



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT
FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY
YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY
FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

NIFA

NIFA Nutrition Security Webinar Series: An Overview of NIFA's Food Loss and Waste Relevant Funding Opportunities

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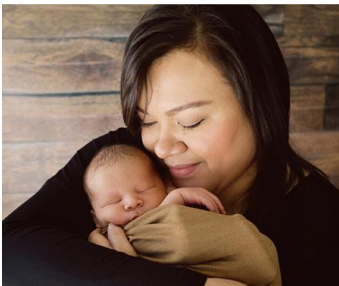
Office of the Director

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USDA Actions on Advancing Food & Nutrition Security

Nutrition security means having consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being.





National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

Anchored around five pillars and provides a roadmap for:

- **Actions the federal government will take administratively;**
- **Several legislative proposals; and**
- **A call to action for private sector; local, state, Tribal, territory governments; philanthropy; civil society; and other partners**



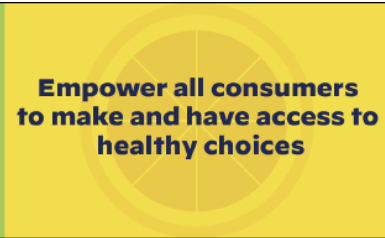
Improve food access and affordability

The first pillar is represented by a dark blue background with a white circular graphic consisting of three concentric circles. The text "Improve food access and affordability" is centered in white.



Integrate nutrition and health

The second pillar is represented by a green background with a white graphic of a stylized leaf or drop shape. The text "Integrate nutrition and health" is centered in white.



Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices

The third pillar is represented by a yellow background with a white graphic of a stylized orange slice. The text "Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices" is centered in white.



Support physical activity for all

The fourth pillar is represented by a red background with a white graphic of a heart shape. The text "Support physical activity for all" is centered in white.



Enhance nutrition and food security research

The fifth pillar is represented by a light blue background with a white graphic of a water bottle. The text "Enhance nutrition and food security research" is centered in white.

#WHConfHungerHealth
tinyurl.com/whconfshareyourvoice

USDA Priorities



- Address climate change through climate-smart agriculture, forestry and clean energy;



- Create more and better market opportunities;



- Tackle food and nutrition insecurity; and



- Advance racial justice, equity, opportunity and rural prosperity.



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USDA, Food Loss and Waste Programs, Policies, and Guidance

Jean Buzby, PhD

USDA Food Loss and
Waste Liaison, OCE



USDA Food Loss and Waste Programs, Policies, and Guidance

Jean C. Buzby, PhD

USDA Food Loss and Waste Liaison

Office of the Chief Economist

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Presentation for “NIFA Food and Nutrition Security Webinar: An Overview of NIFA’s Food Loss and Waste Relevant Funding Opportunities”, June 13, 2023



Global Food Loss and Waste (FLW) Adds Up



- Roughly 1/3 of food produced or roughly 1.3 billion tonnes/year (FAO, 2011).
 - Up to 14% between the post-harvest and retail stages (FAO, 2019).
 - Around 17% at the retail, foodservice, and consumer stages (UNEP, 2021).
- Costs \$936 billion each year (WEF)
- Around 8-10% of GHG emissions from human activity including 800 million tons CO₂e annually from food decomposing in landfills (UNEP; FAO, 2015)
- About 1/4 of freshwater used by agriculture for crop production each year is associated with FLW (Kummu et al., 2012)

What are the Implications?

