

RIPM

Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program North Central Region

FY 2010 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 17, 2009

U.S. Department of Agriculture



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

REGIONAL INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM NORTH CENTRAL REGION

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: Projects awarded under Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 *et seq.* can be found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.500. Projects awarded under Section 2(c)(1)(B) of the Act of August 4, 1965, Public Law No. 89-106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i (c)(1)(B)) can be found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.200.

DATES: Complete, error-free applications must be received by close of business (COB) on **December 17, 2009 (5:00 p.m. or earlier Eastern Time)**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding. The agency strongly encourages applicants to submit applications well before the deadline to allow time for correction of technical errors identified by Grants.gov. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announce the availability of funds and are requesting comments regarding this RFA from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and will be used to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). This section requires the Secretary to solicit and consider input on a current RFA from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, education and extension for use in formulating future RFAs for competitive programs. Written stakeholder comments on this RFA should be submitted in accordance with the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice.

Written stakeholder comments should be submitted by mail to: Policy & Oversight Branch; Office of Extramural Programs; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: RFP-OEP@nifa.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program North Central Region RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA requests applications for the Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program North Central Region (NC-RIPM) for fiscal year (FY) 2010 to help achieve National IPM goals by increasing the supply and dissemination of IPM knowledge and by enhancing collaboration among stakeholders. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2010 is approximately \$750,000.

This notice identifies the objectives for NC-RIPM projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a NC-RIPM grant. NIFA additionally requests stakeholder input from any interested party for use in the development of the next RFA for this program.

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

Authority for the funding of Research projects is contained in Section 2(c)(1)(B) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act of August 4, 1965, Public Law No. 89-106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i (c)(1)(B)). Authority for the funding of Extension projects is contained in Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 *et seq.* For Joint Research-Extension applications (see Part II, C. 3.), separate awards will be executed for P.L. 89-106 and Smith-Lever funds.

Please note: Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) amended section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act to require funds to be awarded competitively. In addition, this amendment made the 1890 land-grant institutions eligible to participate in Smith-Lever section 3(d) programs at any appropriated level. Section 7417 of FCEA amended section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act (P.L. No. 93-471; 88 Stat. 1428) to provide eligibility to the University of the District of Columbia for programs authorized and appropriated under Smith-Lever section 3(d). These new provisions were implemented in FY 2009.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The purpose of the NC-RIPM program is to provide support for the continuum of research and extension projects needed to increase the implementation of IPM. This purpose is fulfilled by increasing the supply and dissemination of IPM knowledge and by enhancing collaboration among stakeholders. Projects may span the spectrum from development to implementation of new IPM tactics and systems to:

- (1) Improve cost benefit analyses when adopting IPM practices;
- (2) Reduce potential human health risks from pests and related management strategies; and
- (3) Minimize adverse environmental effects from pests and related management strategies.

For details about previously funded projects, please see the [NIFA Integrated Pest Management](#) webpage for more information and for links.

In FY 2010, the NC-RIPM program is soliciting proposals that address the following objectives:

NC-RIPM Priorities for 2009-2010

Research Needs

Research needs in IPM range from basic investigations of pest biology to the development of new pest management tactics. This grants program concentrates on many of the problem-solving

aspects of IPM. A proposal must involve one (1) of the following topics or a combination of them. All of the following areas of emphasis have equal priority.

- Develop advanced management tactics for specific settings (e.g., crops, parks, greenhouses and controlled environments, livestock facilities, turf grass, the home and lawns, roadsides, golf courses, and public spaces) that prevent or avoid pest attack.
- Describe predicted project impact of pest management tactics on pollinators and beneficial insects.
- Develop economical high-resolution environmental and biological monitoring systems to enhance our capabilities to predict pest incidence, estimate damage, and identify valid action thresholds.
- Develop new diagnostic tools, particularly for plant diseases and for detection of pesticide resistance in pest populations, including weeds and invasive species.
- Improve action thresholds for vector borne diseases; provide mechanisms for local vector borne disease control agencies to adequately monitor pest populations to predict possible outbreaks and implement low risk approaches to prevent outbreak levels.
- Improve the efficiency of suppression tactics and demonstrate least-cost options and pest management alternatives.
- Develop new delivery methods designed to expand the options for IPM implementation.

