Congress passed with strong bipartisan support a massive end-of-year spending package that includes $1.5 trillion in fiscal year (FY) 2022 omnibus appropriations and $13.6 billion in aid for Ukraine. President Biden is expected to sign it into law shortly before current government funding expires on March 11. Overall, the final spending package would increase funding for almost all federal programs of interest to the research, education, and academic medicine communities. However, final numbers for these programs were, for the most part, below or far below the President’s budget request and the House and Senate bills. With FY 2022 finalized, Congress is already pivoting to FY 2023 appropriations. The Biden Administration expects to release the FY 2023 President’s budget request in late March or early April, officially kicking off the Congressional FY 2023 appropriations process. In the meantime, federal agencies will be focused on spending FY 2022 appropriations with only six months left in the fiscal year. Federal agencies are poised to release a large number of funding opportunities that were pending final appropriations in the next few months.

The University of Minnesota Washington Update provides intelligence and analysis on recent federal activities. Faculty visiting Washington, D.C. are encouraged to contact Sarah Neimeyer, Director of Government Relations, at neimeyer@umn.edu. Contact Christina Laridaen, Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, at christina@lewis-burke.com with any questions or comments related to the Update’s content.

Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates

Funding Opportunity: AFOSR Releases FY 2023 Young Investigator Program (YIP) FOA
The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) released its fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the Young Investigator Program (YIP). This popular program provides early-career university faculty a path into the Air Force’s research enterprise through multi-year grants.

Proposals should address areas outlined in AFOSR’s broad agency announcement (BAA), “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.” Proposals may be submitted for one of four research areas:

1. Engineering and Complex Systems
2. Information and Networks
3. Physical Sciences
4. Chemistry and Biological Sciences

In addition to the areas identified in the BAA, AFOSR is working in collaboration with the Laboratory for Physical Sciences (LPS) to make additional awards that address experimental and theoretical quantum information science (QIS) research. Further details of AFOSR and LPS’s specific QIS research interests can be found in the full FOA.
Deadlines: Pre-proposal questions are due March 21, 2022. White papers are highly recommended and are due April 18, 2022, at 11:59 PM ET. Full proposals should be submitted by June 6, 2022, at 11:59 PM ET. The program is projected to start on January 1, 2023. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the program officer for the applicable technical area to discuss their proposal prior to submission.

Awards: Selected proposals will be funded at a maximum of $450,000 for a three-year base period with a limit of $150,000 annually. AFOSR anticipates making 37 awards in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts.

Eligibility: Faculty who are U.S. citizens, national or permanent residents, and have received their PhD no earlier than April 1, 2015, are eligible to apply. U.S. institutions of higher education, U.S. nonprofit or for-profit research organizations, and industrial laboratories may submit proposals. Note that AFOSR makes awards to institutions, not individuals. Additional eligibility and instructions can be found in the full FOA.

Sources and Additional Information:
- The full solicitation is available at www.grants.gov under number “FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2022-0005.”
- A complete list of AFOSR research areas and program officers can be found at www.grants.gov under number “FA9550-21-S-0001.”
- Additional AFOSR funding opportunities can be found here.

Funding Opportunity: AFRI Releases FY 2022 Sustainable Agricultural Systems RFA

On March 8, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) released a request for applications (RFA) for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS) program, which aims to transform U.S. food and agricultural systems to support increased production while addressing environmental sustainability challenges to ultimately bring about societal benefits and improved quality of life. The fiscal year (FY) 2022 SAS solicitation focuses on local and regional climate-smart products; nutritious, safe, and accessible foods; and rural economic development. Proposals must address current challenges and incorporate an interdisciplinary vision of resilient future food systems, including projected social, economic, cultural, health, and environmental impacts of these systems.

This solicitation is for integrated projects only, which means that each proposal should include research, education, and extension components. Applicants are encouraged to take a systems-level approach and utilize advancements in science and technology to solve pressing agricultural challenges and to demonstrate and distribute the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable agriculture. Education activities should focus on supporting the training and development of an agricultural workforce with skills relevant to the program. The research components should seek to identify and address knowledge gaps. Extension should encourage the adoption of sustainable production and consumption practices and engage the target populations in the design.

Applications must address one of the following goals:
- Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF): CSAF aims to “improve mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency of agricultural and forestry production systems to climate change.” These projects must enhance understanding of at least one of the following: greenhouse gas mitigation, markets and
socioeconomics, or regionally appropriate climate adaptation and resilience. CSAF projects are also encouraged to collaborate with USDA Climate Hubs.