Reducing FLW can generate several benefits to society



Wholesome food that is currently wasted could help feed families in need



Reducing food waste can save or make money



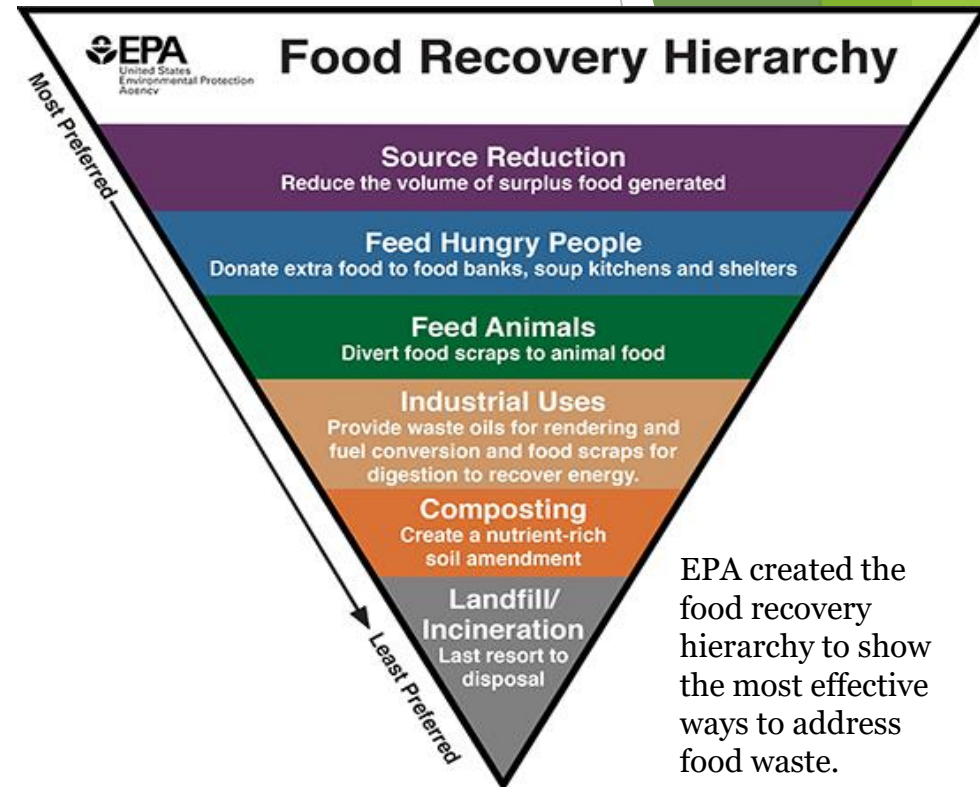
Resources to make uneaten food, such as land, fresh water, labor, energy and other inputs, could be conserved for more productive uses



Greenhouse gases generated from food rotting in landfills could be reduced to help mitigate climate change

What are some ways to reduce food loss and waste?

- The best approach to reducing food loss and waste is not to create it in the first place.
- Waste can be avoided by improving product development, storage, shopping/ordering, marketing, labeling, and cooking methods.
- If excess food is unavoidable but remains wholesome, it can be donated to hunger-relief organizations so that they can feed people in need.
- Inedible food can be diverted animal feed, rendered into soap or cosmetics, or used to generate renewable energy. It can also be used to make compost.



Federal Interagency Collaboration to Reduce Food Loss and Waste





USDA FLW Overview

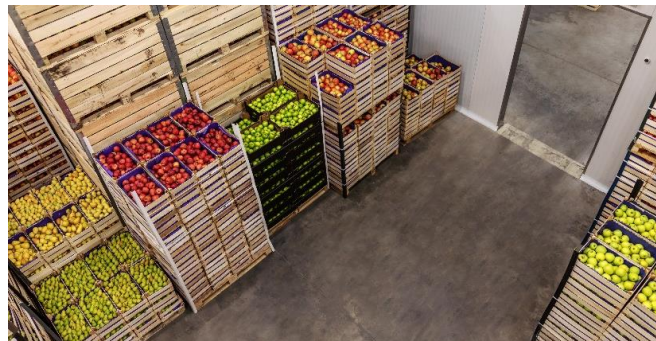
- Many USDA efforts touch on or relate to FLW as part of normal operating business.
- USDA addresses FLW across the entire food supply chain:
 - Program Funding
 - Research and Research Funding
 - Outreach
 - Regulatory Guidance

Program Funding

- Several USDA agencies manage competitive funding programs and/or administer credit and loan programs and/or relevant to FLW reduction.

- *Examples:*

- Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production's Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) and NIFA cooperative agreements assist local and municipal governments with municipal composting and food waste reduction plans. CFWR was expanded by \$30M over three years. *Open call for applications now through June 15, 2023!*
- Rural Development (RD) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) supports anaerobic digesters.
- Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities (e.g., cold storage for produce).
- NIFA Community Food Projects (CFP) and Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP).



Research and Research Funding



Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is USDA's chief scientific in-house research agency.



National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is USDA's extramural funding agency to advance agriculture-related sciences.



Economic Research Service (ERS) conducts high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making.



Outreach

- Wide array of stakeholder engagement and outreach, such as:
 - U.S. Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champions (OCE with EPA)
 - USDA's Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fairs (OCE) ([Register](#) and watch for free on demand through Sept. 1, 2023)
 - Roundtables (OCE):
 - [Food Loss and Waste Successes from the U.S. and Canada](#)
 - [Food Loss and Waste Activities from Around the World](#)
 - [Exploring Food Waste Solutions: Success Stories from the U.S. and Beyond](#)
- Some USDA agencies conduct FLW outreach as part of their mission:
 - including FAS for international sharing of FLW-reducing practices
 - FSIS's FoodKeeper app provides guidance on safe handling, preparation, and storage.



Regulatory Guidance



- Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) provides guidance on food product date labeling. Studies have shown that consumer confusion about food date labels has led to food being discarded prematurely.
- FSIS provides guidance on the donations of eligible meat and poultry products to non-profit organizations.