Extension Needs - Implementation and Adoption of IPM

Agricultural producers, natural resource managers, and homeowners must voluntarily adopt IPM practices for these programs to reach their full potential and the public must have information to fully evaluate and understand these programs. Options for consideration include:

- Develop user incentives for IPM adoption reflecting the value of IPM to society and reduced risks to users. Work with existing risk management programs including federal crop insurance, and incentive programs such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other farm program payments to fully incorporate IPM tactics as rewarded practices.
- Provide opportunities for the facilitation of partnerships and training of Federal, State and County Agencies and conservation programs.
- Develop IPM guidelines and adopt criteria for specific commodities.
- Provide educational opportunities for IPM specialists to learn new communication skills that enable them to engage new and unique audiences having specific language, location, strategy, or other special needs.
- Create public awareness and understanding of IPM programs and their economic, health and environmental impacts, through education programs in schools, colleges, and the workplace, and through creative use of mass media.
- Leverage federal resources with state and local public and private efforts to implement collaborative projects.
- Ensure a multi-directional flow of pest management information by expanding existing and developing new collaborative relationships with public and private sector cooperators.
- Spotlight successful IPM programs.

This program does not fund projects related to the development of vaccines.

For more specific information see the National Road Map for IPM (May 17, 2004):

<http://www.ncipmc.org/IPMRoadMap.pdf>.

Each proposal must include an evaluation and measurement component, such as logic models or other established methods, to determine the impact of the project. For more information on the logic models, please consult the following websites:

<http://www.ipm.gov/LogicModels/about.html>,

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/evaluation/evallogicmodel.html>, and

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/strat_plan_logic_models.html.

C. Program Area Description

For NC-RIPM application purposes, the program code name is “**North Central RIPM**” and the program code is “**QQ.NC**”.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. In FY 2010, approximately \$750,000 is available to fund applications to the NC-RIPM. Of this amount, approximately \$495,000 is available for Research projects, \$80,000 for Extension projects and \$175,000 for Joint Research-Extension projects. Project periods may not exceed three (3) years and the maximum budget allowable depends on the project type and the degree of collaboration among states in the NC Region (see Part II, C).

B. Types of Applications

In FY 2010, applications may be submitted to the NC-RIPM Program as one (1) of the following types of requests:

(1) New application. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the NC-RIPM Program. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

(2) Renewal application. This is a project application that requests additional funding for a project beyond the period that was approved in an original or amended award. Applications for renewed funding must contain the same information as required for new applications, and additionally must contain a Progress Report (report must be added to the Project Narrative, Part IV.B.3.b.). Renewal applications must be received by the relevant due dates, will be evaluated in competition with other pending applications in appropriate area to which they are assigned, and will be reviewed according to the same evaluation criteria as new applications.

C. Project Types

Three (3) types of project proposals can be submitted to the NC-RIPM program in FY 2010: Research, Extension, or Joint Research-Extension. States included in the NC-RIPM program are: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. **Applicants must explicitly indicate the type of project they are proposing in two (2) places on their applications: on the Relevance Statement and on the Project Summary.**

1. Research

Provides support for creating the knowledge needed for the construction of pest management systems enabling the near-term development of practical pest management tactics, and exploration of interactions of tactics. Where possible, research should emphasize appropriate-scale experiments that address multiple pests over more than one season or location. Long-term, fundamental research is not appropriate for funding by this program. Research involving chemical pesticides or application technology should be as a system component and be designed to reduce the amount of pesticide and/or frequency of applications or their impacts. Development

of vaccines will not be funded. Applications should clearly demonstrate how the tactic or system, once developed, would be incorporated into a system, and subsequently into an operational program. **Research projects may last up to three (3) years. Please note that one (1) or two (2) year Research projects may be eligible for no-cost extensions after years one (1) and two (2); but that no carryover or extension is permitted for these projects beyond three (3) years. Any unexpended funds will be lost. The total budget for a Research project shall not exceed \$100,000.**

