

NIFA  
Report to the Southern Association  
of  
Agricultural  
Experiment Station Directors

March 26, 2012

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## I. GENERAL NIFA GRANT INFORMATION

### Applying for NIFA Grants

All NIFA Grants through Grants.Gov. Grants.gov <<http://www.grants.gov/>> is the source to find and apply for Federal government grants. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) uses Grants.gov to post NIFA discretionary funding opportunities and, in some cases, other NIFA funding opportunities, and receive electronic applications. **Applicants are advised to submit early.**

### Upcoming NIFA Solicitations

Posted at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/recentReleasedGrants.cfm>

#### ▪Recently opened grants

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##### Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers

Open Date: 03/12/2012  
Due Date: 05/14/2012

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##### 1890 Facilities

Open Date: 03/01/2012  
Due Date: 05/04/2012

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##### Organic Transitions Program

Open Date: 02/29/2012  
Due Date: 04/25/2012

#### ▪AFRI Foundation Programs.

30% of AFRI funds are dedicated to these areas which listed in the Farm Bill:

The six priority areas 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.

Anticipated RFA Release: TBA (2-3 months from now)

### New Allowable Indirect Rate

On November 18, 2011, the President signed the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55) into law. This Act provides annual funding for some departments of the Federal government including the U. S. Department of Agriculture (except for the Forest Service).

Section 720 of the General Provisions to this Act increases the limit on indirect costs for some NIFA grant awards. It states: *“None of the funds in this Act shall be available to pay indirect costs charged against any agricultural research, education, or extension grant awards issued by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture that exceed 30 percent of total Federal funds provided under each award: ....”* The Administration had proposed this increase in the President’s FY 2012 Budget Request.

Accordingly, NIFA has modified all open FY 2012 Requests for Application (RFAs) and will cite the 30 percent language described above in additional FY 2012 solicitations issued that are

affected by this change. Where the increase in indirect costs applies and an application deadline has passed, potential awardees will be contacted to allow revisions to their budgets in accordance with the new indirect cost cap.

Some NIFA programs will not have the 30 percent rate due to other legislation. Information on the indirect cost rate for each NIFA program can be found at [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/indirect\\_cost.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/indirect_cost.html).

Questions may be directed to Melanie Krizmanich, Senior Policy Specialist, at [mkrizmanich@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:mkrizmanich@nifa.usda.gov) or Andrea Brandon, Assistant Director, Office of Grants and Financial Management, at [abrandon@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:abrandon@nifa.usda.gov).

### **REEport**

NIFA's target date to deploy the REEport grant project reporting system is April 2012. As announced previously, the deployment of REEport will mark the transition of the system in becoming NIFA's singular grant and formula project reporting system. It will build on and replace the existing CRIS web forms system. REEport will also utilize the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR), a standard progress report format that all Federal research agencies will be required to use.

To inform the system about REEport, NIFA has been conducting bi-monthly Reporting Web Conferences, many of them focused on REEport. The February 9 web conference will focus on the progress report in REEport. Information on the Reporting Web Conference can be found at: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/rwc>. This web page includes recordings of all past web conferences as well as information on the very next web conference and how to get on the listserv to receive Email regarding the Reporting Web Conference.

In addition, Bart Hewitt will be conducting a national presentation on REEport at the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference in West Virginia in May. Also, Adam Preuter is working on developing help screens and documentation for the REEport system. NIFA is planning to produce a series of video vignettes which will be attached to each screen to train the user on how to use that particular screen.

### **AFRI Listening Session**

NIFA hosted an AFRI listening session on February 22, 2012, in the Waterfront Centre Building here in Washington. Comments may be submitted to [AFRI@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:AFRI@nifa.usda.gov) or fax to (202) 401-1782.

In addition, NIFA is hosting the Webinars Listed Below:

#### **Challenge Area**

Food Safety, 4/10/2012, 3 – 4:30 p.m.,

<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/challengeareafoodsafety/>

Childhood Obesity Prevention, 4/11/2012, 1 – 2:30 p.m., \*

<https://connect16.uc.att.com/usda/meet/?ExEventID=84896371>

**Sustainable Bio-energy, 4/18/2012, 12:30 to 2 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/cabioenergy/>

**Climate Variability and Change, 4/18/2012, 2 to 3:30 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/caclimatechange/>

**Food Security, 4/25/2012, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/cafoodsecurity/>

### **Foundational Program**

**Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities, 3/28/2012, 2 – 3:30 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/ageconruralcommunities/>

**Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health, 4/10/2012, 1 – 2:30 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpfoodsafety/>

**Agriculture Systems and Technology, 4/17/2012, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/agsystems/>

**Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment, 4/18/2012, 3:30 to 5 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/caenergy/>

**Animal Health and Production and Animal Products, 4/25/2012, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpanimalhealth/>

**Plant Health and Production and Plant Products, 4/26/2012, 1:30 – 3:00,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpplanthealth/>

**NIFA Fellows Program**

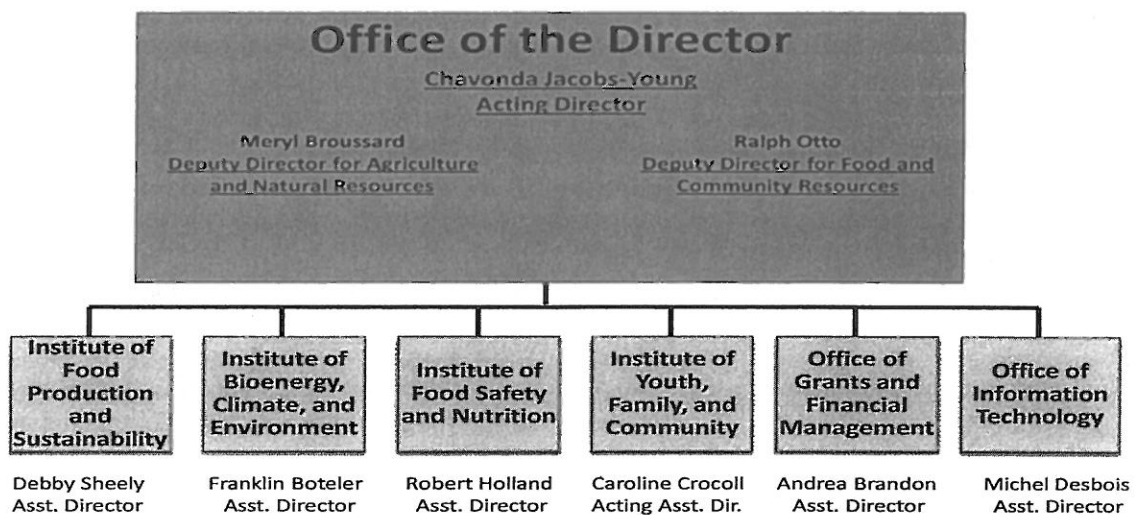
**NIFA Fellows Program, 4/17/2012, 1 – 4 p.m.,**  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/nifafellows/>

## **II. NIFA REORGANIZATION IN PLACE**

### **NIFA Organization/Priorities**

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture was created by the 2008 Farm Bill—primary purpose to advance science in agriculture and natural resource areas. Science includes efforts in research, extension, and education (both individually and collectively) to advance knowledge that will enable NIFA to meet significant societal challenges. To better meet these challenges in an effective and efficient means NIFA has reorganized into the structure below:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)



- **Institute of Food Production and Sustainability**
  - Enhancing global food security through productive and sustainable agricultural systems
- **Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment**
  - Ensuring energy independence through clean, biobased energy systems
  - Ensuring sustainable and adaptive agro-ecosystems in response to climate change
- **Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition**
  - Ensuring a safe food supply
  - Improving citizens' health through nutrition
  - Reducing childhood obesity
  - Improving food quality
- **Institute of Youth, Family, and Community**
  - Enabling vibrant and resilient communities
  - Preparing the next generation of scientists
  - Enhancing science capacity in minority-serving institutions
  - Enhancing youth development
- **Center for International Programs**
  - Educating the next generation of scientists in developing economies
  - Sharing research discoveries to enhance food production and stabilize economies

### III. BUDGET MATTERS--FY2013 USDA Budget

#### Statement from Secretary Vilsack

"The President and I believe that this is a make or break moment for the middle class. What's at stake is the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home, and put a little away for retirement. To keep that promise alive, we need an economy that makes, creates and innovates – an economy that's built to last.

"Over the past three years, USDA has worked with the Obama Administration to respond to the economic crises of 2008, put Americans back to work, and to rebuild economic security for the middle class.

"USDA has supported farmers, ranchers and growers so that last year they enjoyed record farm income. We have focused on creating jobs and building a foundation for future economic growth, especially in rural America, where unemployment is falling than in other parts of the country.

"The President's 2013 USDA budget helps us to continue this progress, supporting robust farm income and good jobs in rural communities.