Key Takeaways

- In the U.S. and globally, we have a long way to go to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.
- FLW is complex and will take many different solutions from farm to table.
- Everyone has a role to play in reducing food loss and waste.
- More data and research is needed to measure progress towards our national goal so it would be helpful to consider what data can be collected.
- USDA is helping prevent, reduce, and repurpose FLW Programs, Policies, and Guidance.



For more information, contact:

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<https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste>
<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>
<https://www.fda.gov/food/consumers/food-loss-and-waste>



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NIFA's Food Loss and Waste Programs

Suzanne Stluka, PhD

Deputy Director, IFSN

CENTER FOR RESEARCH, BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS, AND EXTENSION ON FOOD LOSS & WASTE

- **Program Area Priority Code:** A1741
- **Proposed Budget Requests:** Not to exceed \$1.5M total
- **Project Types:** Research & Extension Projects only
- **Grant Types:** Standard, Conference, and FASE Grants
- **Application Deadline:** September 14, 2023
- The Center must examine or support research and Extension efforts that address two or more Food, Loss, and Waste (FLW) issues.
- Develop a National Extension FLW Strategy, that is in alignment with other national FLW strategies, and Extension Frameworks.
- Engage with Minority Serving Institutions and/or historically underserved communities.





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Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment

Vicki Finkenstadt, PhD

National Program
Leader, IBCE



Bioeconomy, Biorefining, and Biomanufacturing

- **Program Area Priority Code:** A1531
- **Proposed Budget Requests:** \$650,000 (Partnership: \$800,000)
- **Project Types:** Research Projects only
- **Grant Types:** Standard, SEED, New Investigator, Conference, and FASE Grants
- **Application Deadline:** October 5, 2023
- Food waste and mixed waste is diverted from landfills and serve as a feedstock.
- Food waste may be used to create other bioproducts by converting the biomass into protein, oil, and carbohydrate fractions.
- Minerals and nutrients are also recovered during treatment.
- Research beyond composting and biogas generation is prioritized.



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Institute of Food Production and Sustainability

Charlotte Tuttle, PhD

National Program
Leader, IFPS

Economics, Markets and Trade – A1641

Funding Priorities: supports research on development of theories, methods and applications of agricultural economics. It encourages applications in the following broad areas:

- agricultural market structure and performance
- competitiveness in international trade and domestic markets
- agricultural production and resource use
- consumer behavior and food retail
- farm labor and immigration and policy
- agricultural policy design and impacts
- technology development and adoption

Application Details – Economics, Markets and Trade – A1641

- **RFA is available online at:**
<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/FY23-AFRI-FAS-RFA-508.pdf>
- **Application Deadline:** Thursday, October 5, 2023, 5:00pm (eastern time)
Thursday, October 3, 2024, 5:00pm (eastern time)
- Total funding available in FY 2023: \$12,000,000
- Program Code: A1641
- Maximum funding per award: \$650,000 total per project for project periods of 3-5 years. An additional \$150,000 may be requested for projects involving significant collaboration with minority-serving institutions, small- to mid-sized institutions, EPSCOR state institutions, and/or international partners.

Social Implications of Emerging Technologies – A1642

Funding Priorities: Examining the economic and social implications of technology is a form of technology assessment that anticipates the unforeseen and unintended consequences of technological innovation, including cultural, health, welfare, equity, and ethical. Projects must address the following:

- Assess the broad social, ethical, cultural, legal, and other potential impacts that a broad range of emerging and disruptive technologies,
- Involve a range of individuals including scientists, legal scholars, bioethicists, social scientists, and researchers from the humanities, the public, and other stakeholders

Technologies and scientific advancements of interest include:

- Application of gene editing and gene drives in agricultural systems
- Application of nanotechnology in agriculture and food systems
- Analysis of big data, implications of artificial intelligence, machine learning and predictive decision
- Implementation of autonomous technologies and systems within agricultural production, food manufacturing, and supply chains.

Application Details – Social Implications of Emerging Technologies – A1642

- **RFA is available online at:**
<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/FY23-AFRI-FAS-RFA-508.pdf>
- **Application Deadline:** Thursday, November 2, 2023, 5:00pm (eastern time)
Thursday, October 31, 2024, 5:00pm (eastern time)
- Total funding available in FY 2023: \$2,000,000
- Program Code: A1642
- Maximum funding per award: \$650,000 total per project for project periods of 3-5 years. An additional \$150,000 may be requested for projects involving significant collaboration with minority-serving institutions, small- to mid-sized institutions, EPSCOR state institutions, and/or international partners.



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Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP)

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CFP Team



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Purpose and Priorities of CFP

- The primary goals of CFP are to:
 - Meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation in federally assisted nutrition programs or improve access to food as part of a comprehensive service.
 - Increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the communities; and
 - Promote comprehensive responses to local food access, farm and nutrition issues; or
 - Meet specific state, local neighborhood food and agricultural needs including needs related to:
 - Equipment necessary for efficient operation of a project; planning for long-term solutions; or
 - The creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and consumers with low incomes.