2. Extension

These projects enhance outreach efforts that support the wide-scale implementation of IPM methods and maximize opportunities to build strategic alliances with industry and user groups to expand their active participation in increasing the adoption of IPM methods. Projects may be proposed to develop educational materials and information delivery systems, conduct demonstrations, or deliver IPM education and training. A research component is not a required element of extension applications, but the research base should be documented. **Extension Projects may last up to three (3) years. The total budget for an Extension project shall not exceed \$80,000.**

3. Joint Research-Extension

This application type provides support for projects that validate pest management systems research, introduce new pest management tactics and systems, and deliver these systems to appropriate clientele/users through IPM education and training programs. Applications should clearly demonstrate multi-organizational and multi-functional involvement between research and extension activities and demonstrate a well-balanced fully integrated project. Research and Extension projects should reflect a funding request ratio of approximately four (4) to three (3) for the research and extension components, respectively. **Joint Research-Extension projects may last up to three (3) years. Please note that one (1) or two (2) year Joint Research-Extension projects may be eligible for no-cost extensions after years one (1) and two (2) , but that no carryover or extension is permitted for these projects beyond three years. Any unexpended funds will be lost. The total budget for a Joint Research-Extension project shall not exceed \$175,000 (comprised of, for example, \$100,000 for research and \$75,000 for extension).**

D. Scientific Peer Review

Required for all Research or Joint Research-Extension Projects.

Subsection (c)(5) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(5)) requires applicants to conduct scientific peer review of their proposed research activities in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary prior to the Secretary making a grant award under this authority. Regulations implementing this requirement are set forth in 7 CFR part 3400.20. The regulations impose the following requirements:

(1) Scientific peer review. Prior to the award of a standard or continuation grant by NIFA, any proposed project shall have undergone a review arranged by the grantee. For research projects, such review must be a scientific peer review conducted in accordance with 7 CFR 3400.21.

(2) Credible and independent review. A review arranged by the grantee must provide for a credible and independent assessment of the proposed project. A credible review is one that provides an appraisal of technical quality and relevance sufficient for an organizational representative to make an informed judgment as to whether the proposal is appropriate for submission for Federal support. To provide for an independent review, such review may include USDA employees, but should not be conducted solely by USDA employees.

(3) Notice of completion and retention of records. A notice of completion of the review shall be conveyed in writing to NIFA as part of the Other Attachments (Field 11. of the R&R Other Project Information Form). The written notice constitutes certification by the applicant that a review in compliance with these regulations has occurred. Applicants are not required to submit results of the review to NIFA; however, proper documentation of the review process and results should be retained by the applicant.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Organizations eligible to receive Research awards are: state agricultural experiment stations, 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges and universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, 1994 land-grant colleges and universities, research foundations established by land-grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities receiving funds under the Act of October 10, 1962 (16 USC 582a *et seq.*), accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine, and the University of the District of Columbia.

Organizations eligible to receive Extension awards are 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges and universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, and the University of the District of Columbia.

Research and Extension personnel from other USDA/IPM regions can participate as members of project teams. **Applications will only be accepted from Project Directors (PDs) in the North Central IPM Region.**

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in NIFA not accepting the application, or even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

There are no matching requirements associated with the RIPM program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA.

Prior to preparing an application, it is suggested that the PD/PI first contact an Authorized Representative (AR) (also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grant.gov. If the organization is not prepared, the AR should see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp for steps for preparing to submit applications through Grants.gov.

The steps to access application materials are as follows:

1. In order to access, complete and submit applications, applicants must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov. This software is essential to apply for NIFA Federal assistance awards. For basic system requirements and download instructions, please see http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp. To verify that you have a compatible version of Adobe Reader, Grants.gov established a test package that will assist you in making that determination. Grants.gov Adobe Versioning Test Package: <http://www.grants.gov/applicants/AdobeVersioningTestOnly.jsp>.
2. The application package must be obtained via Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, click on “Apply for Grants” in the left-hand column, click on “**Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions,**” enter the funding opportunity number **USDA-NIFA-RIPM-002665** in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

Contained within the application package is the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov.” This Guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

If assistance is needed to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating Adobe forms), refer to resources available on the Grants.gov web site first (<http://grants.gov/>). Grants.gov assistance is also available as follows:

- Grants.gov customer support
Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726
Business Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on [Federal Holidays](#).
Email: support@grants.gov

See <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html> for additional resources for applying electronically.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Electronic applications should be prepared following Part V and VI of the document entitled “A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov.” This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed in order to prepare an application in response to this RFA. If there is discrepancy between the two (2) documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., portable document format) in Part III section 3. of the Guide. ANY PROPOSALS CONTAINING NON-PDF DOCUMENTS WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM NIFA REVIEW. Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. With documented prior approval, resubmitted applications will be accepted until close of business on the closing date in the RFA.