"To help sustain record farm income, we will invest in research and development to improve agricultural productivity. **The budget makes a 23% increase in funding for our premier competitive grants program to support the most worthy projects and continues support for in-house research and the land grant universities.** We'll continue our efforts to combat destructive pests and disease that threaten crops and livestock.

"To encourage thriving markets for our farm products abroad, we will continue funding that helped make last year a record for agricultural exports, driving farm income and supporting 1.1 million American jobs. We'll reduce trade barriers and aggressively promote 'grown in America' products. At home, we're working to encourage the development of a bio-based economy, where what we grow and raise is used to make fuel, chemicals and consumer goods to complement our traditional production of food, feed, and fiber. Our work to promote local and regional food systems provides another opportunity for income growth for farmers of all sizes.

"The 2013 budget will increase the record number of acres of working land in conservation programs, rewarding farmers, ranchers and growers for cleaning our air and water, preserving soil and wildlife habitat.

"Finally, farmers need to know that one bad crop won't put them out of business, so this budget maintains a strong safety net with disaster assistance, income support, and farm loans. We preserve efforts to modernize systems that will allow farmers and ranchers to access many of our programs online at their convenience. The budget's full funding for the expected requirements for the Department's three major nutrition assistance programs will also help support the bottom line for America's producers.

"At the same time, we cannot afford to let our foot off the gas from investments that are helping create jobs in rural America. This budget continues to fund programs that – over the past 3 years in rural America – have: helped more than 450,000 families buy or refinance a home; invested in over 6,250 critical community facilities projects like schools, hospitals, police and fire stations; helped improve 5,100 water and waste water systems; and provided grants and loans to help over 50,000 small businesses create and save 266,000 jobs.

"To promote the domestic production of renewable energy and create good jobs in rural communities, we'll invest in farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs working to develop a nationwide biofuels economy. We'll also continue our partnership with the U.S. Navy and Department of Energy to boost the production of domestically produced aviation biofuels for use by the military.

"Our budget also recognizes that successful and effective rural economic development will occur on a regional basis, working through existing programs to fund regional projects and strategic regional planning activities.

"Since fiscal year 2010, USDA has seen our operating budget cut by \$3 billion, or 12%. This came on top of a \$4 billion contribution to help pay down the debt.

"To manage these reductions while preserving the success we're seeing in the countryside, we've had to take a close look at the way we do business with less money, a smaller staff, and more complex programs. Following a Department-wide review of operations, we created a Blueprint for Stronger Service to make USDA work better and more efficiently for the American people. We found savings in areas like technology, travel, supplies and facilities. We've been able to avoid the interruptions in service that come with furloughs and employee layoffs.

"Like families and businesses across the country, USDA is finding new ways to innovate while making investments that help drive economic growth in the long term. At the end of the day, we want farmers working hard to make a good living, and we want to offer good, middle class jobs for the 50 million people who call rural America home.

The 2013 budget will allow us to keep our commitment to the customers we serve each day: farmers, ranchers, small businesses and the families that live, work and make their homes in rural America."

#### Statement from the NIFA Acting Director:

On February 13, 2012, President Obama forwarded the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Budget to Congress. The FY 2013 Budget Request includes approximately **\$1.24 billion** in discretionary funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). This represents an increase of **\$36.78 million or approximately 3.05 percent above the FY 2012 Consolidated Appropriation discretionary funding amount of \$1.21 billion**. The Budget increases funding of competitive grants, continues funding for capacity building through formula programs, and consolidates funding for pest management and insular area programs. In this time of limited resources, the Budget also proposes to redirect funding from lower-priority areas to support higher-priority activities within NIFA. This proposal improves efficiencies in management of NIFA programs resulting in research, education, and extension investments with greater focus and enhanced impact.

The FY 2013 Budget also proposes to expand support for minority serving institutions through establishment of a new Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund and sustained support for the Native American Endowment Fund. The FY 2013 Budget Request proposes approximately \$21.9 million for both endowment funds, an increase of \$10 million over the FY 2012 level.

The FY 2013 Budget for NIFA also includes mandatory funding totaling \$10 million for the Agriculture Risk Management Education Program and Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program. This is a \$130 million decrease below the FY 2012 level due to mandatory Farm Bill programs expiring in 2012. In the current Farm Bill, the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program, Biomass Research and Development, Specialty Crop Research Initiative, and Biodiesel Fuel Education mandatory programs are scheduled to expire in 2012.

