



# AREERA State Plans of Work

**T**his Plan of Work (POW) newsletter provides the Plan and Annual Report approval statuses and reminders of REEIS capabilities as well as the upcoming POW 101 training. It also announces the upcoming change in POW software login procedures and the publication of the final draft of National Outcomes and Indicators for the Five NIFA Priority Areas.

## Approval Status of Plans and Annual Reports

As of publication of this newsletter, 89% of 2012-2016 Plans of Work and 95% of the 2010 Annual Reports of Accomplishments and Results have been approved by NIFA. These approved documents are publicly available (see links to REEIS in the following section). NIFA National Program Leaders are working diligently to finish up their reviews of a few final Plans and Annual Reports, and we look forward to reaching 100% approval very soon.

We'd also like to thank all the Directors and state contacts and contributors who partnered with us to make sure 100% of Plans met the mandatory requirement this year of including the 5 NIFA Priority areas as Planned Programs. Out of 80 total Plans, only 15 were required to be sent back to states for the addition of the mandatory programs. Those who did have their Plans sent back to them were extremely efficient in making the necessary changes and resubmitting them, so NIFA very much appreciates that. Thank you!

## POWs & Annual Reports are Publicly Available

We've received many questions lately about the ability to access and share Plans and Annual Reports among NIFA employees, stakeholders, and state partners. Thus, we'd like to remind everyone that all approved Plans of Work and Annual Reports of Accomplishments and Results are available on the Research, Education & Economics Information System website [here](#). Since the POW system does not contain sensitive or proprietary information, all data entered by the states into their POWs and Annual Reports is available to the public.

Certain funding information is also readily available to NIFA NPLs and other employees with access to the Leadership Management Dashboard. Queries on funding related to the POW can be performed on the LMD in a multitude of ways. The PARS office is also available for guidance on how to perform queries.

## POW 101 Training during the October RWC

The next Reporting Web Conference will be held on October 13, 2011. The primary topic for this RWC will be a "POW 101" training session. The training will cover: NIFA reporting policies, schedules and due dates; POW software use; and outcomes/indicators reporting techniques. This training will be especially helpful for any of our state partners who are new to the POW process, as well as for new NIFA National Program Leaders. It will also serve as a refresher course for those who have already been a part of the

POW process but who would like some reminders on navigating the software, examples of excellent outcome reporting, and tips for using the Research Education, Economics and Information System and the Leadership Management Dashboard (NPLs).

### Upcoming Change to POW Login Procedures

NIFA will soon be integrating many of its reporting software systems into a single reporting portal. The advantage of this integration is that users will only need one Username (email) and password to log on to the portal. Once logged in, they will have access to each of the reporting systems to which they have been granted access. State partners will have access to the POW reporting software, and NIFA NPLs will have access to both the POW and LMD (as well as other systems they might utilize). The LMD is already accessed through the portal, and POW is expected to move to the portal in early September. The PARS office will send out notification before this occurs, with specific instructions for the new POW log on procedures.

### Final Draft of National Outcomes and Indicators

The final draft of the [National Outcomes & Indicators](#) is now available on our website. This document is a direct result of the February workshop held in New Orleans. The outcomes were developed by consensus of the over 60 Land-Grant University representatives and the 10 NIFA representatives that attended. These National Outcomes and Indicators are centered around the 5 NIFA Priority Areas for institutions to *voluntarily* adopt.

You can see in the document that the participants developed a great many indicators under the various outcomes; this gives all states the opportunity to pick and choose which are important to them to report successes. *NIFA does not expect any of the states to report on all*

*of the outcomes or their indicators.* The earliest these will be reported on will be the 2012 Annual Report, which is due on April 1, 2013. This timeframe gives all institutions the opportunity to plan for gathering the appropriate data related to the indicators on which they choose to report.

We will talk some more about the future of this 'national outcomes reporting process' during the October 13<sup>th</sup> Reporting Web Conference and in future web conferences. You can find more information on the NIFA Reporting Web Conferences at <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/rwc>.

### Contacting the POW Staff

Please note that the *best* way to contact the POW staff is by sending an email to [pow@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:pow@nifa.usda.gov). This address is monitored by Katelyn Sellers, Bart Hewitt, and John Mingee (IT Support). You are almost always assured to get the fastest response from one of these three if you use that address. Katelyn can also be reached by phone at 202-401-5482.

### The Next Newsletter

If you have suggestions for topics to be included the next Plan of Work newsletter, please contact us at the e-mail address below. Past newsletters can be found at: [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reporting/plan\\_rept/pow\\_newsletters.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reporting/plan_rept/pow_newsletters.html).

**For more information on the Plan of Work, e-mail the POW Staff at [pow@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:pow@nifa.usda.gov), or call Katelyn Sellers, 202-401-5482.**