If you do not own PDF-generating software, Grants.gov provides online tools to assist applicants. Users will find a link to “Convert Documents to PDF” on <http://grants.gov/assets/PDFConversion.pdf>.

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

2. SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 3. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

3. R&R Other Project Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 4. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 6. Project Summary/Abstract.

(i) Project Type (choose one (1)): Research; Extension; or Joint Research-Extension.

(ii) Summary Statement. The first line of your summary should state the type of project you are submitting, for example, “This is a Research project” or “This is an Extension project.” For Joint Research-Extension projects, the summary statement must indicate how many dollars are being requested from each respective source (Smith-Lever funds are for extension activities, the Act of August 4, 1965 (P.L. 89-106) funds are for research activities). The summary should be a self-contained, specific description of the activity to be undertaken and should focus on: overall project goal(s) and supporting objectives; plans to accomplish project goal(s); and relevance of the project to the purposes and priorities of the NC-RIPM program (see Part I, B.).

b. Field 7. Project Narrative.

PLEASE NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed **15** pages of written text double spaced and up to six (**6**) additional pages for figures and tables. This maximum (**21** pages) has been established to ensure fair and equitable competition. For renewal applications, requirements referring to 'Progress Reports' in subsection (i) Background, shall not exceed three (3) pages of written text in total, which must be included within the maximum page limit above.

The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

(i) Background

Describe why current technologies and practices are inadequate and how the proposed approach will improve the pest management system. Identify the importance of the pest situations in economic, stakeholder, user or environmental terms. Summarize the body of knowledge or other past activities which substantiate the need for the proposed project. Describe ongoing or recently completed significant activities related to the proposed project including the work of key project personnel. Preliminary data/information pertinent to the proposed project should be included. For renewal applications (as defined in Part II, B.), a progress report must be included within the page limitation set for the Project Narrative portion of the application.

(ii) Objectives

Provide a clear, complete and logically arranged set of project objectives and specific planned accomplishments. The research and/or extension objectives of the project must each be clearly defined and measurable. A clear statement of the long-term goal(s) and supporting objectives of the proposed activities should be included.

(iii) Approach and Methodology

Identify the design, methods and analytical approach of the project including a timetable. For Joint Research-Extension applications, also describe how the project will be managed, particularly how coordination between the research and extension components of the project will be achieved. All proposals should discuss plans to involve the private sector in the project and promote commercialization, where appropriate.

The procedures or methodology to be applied to the proposed effort should be explicitly stated. This section should include but not necessarily be limited to:

- (1) A description of stakeholder involvement in problem identification, planning, implementation and evaluation;
- (2) A description of the proposed project activities in the sequence in which it is planned to carry them out;
- (3) Techniques to be employed, including their feasibility and rationale for their use in this project;
- (4) Kinds of results expected;
- (5) Means by which activities will be evaluated;
- (6) Means by which data will be analyzed or interpreted;
- (7) Details of plans to communicate results to stakeholders and the public;

- (8) Pitfalls that might be encountered; and
- (9) Limitations to proposed procedures.

(iv) Cooperation and Institutional Units Involved

When appropriate, projects should be coordinated with the efforts of other state and national programs. Identify the role and responsibility of each institutional unit and/or state in a multiple-state application and designate the lead state. Indicate the involvement of relevant disciplines, agencies, and organizations, including research, extension, consultants, private sector, and producers. Collaboration with private-sector groups and organizations is encouraged [this section is not to exceed two (2) pages].

c. Field 11. Other Attachments.