Examples of CFP Projects Linked to FLW

Community gardens with market stands

Food recovery projects

Gleaning for redistribution

Organize and operate a self-sustaining food co-op

All projects must involve people with low-incomes.





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Food Loss and Waste Within the Food Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)

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Purpose and Priorities

- The purpose of the FASLP is to increase knowledge of agriculture and improve the nutritional health of children



Photos from USDA photo library

Purpose and Priorities - Highlights

- Bring together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system to increase capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms
- Foster higher levels of communication between farms and elementary and secondary school systems
- Improve food access and quality of children – K through 12th grade
- Develop leadership skills, knowledge, and qualities to prepare students for food and agricultural and related careers

Purpose and Priorities - Highlights, cont'd

- Must involve underserved rural and/or urban communities and facilitate a connection between elementary and secondary schools with agricultural producers in the local or regional area
- Encouraged to seek and create partnerships with public or private, nonprofit or for-profit entities, including links with academic institutions (including minority-serving colleges and universities), and/or other appropriate professionals, community-based organizations, school districts, and local and state government entities

Examples of Activities Funded in Past Years

- Expanding farm-to-school programs beyond lunch to bring local or regional food products into the School Breakfast program
- Establishing new or strengthening existing community partnerships (e.g., working with personnel to identify appropriate suppliers, etc.)
- Encouraging increased consumption of fruits and vegetables through promotional activities, taste tests, and other activities
- Developing and evaluating integrated curriculum to reinforce food and nutrition-based learning throughout the school environment
- Expanding experiential or agriculture-based learning opportunities, such as the creation of school gardens, support to ag/food clubs, or increased exposure to on-farm activities
- Increasing student learning about preventing food waste and influencing school environments to support healthier food choices and reduced food waste

Food Loss and Waste Activities Supported in Future Years.... Stay Tuned



Photo from USDA photo library



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Institute of Youth, Family and Community

Ashley Mueller, PhD

National Program
Leader, IYFC



Institute of Youth, Family and Community Funding Opportunities



1890 Institution Teaching, Research and Extension
Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Program

Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving
Institutions (ANNH) Competitive Education Grants

Resident Instruction Grants for Institutions of Higher
Education in Insular Areas (RIIA) programs

Tribal Colleges Extension Program

Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program



1890 Institution Teaching, Research and Extension Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Program

- **Purpose:** Strengthen teaching, research and extension programs in the food and agricultural sciences by building the institutional capacities of the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University, and Central State University (per Section 7129 of Pub. L. 113-79)
- **Emphasis areas:** sustainable bioenergy; food security; childhood obesity prevention; or ***food safety***
 - ***Food safety*** is broadly defined and includes contamination of perishable and durable commodities with pathogens, insects, physical contamination **ultimately leading to food loss and wastes**
- **Program contact:** Dr. Rizana Mahroof, Rizana.Mahroof1@usda.gov



Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNH) Competitive Education Grants

- **Purpose:** Promote and strengthen the ability of Alaska Native-Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs
- **Eligibility:** Restricted to ANNH institutions as established in Title III, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1059d.)
- Projects can be education, applied research, or community development
- **Program contact:** Dr. Kellyann Jones-Jamtgaard, Kellyann.JonesJamtgaard.usda.gov



Resident Instruction Grants for Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas (RIIA) programs

- **Purpose:** Promote and strengthen the ability of insular area institutions to carry out teaching and education programs within a broadly defined arena of food and agricultural sciences-related disciplines
- **Eligibility:** Restricted to Institutions of Higher Education in the Insular Areas (the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Virgin Islands of the United States)
- Projects can be education/teaching
- **Program contact:** Dr. Kellyann Jones-Jamtgaard, Kellyann.JonesJamtgaard.usda.gov



Tribal Colleges Extension Program

- **Purpose:** Support community-based education at the federally recognized tribal colleges
 - **Capacity grants:** Awarded every 4 years, next in 2026
 - **Special Emphasis grants:** More information available soon
- **Eligibility:** Colleges and universities designated as 1994 Land-Grants by legislation
- Program RFA provides information on project types and key strategic actions that applications must address
- **Program contact:** Janyce Woodard, Janyce.Woodard@usda.gov



Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program

- **Purpose:** Establish an Extension presence and support Extension outreach on Federally Recognized Indian Reservations and Tribal jurisdictions of Federally Recognized Tribes
- **Eligibility:** Applications may be submitted by 1862, 1890, and 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
- Program RFA provides information on priority areas
 - Food Systems, Farm and Community Markets, and Food Sovereignty
- **Program contact:** Janyce Woodard, Janyce.Woodard@usda.gov



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Questions and Answers

Suzanne Stluka, PhD

Deputy Director, IFSN



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