

FACT SHEET

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Welfare and Well-Being of Agricultural Animals (A1251)

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is the nation's leading competitive research grants program for agricultural sciences. The Welfare and Well-being of Agricultural Animals program supports research projects focusing on agricultural animals, covering behavior, physiology, genetics, environmental sciences, and social sciences. Projects submitted to this program should strive to enhance animal welfare and improve sustainable production efficiency.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- A1251 funds; Standard, Conference, and FASE (Strengthening Standard, New Investigator, Strengthening Conference, Seed, Equipment, and Sabbatical) Grants only.
- Projects must be Research or Integrated only.
- Project budgets are \$650,000 per project for project periods of up to five years.
- \$800,00 may be requested for research only applications that include specific partnerships (partnership grant details located in RFA).
- Eligible for the U.S.-Ireland Tripartite Collaborative grants.

PROGRAM AREA PRIORITIES

- Objective measures of welfare and well-being, including the use of emerging methods and metrics for assessment for outcome-based welfare assessment criteria.
- Alternatives to pain, injury, distress, and heat stress management in all production and reproductive stages, during all production phases including transportation.
- Creative solutions for nutrition, the role of microbiome, and genetic selection.
- Alternative for the replacement or reduction of the use of animals in research.

Other Programs Funding Welfare and Well-Being Projects

- Inter-Disciplinary Engagement in Animal Systems (A1261): social science and precision agriculture
- Diseases of Agricultural Animals (A1221): prevention, control, or treatment of animal diseases
- Engineering for Agricultural Production Systems (A1521): design, and operation of structures

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges.

APPLICANT RESOURCES

- For additional information and application instructions see the [AFRI Foundational and Applied Science RFA](#)
- Additional AFRI Request for Applications Resources can be found [here](#).
- [AFRI FAQs](#)
- List of projects funded in the [A1251 Program](#).

PROGRAM CONTACTS

- Dr. Frank Siewerdt, (816) 329-9745 or frank.siewerdt@usda.gov
- Dr. Mark Mirando, (202) 445-5575 or mark.mirando@usda.gov