(i) Relevance Statement. A separate, **three (3) page statement** should describe the relevance of the project to the priorities discussed in Part I, B. Discuss the feasibility of improving IPM implementation and integrating tactics into a pest management system. Describe in absolute terms why this project is necessary. Provide evidence of stakeholder involvement in the application development. The procedures used to generate stakeholder involvement may be described in the relevance statement. **IMPORTANT: please name the file “RELEVANCE [PDs last name].PDF”.**

(ii) Collaborative Arrangements. Formal consulting or collaborative arrangements with others should be fully explained and justified. If the consultant(s) or collaborator(s) are known at the time of application, vitae or resume should be provided. In addition, evidence (e.g., letter of support) should be provided that the collaborators involved have agreed to render these services. The applicant also will be required to provide additional information on consultants and collaborators in the budget portion of the application.

(iii) Appendices to Project Narrative. Appendices to the Project Narrative are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. The addition of appendices should not be used to circumvent the text and/or figures and tables page limitations [up to six (6) additional pages of figures and tables].

(iv) Project Timetable: The proposal should outline all important phases as a function of time, year by year, for the entire project, including periods beyond the grant funding period.

4. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 5. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Also, **you must attach** ‘Current and Pending Support’ information (see NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide p. 31 & 32, item 5.3, for guidelines and a suggested format) for each senior/key person identified above. **Note: Even if no other funding is currently reported under the ‘Active’ section of this attachment, you must still list information for this grant application under the ‘Pending’ section of this attachment for each senior/key person identified above.**

5. R&R Personal Data – As noted in Part V, 6. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the submission of this information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. If completing the information, **do not enter any data in the field requesting the social security number.**

6. R&R Budget

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 7. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

NOTE: If funding is being requested for multiple years, provide a budget for each year, as well as a cumulative budget for the entire project period. In addition, provide separate budgets for Extension and Research activities.

Budget Justification (Field K on the form; attach as PDF)

Note: Joint Research-Extension projects must also show the proposed breakdown of amounts requested from the Act of August 4, 1965 (P.L. 89-106) Research funds and Smith-Lever Extension funds for each year of funding being requested. **Include a breakdown of costs for each year, as well as cumulative project costs over all years, by cost category and funding source (Research and/or Extension).** An example of a form that may be used and attached for this purpose is available at <http://www.ncipmc.org/ripm/>.

7. Supplemental Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 1. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide:

- a. Field 2. Program Code. Enter the program code name “**North Central RIPM**” and the program code “**QQ.NC**”.
- b. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List. A conflict of interest list is required under this program.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by COB on **December 17, 2009 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time)**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

Correspondence regarding submitted applications will be sent using e-mail. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received correspondence **from NIFA** regarding a submitted application within 30 days of submission of the application, please contact the Program Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure**

to do so may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.

D. Funding Restrictions

NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Pursuant to Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1997 (91 Stat. 981), indirect costs and tuition remission (sometimes called tuition/fees) are unallowable costs under Section 2(c)(1)(B) (research projects) and Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act (extension projects), and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

E. Other Submission Requirements

The applicant should follow the submission requirements noted in the document entitled "A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov."

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

Subsection (c)(5) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)), as amended by Section 212 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(5)) requires grantees to arrange for scientific peer review of their proposed research activities and merit review of their proposed extension and education activities in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary prior to the Secretary making a grant award under this authority.

Each application will be screened by NIFA to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Applications that meet these requirements will be evaluated at the regional level by a panel. Relevancy and technical merit will be evaluated.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and nonprofit organizations); (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

B. Evaluation Criteria

A peer review panel will handle the application review process at the regional level. The panel will consist of experts from outside the North Central Region who will be selected to review, evaluate, score and rank the applications for both technical and relevance merit based on the following criteria:

1. Importance and relevance of the topic/program leading to the development of an implementable IPM program. For extension projects, materials fill an important outreach gap. Adequate evidence has been provided that stakeholders were solicited for input in the formulation of application objectives and relevance assessment (Weight: 20%);
2. Appropriateness of objectives and scientific and/or education merit (objectives state who will accomplish what and when, objectives are measurable) (Weight: 20%);
3. Design and methodology (design is appropriate, units are stated, methods referenced, appropriate analysis, evaluation and measurement component) (Weight: 25%);

4. Feasibility of attaining objectives during the project, appropriateness of budget, probability of success, and potential for increasing IPM implementation and practice (Weight: 20%);
5. Involvement of relevant disciplines, agencies, and organizations including research, extension, consultants, private sector, and producers, as appropriate (Weight: 10%); and
6. Level of education and experience of key personnel (Weight: 5%).

