



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

www.nifa.usda.gov  
@USDA\_NIFA



## FACT SHEET

# 2014 FARM BILL | IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMODITY BOARDS PROVISION

**T**HE 2014 FARM BILL allows eligible national and state commodity boards to propose topics for research that they are willing to equally co-fund with NIFA. Such topics must relate to the established priority areas of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (AFRI) to be considered for inclusion in future AFRI Requests for Applications (RFAs).

Eligible commodity boards must address an agricultural commodity that:

- Includes a combination of promotion, research, industry information, or consumer information activities;
- Is funded by assessments on producers or processors; and
- Is designed to maintain or expand markets and uses for the commodity (as determined by the Secretary).

*Federal Register* Notice 2015-18120, "Solicitation of Commodity Board Topics and Contribution of Funding Under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program, Implementation," was published July 24, 2015. This notice invited topic submissions from commodity boards as defined above, outlined the process NIFA will use to evaluate the appropriateness of these topics for inclusion in AFRI RFAs, and described the commitment commodity boards will be required to make to NIFA to jointly fund AFRI applications selected for award in their topic area.

In early October, NIFA will select the topics which will be included in AFRI RFAs and

notify selected commodity boards.

Commodity boards that did not have their topics selected at that time may resubmit at anytime thereafter for consideration in future RFAs.

### TOPICS CRITERIA/SELECTIONS

Topics must relate to the established AFRI priority areas, which are plant health and production and plant products; animal health and production and animal products; food safety, nutrition, and health; renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; agriculture systems and technology; and agriculture economics and rural communities.

Commodity boards must match AFRI awarded funds, if grant applications are selected for award in the topic area they proposed. Researchers wishing to propose a project on the topic suggested by a commodity board will be required to obtain a letter of support from the co-funding commodity board.

NIFA may either accept or reject any proposed topic based on established criteria. Topics that are accepted will be incorporated into future AFRI RFAs, as appropriate.

*continued next page >>*

### USDA RECOGNIZES 22 ORGANIZATIONS THAT MEET THIS DEFINITION:

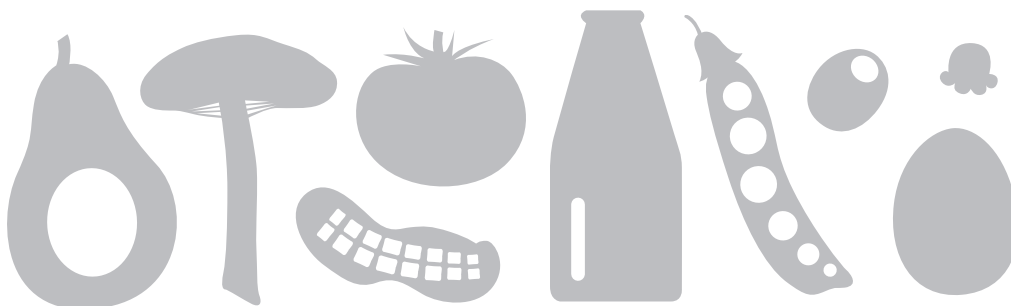
1. Beef Board
2. Blueberry Council
3. Christmas Tree Board
4. Cotton Board
5. Dairy Board
6. Egg Board
7. Fluid Milk Board
8. Hass Avocado Board
9. Honey Board
10. Lamb Board
11. Mango Board
12. Mushroom Council
13. Paper and Paper-Based Packaging
14. Peanut Board
15. Popcorn Board
16. Pork Board
17. Potato Board
18. Processed Raspberry Council
19. Softwood Lumber Board
20. Sorghum Board
21. Soybean Board
22. Watermelon Board

### USDA ALSO RECOGNIZES THE FOLLOWING MARKETING ORDER BOARDS:

- Oregon/Washington pears (fresh and processed)
- California olives
- Georgia Vidalia onions
- SE Washington/NW Oregon Walla Walla Valley sweet onions
- Idaho/Oregon onions
- Florida tomatoes
- California almonds
- Oregon/Washington hazelnuts
- Riverside County, California domestic dates
- California raisins

### STATE BOARDS NOT CURRENTLY LISTED:

Many state boards that are not currently listed will be eligible. See Commodity Boards FAQs at [nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards-frequently-asked-questions](http://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards-frequently-asked-questions)



## TIMELINES

Below are two timelines for key steps in the new Commodity Boards initiative for NIFA and eligible commodity boards to jointly fund AFRI topics. The two timelines differ according to the complexity of the applications that will be received and the size of the awards that will be made in the different AFRI program areas. These timelines are approximate, subject to change, and are intended solely to give a general sense of the timing for key milestones in the process.

