanding of what to anticipate.

If you have a CCR/FedReg registration:

- You'll create a new SAM User ID and Password.
- Your CCR/FedReg permissions will be verified via your email account.
- Your CCR registration information (Entity Information) will be waiting for you in SAM.

If you have an ORCA account:

- You'll create a new SAM User ID and Password.
- Because the CCR/ORCA processes are being integrated, legacy ORCA users will now also have the ability to update the Entity Information. Due to this change, you will need to follow the process in SAM to request the permissions, which will then be verified by your account Administrator.

If you have an EPLS account:

- You'll create a new SAM User ID and Password.
- Your EPLS permissions will be verified via your email account.

If you just want to search publicly available information:

- No login is required.
- You'll enter your search query directly into the SAM home page, or visit the advanced search screen.

If you own a system that needs to interface with SAM:

- Contact askSAM@gsa.gov to obtain the interface specification and to arrange for interface testing.

If you have an EPLS account:

- You'll create a new SAM User ID and Password.
- Your EPLS permissions will be verified via your email account.

Training/Quick Start Guides for SAM Phase 1 will be made available in the near future. Information will be posted to the website at <http://sam.gov>. Please visit this website for additional information.

If you have questions about SAM please contact them via e-mail at: askSAM@gsa.gov.