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, extreme care will be taken to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the current Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Phone: (703) 532-2300. Web site: <http://www.hepinc.com>.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, will be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process. Therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one (1) time basis, with updates on an as needed basis, as part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. NIFA will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one (1) of these entities, there are factors which may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of NIFA shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the awarding official of NIFA as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. It should be noted that the project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by NIFA under this RFA shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles, and the Department's assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR).

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the Director has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by the Department;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved by the Director during the project period;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view NIFA award terms and conditions);
- (10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by NIFA to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These include, but are not limited to:

2 CFR Part 215—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-profit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 1, subpart A—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.

7 CFR Part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR Part 331 and 9 CFR Part 121—USDA implementation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., OMB Circular Nos. A-21 and A-122, now codified at 2 CFR Parts 220 and 230) and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance.

7 CFR Part 3017—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and 7 CFR Part 3021—Governmentwide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants).

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3052—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-profit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3407—NIFA procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

7 CFR Part 3430 – NIFA Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs—General Award Administrative Provisions.

29 U.S.C. 794 (section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute) —prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in Federally assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq. —Bayh-Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Grantees are required to submit initial project information and annual and summary reports to NIFA's Current Research Information System (CRIS). The CRIS database contains narrative project information, progress/impact statements, and final technical reports that are made available to the public. For applications recommended for funding, instructions on preparation and submission of project documentation will be provided to the applicant by the agency contact. Documentation must be submitted to CRIS before NIFA funds will be released. Project reports will be requested by the CRIS office when required. For more information about CRIS, visit <http://cris.nifa.usda.gov>.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

Dr. Susan T. Ratcliffe
Grants Manager, NC-RIPM
Department of Crop Sciences
University of Illinois
S-316 Turner Hall
1102 S. Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801
Telephone: (217) 333-9656
Fax: (217) 333-5245
E-mail: sratclif@illinois.edu

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Access to Review Information

Copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments will be sent to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, the awardee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

a. The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.

b. Changes in approved goals or objectives shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests for such changes be approved which are outside the scope of the original approved project.

c. Changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes.

d. Transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not Federal funds are involved, shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.

e. The project period may be extended by NIFA without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed five years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.

f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of

amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of NIFA transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

D. Regulatory Information

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983), this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

E. Definitions

Please refer to 7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs--General Award Administrative Provisions, for the applicable definitions for this NIFA grant program.

In addition, the following definition applies specifically to this RFA:

Director means the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and any other officer or employee of the NIFA to whom the authority involved is delegated.

Electronic Application Checklist

(Disclaimer Note: This checklist is included for the sole purpose of assisting the applicant in the self review process prior to submission. Applicant should use the RFA as the instrument of instruction and the Application Guide to complete the application process. This checklist is NOT an official portion of the RFA and should in no way be considered a replacement for the Application Guide or instructions contained within the RFA.)

Only electronic applications may be submitted to NIFA via Grants.gov unless indicated otherwise in the specific program Request for Applications (RFA). All applications submitted to NIFA must contain the applicable elements outlined in these guidelines. The following checklist has been prepared to assist in ensuring that the application is complete prior to submission:

- Are you eligible to apply for the funding offered in the RFA?**
Eligibility information for each funding opportunity is stated in Part III, Eligibility Information, of each RFA.

- Has your institution properly registered with Grants.gov to enable you to submit an application?**
Those who wish to submit an application to NIFA should first contact their Authorized Representative (AR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit applications through Grants.gov. See http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp for steps to preparing to submit applications through Grants.gov.

- Are you applying to the correct funding opportunity associated with the RFA?**
Field 1 of the NIFA Supplemental Information Form will pre-populate to indicate the program to which you are applying.