Some highlights of the FY 2013 President's Budget request for NIFA are:

**NIFA proposes \$325 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**. This is an increase of approximately \$60.5 million over the FY 2012 level. AFRI is the core competitive grant program for research, education, and extension. The program will provide funding for projects that address critical issues in U.S. agriculture in the areas of bioenergy, global climate change, global food security, nutrition and health, food safety. The program also continues to provide support for the foundational programs, and NIFA fellowships. The budget also proposes to **redirect funding from the Section 406 Integrated Activities on water quality and food safety as well as the International Science and Education programs into AFRI**. This redirection will allow efficiency in management and alignment of medium to long-term research, education, and extension goals relevant to these programs.

The FY 2013 proposes to consolidate funding for Expert Integrated Pest Management Decision Support System, Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control, Minor Crop Pest Management, Pest Management Alternatives, Smith-Lever 3(d) Pest Management, and Regional Pest Management Centers into a single program called Crop Protection. This action will allow NIFA to enhance its ability to support research, education, and extension activities needed to ensure global food security and respond to other major societal challenges.

NIFA proposes to consolidate the Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas, and Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas into a single program called Grants for Insular Areas to improve the efficiency in management of the program activities for insular areas.

In FY 2013, NIFA proposes increased funding for integrated activities related to sustainable agriculture. Included in the requested funding is a new State-Federal matching program which will leverage State and/or private funds and build the long-term capacity to guide the evolution of American agriculture to a more highly, productive, sustainable system.

The budget proposes funding for the Graduate Fellowships Grants, Institution Challenge Grants, Multicultural Scholar, and Secondary and 2-year Post Secondary, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom. Funded activities will work to build the next generation of scientists entering the food and agricultural sciences.

NIFA also proposes increased funding for extension activities for Smith-Lever 3(d) New Technologies for Agricultural Extension and Children, Youth, and Families at Risk programs; and the Renewable Resources Extension Act program.

Attached is the FY 2013 NIFA Budget Brochure which includes a funding table listing the requested amounts for NIFA programs.

It is anticipated that over the next few weeks the USDA Office of Budget and Program Analysis will post the FY 2013 Congressional budget justifications (Explanatory Notes) for all USDA Agencies on their website. You will be notified when this information is available.

The House Appropriations Hearing for the Research, Education, and Economics mission area, which includes NIFA, is scheduled for March 21, 2012. At this time, the Senate appropriations hearing schedule for NIFA has not been released. We will provide additional information on Congressional hearings and action as it becomes available.

*Chavonda Jacobs-Young*  
Acting Director, NIFA

## National Institute of Food and Agriculture

President's FY 2013 Budget Request vs. FY 2012

(All \$Millions)

<b>Research and Education Activities</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>
	<b>Final</b>	<b>President</b>
Hatch Act	236.334	234.834
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	32.934	32.934
Evans-Allen Program	50.898	50.898
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	264.470	325.000
Improved Pest Control	15.830	1.405
Special Research Grants	4.000	0.000
Animal Health and Disease Research	4.000	0.000
1994 Institutions Research Program	1.801	1.801
Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Research	0.961	0.000
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants	9.000	
Graduate Fellowship Grants		3.851
Higher Education Challenge Grants		5.643
Multicultural Scholars		1.239
Hispanic -Serving Institutions Education Grants	9.219	9.219
Secondary and two-year Post Secondary Program	0.900	0.981
Capacity Building for 1890 Institutions	19.336	19.336
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	3.335	3.335
Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	3.194	3.194
Insular Areas Grants		1.650
Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas	0.900	
Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas	0.750	



Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Program	1.450	0.000
Sun Grant Program	2.200	0.000
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program	4.790	4.790
Federal Administration	10.500	14.229
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	0.825	0.000
Aquaculture Centers	3.920	3.920
Critical Agricultural Materials Act	1.081	0.000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	14.471	14.471
Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges	4.500	0.000
Competitive Grants for Policy Research	4.000	0.000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>705.599</b>	<b>732.730</b>
	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>
<b>Extension Activities</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>President</b>
Smith Lever Sections 3(b) and 3(c)	294.000	292.411
Smith Lever Section 3(d):		
Farm Safety & Youth Farm Safety Education	4.610	4.610
Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP)	67.934	67.934
Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program	3.039	3.039
New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension)	1.550	1.750
Pest Management	9.918	0.000
Sustainable Agriculture Programs	4.696	4.696
Children, Youth and Families at Risk	7.600	8.395
Cooperative Extension at 1890 Institutions	42.592	42.592
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	19.730	19.730
Renewable Resources Extension Act	3.700	4.060
Rural Health and Safety Education	1.500	0.000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	4.312	4.312
Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database	1.000	0.000
Grants to Youth Organizations	0.750	0.000
Women and Minorities in STEM fields	0.400	0.400
Federal Administration	7.852	8.544
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>475.183</b>	<b>462.473</b>
	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>
<b>Integrated Activities</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>President</b>
Water Quality	4.500	0.000
Regional Pest Management Centers	4.000	0.000
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	1.996	0.000
Organic Transition Program	4.000	4.000
Crop Protection*		29.056
Sustainable Agriculture Federal-State Matching Grants*		3.500