**TABLE 1. APPROXIMATE TIMELINE FOR AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM AND EDUCATION AND LITERACY INITIATIVE (ELI)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT OR ACTION</b>	<b>INTERVAL (CALENDAR DAYS) FROM PREVIOUS EVENT OR ACTION, UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE</b>
July 24, 2015	Federal Register Notice published	
Sept. 22, 2015	Submission of topics due from Commodity Boards for inclusion in AFRI Requests for Applications (RFAs)	60 days
Oct. 7, 2015	Commodity Boards notified by NIFA of decision to include (or not include) topics in RFAs; NIFA sends Collection Agreement to Commodity Boards	15 days
Nov. 6, 2015	Commodity Boards return signed Collection Agreement to NIFA	30 days
Nov. 20, 2015	Commodity Boards deposit agreed upon amount of funds in escrow account after the signed Collection Agreement is returned to NIFA	14 days
To Be Determined	Grant Application Submission Deadline	To Be Determined
To Be Determined	Commodity Board letters of support provided to NIFA by the grant applicant (Project Director) for applications addressing program area priorities focused on Commodity Board topics	60 days after respective grant application submission deadline
Approximately July 2016	NIFA notifies Commodity Boards of outcome of peer panel review and decisions regarding Commodity Board-approved proposals	Approximately 21 days after peer panel review of grant applications
To Be Determined	Commodity Board transfers funds from escrow account to NIFA Deposit Account	5 days after NIFA notifies Commodity Boards of outcome of peer panel review and decisions regarding Commodity Board-approved proposals

**TABLE 2. APPROXIMATE TIMELINE AFRI CHALLENGE AREA PROGRAMS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT OR ACTION</b>	<b>INTERVAL (CALENDAR DAYS) FROM PREVIOUS EVENT OR ACTION, UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE</b>
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## TIMELINES (CONTINUED)

TABLE 2. APPROXIMATE TIMELINE AFRI CHALLENGE AREA PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

DATE	EVENT OR ACTION	INTERVAL (CALENDAR DAYS) FROM PREVIOUS EVENT OR ACTION, UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE
To Be Determined	Grant Application Submission Deadline	To Be Determined
To Be Determined	Commodity Board letters provided to NIFA by the grant applicant (Project Director) for applications addressing program area priorities focused on Commodity Board topics	60 days after respective grant application submission deadline
Approximately September 2016	NIFA notifies Commodity Boards of outcome of peer panel review and decisions regarding Commodity Board-approved proposals	Approximately 21 days after peer panel review of grant applications
To Be Determined	Commodity Board transfers funds from escrow account to NIFA Deposit Account	5 days after NIFA notifies Commodity Boards of outcome of peer panel review and decisions regarding Commodity Board-approved proposals

## USEFUL LINKS

### FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

[federalregister.gov/articles/2015/07/24/2015-18120/solicitation-of-commodity-board-topics-and-contribution-of-funding-under-the-agriculture-and-food](http://federalregister.gov/articles/2015/07/24/2015-18120/solicitation-of-commodity-board-topics-and-contribution-of-funding-under-the-agriculture-and-food)

### NIFA COMMODITY BOARD INFORMATION

[nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards](http://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards)

### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

[nifa.usda.gov/program/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative](http://nifa.usda.gov/program/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards-frequently-asked-questions](http://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards-frequently-asked-questions)

### ARCHIVED WEBINAR POWERPOINTS

[nifa.usda.gov/resource/afri-commodity-board-webinar-slides#overlay-context=resource/afri-commodity-board-webinar-slides](http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/afri-commodity-board-webinar-slides#overlay-context=resource/afri-commodity-board-webinar-slides)

### ARCHIVED WEBINARS

[nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards-webinars](http://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards-webinars)

### TIMELINE UPDATES

[nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/Timeline%202014%20Farm%20Bill%20Commodity%20Board%20Initiative\\_1.pdf](http://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/Timeline%202014%20Farm%20Bill%20Commodity%20Board%20Initiative_1.pdf)

### NIFA PROGRAM

[nifa.usda.gov/programs](http://nifa.usda.gov/programs)

### GRANTS

[nifa.usda.gov/grants](http://nifa.usda.gov/grants)