- **Strengthening the Bioeconomy:** These projects should aim to “foster economic development and prosperity in rural America by developing and advancing production of clean, renewable, and sustainable energy and biobased products from forests and agriculture.” Projects must address sustainable bioenergy and bio-based products, resilience and robustness of the food and agricultural system, and potential sustainability impacts.

- **Food and Nutrition Security:** These projects should aim to increase the importance of food and agriculture to health through resilient local and regional food systems, or adoption of new or existing technologies, educational programs, and other resources to improve access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food. Food and Nutrition Security projects must address at least one of the following: local and regional food systems, nutrition-sensitive climate-smart agriculture, or nutrition security and diet-related health disparities.

Due to the long-term focus of the SAS program, proposals should include concrete metrics for success, which may include measure a system’s productivity and profitability, impact on the environment, contributions to food supply and safety, employment opportunities, benefits to underserved communities, and/or improvements to human health and nutrition.

**Eligibility:** Colleges and universities are eligible to apply for Integrated Projects.

**Deadlines:** Letters of intent are due April 27, 2022 at 5:00pm ET. Applications must be submitted by July 28, 2022 at 5:00pm ET.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** USDA anticipates making $80 million available for this program. Individual award amounts may not exceed $10 million with a program period of up to five years.

**Cost-Share Requirement:** Applicants must provide matching contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all Federal funds granted. If an Integrated Project is commodity-specific and not of national scope, matching funds from non-Federal sources with cash or in-kind contributions are required. NIFA may waive this requirement if the project meets criteria specified in the RFA.

**Sources and additional information:**
- FY AFRI SAS program page is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-sas.

[Funding Opportunity: USDA NIFA Releases FY 2022 AFRI Foundational and Applied Science RFA]

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) released a request for applications (RFA) for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science (FAS) program, which aims to advance fundamental and applied knowledge in agricultural and food sciences to address current and future societal challenges. The fiscal year (FY) 2022 program will distribute $300 million to support research and extension proposals to advance basic and applied research in agricultural sciences across a number of disciplines. This RFA is an updated version of the FY 2021 – FY 2022 solicitation, with an increase of $10 million over the FY 2021.

UMN Washington Update
Prepared by Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
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solicitation; this increase was allocated to the Crosscutting Programs.

The FY 2022 RFA contains several new program area priorities:

- Conventional Plant Breeding for Cultivar Development within Plant Health and Production and Plant Products
- Environmental and Natural Resource Economics within Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities
- Extension, Education, & USDA Climate Hubs Partnership within Crosscutting Programs
- AFRI Commodity Board Co-funding Topics within Crosscutting Programs
- Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems within Crosscutting Programs
- Regional Innovation and Demonstration of Climate-Smart Agriculture for Future Farms, also within Crosscutting Programs
- Additionally, the Engineering for Agricultural Production Systems priority area has been split into Agriculture Systems and Technology: Engineering for Agricultural Production and Processing and Engineering for Precision Crop and Water Management.

Conference proposals will be accepted anytime throughout the year. Those intending to submit conference proposals must submit a letter of intent (LOI) 195 days in advance of the conference.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** USDA anticipates making $300 million available for an undetermined number of awards. Individual award amounts, award distribution, and project period will vary based on research area. Additional information on each program is provided below.

- **Program 1 – Plant Health and Production and Plant Products ($66 million)**
  - **A – Foundational Knowledge of Agricultural Production Systems**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 15, 2022.
  - **B – Foundational Knowledge of Plant Products**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by August 18, 2022.
  - **C – Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems**
    - $750,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - **D – Physiology of Agricultural Plants**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by October 6, 2022.
  - **E – Plant Breeding for Agricultural Production**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 22, 2022.
  - **F – Pollinator Health: Research and Application**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.

- **G – Conventional Plant Breeding for Cultivar Development**
  - $500,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
  - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - FY 2022 Applications due by September 22, 2022.

- **Program Area 2 – Animal Health and Production and Animal Products ($55 million)**
  - **A – Animal Reproduction**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by August 11, 2022.
  - **B – Animal Nutrition, Growth, and Lactation**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by August 11, 2022.
  - **C – Welfare of Agricultural Animals**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by August 11, 2022.
  - **D – Diseases of Agricultural Animals**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by August 11, 2022.
  - **E – Animal Breeding, Genetic, and Genomics**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by August 11, 2022.