Regional Rural Development Centers	0.998	0.998
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	5.988	5.988
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>21.482</b>	<b>43.542</b>

### **Additional Budget Information:**

House Appropriations Committee Hearing Scheduled for March 21 at 10:00. (eastern time)  
Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing Scheduled for Marh 29 at 2:00 . (eastern time)

Complete proposed USDA budget information can be found at  
<http://www.obpa.usda.gov/budsum/FY13budsum.pdf>

The explanatory notes for NIFA (117 pp – AFRI is noted in text on 17-5, 17-36, 17-53, 17-55, and in budget lines on 17-27, 17-29, 17-33). FY 2013 NIFA Explanatory Notes -  
<http://www.obpa.usda.gov/17nifa2013notes.pdf>

Summary notes on the Agriculture chapter of the budget (6 pp at 30,000' level). FY 2013 President's budget, Agriculture Chapter -  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/agriculture.pdf>

Full budget proposal for agriculture (140 pp)  
FY 2013 President's budget, USDA section of the printed Appendix -  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/agr.pdf>

USDA REE Budget—  
<http://www.obpa.usda.gov/budsum/FY13budsum.pdf> from the OBPA page, which was actually posted yesterday (131 pp – REE begins on p 90 – AFRI starts on p 96).

## **V. STAFFING NEWS**

### **•NIFA Director to Be Appointed (approximate date May 1) President Obama Announces Intent to Appoint Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy as Director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture**

WASHINGTON, March 9, 2012—President Obama announced today his intent to appoint Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy as Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). NIFA links USDA with the land-grant university community, including historically Black colleges and universities, Native American institutions, Hispanic and other universities, and other public and private organizations, to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental, social, and human sciences. Dr. Ramaswamy is currently Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University.

"I welcome the President's intent to appoint Dr. Ramaswamy, a man with a distinguished career as a scientist, professor and leader within higher education, and someone who will surely

help to position NIFA as a modern and efficient service organization that is closely in tune with the long-term vitality of the food and agricultural sciences," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "NIFA's work to coordinate federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs in the service of U.S. agriculture is critical to sustaining the important gains made by U.S. agriculture. By investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future—such as global and domestic food security, renewable energy, and nutrition—NIFA's work has proven integral to the health and security of all Americans. And I am confident that Dr. Ramaswamy will uphold this vital mission."

Dr. Ramaswamy has served as the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University since 2009 and also serves as Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. Previously, he was the Associate Dean of Purdue's College of Agriculture and directed the University's agricultural research programs from 2006 to 2009. Prior to joining the Purdue faculty in 2006, Dr. Ramaswamy was head of the Department of Entomology at Kansas State University from 1997 to 2006, where he held the title of Distinguished Professor. He also served on the faculty of Mississippi State University, was a research associate at Michigan State University, and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Entomological Society of America. Dr. Ramaswamy earned his B.S. and M.S. in entomology from the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore, India, and earned his PhD in Entomology from Rutgers University.

NIFA is part of USDA's Research, Education and Economics Mission Area, which includes the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), as well as the National Agriculture Library and National Arboretum. Each day, the work of USDA scientists and researchers touches the lives of every American: from the farm field to the kitchen table, from the air we breathe to the energy that powers our country. USDA science is on the cutting edge, helping protect, secure, and improve our food, agriculture and natural resources.

•In order to accommodate anticipated budget reductions, NIFA implemented an "early out" incentive at the end of 2011. Twenty employees retired. The agency is currently working to reassign staff responsibilities to cover the workload. This is a microcosm of what is happening in many federal agencies.

•Daniel Cassidy has taken a one year detail to the REE Undersecretary's Office. He will be a coordinator of bioenergy efforts.