- Have you followed the guidelines for filling out your electronic application provided in the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, which is posted along with the SF 424 R&R application package on Grants.gov?**
Electronic applications should be prepared according to this guide and the specific program RFA. This guide is part of the corresponding electronic application package for the specific program to which you are applying.

- Have all attachments been submitted in the portable document format (PDF)?**
NIFA will only accept PDF attachments. See Part III of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

- Do all submitted PDF documents have one (1) -inch margins and are typed or word processed using no type smaller than 12 point? Are all PDF documents numbered sequentially on each page of the attachment? Are all page limitations for a given attachment followed?**
Submitted proposals that do not meet these requirements for PDF attachments may not be reviewed.

- Did you use the “Check Package for Errors” feature (see section 1.8 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide)?**
- Have all required components of the SF 424 Research and Related (R&R) Application Package posted under the funding opportunity on Grants.gov been completed?**
Mandatory Forms?
Optional Forms?

SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

- Have all required fields (highlighted in yellow) been completed?

SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s)

- Have all required fields (highlighted in yellow) been completed?

R&R Other Project Information

- Have the fields describing project potential or actual environmental impact been properly completed?

Project Summary/Abstract

- Has the Project Summary PDF been attached to this form in Field 6?
- Are the names and affiliated organizations of all Project Directors listed at the top of the page in addition to the title of the project?
- Has the project type: Research, Extension, Joint Research-Extension been listed?
- Does this section adhere to the format and page limitations?
- Did you use the suggested Project Summary/Abstract Template found at:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/home/faq_apply.html#abstract?

Project Narrative

- Has the Project Narrative PDF been attached to this form in Field 7?
- Was a progress report included, if submitting a renewal?
- Is the project fully described?
- Does this section adhere to the format and page limitations?

Bibliography & References Cited

- Has the Bibliography & References Cited PDF been attached to this form in Field 8?
- Are all references cited and are all citations referenced?
- Do all citations contain a title, the names of all authors, and are they in accepted journal format?

Facilities & Other Resources

- Has the Facilities & Other Resources PDF been attached to this form in Field 9?
- Has a description of your facilities, sufficient to indicate that you will be able to carry out this project, been given?

Equipment

- Has the Equipment PDF been attached to this form in Field 10?
- Is the description of your equipment sufficient to indicate that you will be able to carry out this project?

Relevance Statement

- Has the Relevance Statement been attached to this form in Field 11?
Maximum length three pages. Name the file "RELEVANCE [PD last name].pdf."

Appendices to Project Description

- Has the Appendices to Project Description PDF been attached to this form in Field 11?

Collaborative Arrangements

- Has the Collaborative Arrangements PDF been attached to this form in Field 11?

Scientific Peer Review Certification

- For Research or Joint Research/Extension projects – has a certification letter, signed by the AR, been attached in Field 11?

R&R Senior/Key Person Profile

Biographical Sketch

- Has the biographical sketch (vitae) PDF for the PD and each co-PD, senior associate, and other professional personnel been attached?

Current and Pending Support

- Has the current and pending support PDF for key personnel been attached?
- Have all current and pending projects been listed and summarized, **including this proposal**?
- Did you use the suggested Current and Pending Support Template found at:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/home/faq_apply.html#current?

R&R Personal Data (voluntary)

- Have all fields been completed, except social security number?

R&R Budget

- Have all fields been completed for each PD and co-PD(s)?
- Are annual and summary budgets included? For multi-institution applications, has a subaward budget been included for each institution involved?

Budget Justification

- Has the Budget Justification PDF been attached to this form in Field K?
- Are budget items individually justified?
- For multi-institutional applications, has a subaward budget justification been included for each institution involved?

- For Joint Research-Extension projects is the budget broken down for the research and extension funds using the suggested form from the Regional IPM Center website?

NIFA Supplemental Information Form

- Has Field 1 been pre-populated?
- Does Field 2 indicate the Program Code Name and Program Code to which you are applying?

Conflict of Interest List

- Has the Conflict of Interest List PDF been attached to this form in Field 8?
- Has a Conflict of Interest List been provided for all individuals who have submitted a Biographical Sketch?
- Did you use the suggested Conflict of Interest Template found at:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/home/faq_apply.html#coi?
- Does the Conflict of Interest list include the four categories as appropriate?