- **Program Area 3 – Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health ($39 million)**
  - **A – Food Safety and Defense**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - **B – Novel Foods and Innovative Manufacturing Technologies**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 1, 2022.
  - **C – Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases**
    - $1 million total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - **D – Food and Human Health**
    - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 1, 2021.
  - **E – Mitigating Antimicrobial Resistance Across the Food Chain**
    - $1 million total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 1, 2022.
• **Program Area 4 – Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment (BNRE) ($33 million)**
  - **A – Soil Health**
    - $750,000 total per project with a project period of up to four years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 1, 2022.
  - **B – Water Quantity and Quality**
    - $750,000 total per project with a project period of up to four years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 1, 2022.
  - **C – Sustainable Bioeconomy through Biobased Products**
    - $1 million total per project with a project period of up to four years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 1, 2022.
  - **D – Sustainable Agroecosystems: Health, Functions, Processes and Management**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to four years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 15, 2022.

• **Program Area 5 – Agriculture Systems and Technology (AST) ($29 million)**
  - **A – Engineering for Agricultural Production and Processing**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to four years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by October 6, 2022.
  - **B – Biorefining and Biomanufacturing**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to four years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 29, 2022.
  - **C – Nanotechnology for Agricultural and Food Systems**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to four years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - **D – Engineering for Precision Crop and Water Management**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to four years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by October 6, 2022.

• **Program Area 6 – Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities (AERC) ($34 million)**
  - **A – Small and Medium-Sized Farms**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by September 22, 2022.
  - **B – Economics, Markets and Trade**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by October 6, 2022.
  - **C – Social Implications of Food and Agricultural Technologies**
    - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
    - LOI required for conference proposals only.
    - FY 2022 applications due by November 3, 2022.
**D – Rural Economic Development**
- $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
- LOI required for conference proposals only.
- FY 2022 applications due September 15, 2022.

**E – Environmental and Natural Resource Economics**
- $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
- LOI required for conference proposals only.
- FY 2022 applications due September 15, 2022.

**Program Area 7 – Crosscutting Programs ($42 million)**

- **A – Agricultural Microbiomes in Plant Systems and Natural Resources**
  - Up to $850,000 per project with a project period of up to five years.
  - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - FY 2022 applications due by October 6, 2022.

- **B – Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE)**
  - $300,000 total per project with a project period of up to three years.
  - No LOI required.
  - FY 2022 applications due by September 15, 2022.

- **C – Data Science for Food and Agricultural Systems (DSFAS)**
  - $650,000 total per project with a project period of up to five years.
  - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - FY 2022 applications due by November 17, 2022.

- **D – Interdisciplinary Engagement in Animal Systems (IDEAS)**
  - $1 million total per project with a project period of up to five years.
  - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - FY 2022 applications due by October 6, 2022.

- **E – Agricultural Biosecurity**
  - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
  - LOI required for conference proposals only.
  - FY 2022 applications due by October 20, 2022.

- **F – Extension, Education, and USDA Climate Hubs Partnership**
  - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
  - LOI required for standard grants, strengthening standard grants, and new investigator standard grants only.
  - FY 2022 applications due by October 6, 2022.

- **G – AFRI Commodity Board Co-funding Topics**
  - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
  - LOI not required.
  - FY 2022 applications due by May 12, 2022.

- **H – Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems**
  - Funding levels and project period vary by subtopic and type of proposal.
  - LOI required for standard grants and strengthening standard grants only.
  - FY 2022 applications due by May 12, 2022.

- **I – Regional Innovation and Demonstration of Climate-Smart Agriculture for the Future (CAFF)**
  - $1 million total per project with a project period of up to five years.
  - LOI not required.
  - FY 2022 applications due by October 6, 2022.
Cost-Sharing: A one-to-one cost share is required for applications that are commodity-specific and those that fail to address research issues in a national context. NIFA may waive the matching requirement for a grant under specific criteria outlined in the RFA.

Eligibility and Limitations: Eligible applicants under this solicitation include but are not limited to: State Agricultural Experiment Stations; colleges and universities, including junior colleges offering associate degrees or higher; university research foundations; and other research institutions.

Sources and additional information:
- The full RFA is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/FY22-AFRI-FAS-RFA-508-Fv2.pdf
- The program page for FAS is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-foundational-program