## **VI. RECENT SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS/UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Policy:**

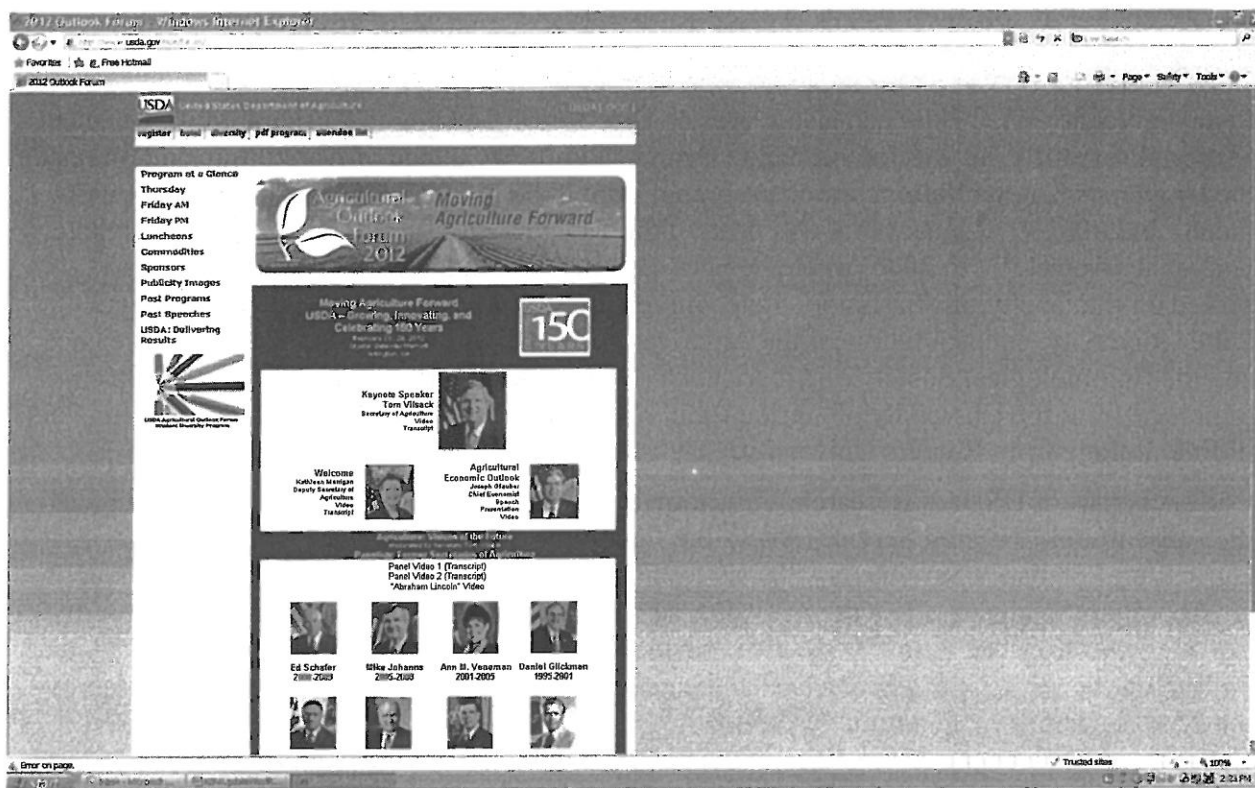
With authorities enacted in 2008 set to expire on September 30, 2012 (the end of FY 2012), both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees are beginning to work on the 2012 Farm Bill.

**Publications:**▪ **USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum:**

Projections of supply and prices for ag commodities—“Agricultural Economic Outlook” by Joe Glauber.

Panel Discussion with Eight Secretary’s of Agriculture on future of agriculture.

Presentations Available at: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>



▪ **On Environmental Capital:** President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST): *Report To The President Sustaining Environmental Capital: Protecting Society And The Economy*. Co-Chaired by Dr. Rosina Bierbaum --Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) at the University of Michigan.

“The central messages of this report are two. First, the economic and environmental dimensions of societal well-being are both indispensable, as well as tightly intertwined. Second, even as the government is rightly focused on the direct threats to the economic aspects of well-being in the form of recession, unemployment, and the stagnation of the standard of living of the middle class, it must not fail to address the threats to both the environmental and the economic aspects of well-being that derive from the accelerating degradation of the environmental capital—the Nation’s ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain—from which flow “ecosystem services” underpinning much economic activity as well as public health, safety, and environmental quality.” --John Holdren

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast\\_sustaining\\_environmental\\_capital\\_report.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_sustaining_environmental_capital_report.pdf)