

principles at <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/> <<http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/>> or contact your university Cooperative Extension headquarters or Family and Consumer Sciences State Leaders.

- Integrated projects that identify and recruit undergraduate students for pipelining into graduate programs in rural development or related disciplines are particularly encouraged. Such training and experiential learning component must go beyond the level of laboratory or other data collection and analysis projects. Examples of education projects include curriculum and/or degree program development in rural development, multi-college/university/department approaches to mentoring and experiential learning in rural development, faculty sharing, and joint degrees. The education component is expected to describe institutional resources and must clearly indicate how and why the proposed new curriculum or degree will complement, enhance, or replace any existing curriculum or programs at the institution and help promote rural development. Projects should also include plans for assessment and performance outcome measurement for continuation or expansion beyond the period of USDA support and potentially for tracking of participant accomplishments after course completion.
- Interdisciplinary applications focused on the creation of sustainable rural communities by protecting the environment, reducing poverty, and enhancing community economic vitality are strongly encouraged.
- Applications that focus on small and medium-sized farms and not directly related to the larger rural community should be directed to the Agricultural Prosperity for Small and Medium-Sized Farms program. Applications not focused on rural community development should not be directed to this program.
- Applications that do not address at least one of the stated integrated program priorities will not be reviewed.
- If a project is funded, beginning in the first year of funding, the project director will be required to attend annual investigator meetings. Reasonable travel expenses should be included as part of the project budget.

E.7. Rapid Response Food and Agricultural Science for Emergency Issues

Program Code - 97100

National Program Leader – Dr. Mark Poth (202-401-5244 or mpoth@csrees.usda.gov)

Total Program Funds - \$1,000,000

Proposed Budget Requests –

- Proposed integrated or research project budgets must not exceed \$250,000 (including indirect costs) for a project period up to 2 years.
- Requests exceeding the budgetary guidelines will not be reviewed.

Letter of Intent Deadline – Immediately; see Part II, F for format and submission instructions.

Anticipated Application Deadline – Submit any time from the time of release of the Request for Applications to July 30, 2009 (5:00 P.M., ET); the firm deadline will be made available in the AFRI RFA. Applications will be reviewed and considered as they are submitted on an ongoing basis.

Background

Issues such as pathogens in packaged spinach or the loss of honey bees due to colony collapse disorder can cause immediate problems for agriculture. This program is a mechanism to rapidly provide the science necessary to more effectively respond to important emergency issues vital to agriculture, food science and related natural and human resources. The issues addressed by the program will be of an urgent and time sensitive nature and have a dramatic impact on agriculture, the food system or related resources. Considerable effort in working with stakeholders goes into structuring the programs and priorities for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Request for Applications (RFA) across the six emphasis areas. However, as time moves on there are emergency issues in agriculture and food science that are so critically important that a rapid response —before the next AFRI RFA release (i.e. FY2010) — is justified. This program is designed to meet that need.

FY 2009 Priorities

1. By design this program does not have specific priorities. Submissions must be related to critically important emerging issues that will be identified on our agency web site. Applications to this program should have the following characteristics: 1) The project described is currently NOT being supported by other programs in AFRI or other CSREES programs; and 2) There is clear justification for a rapid scientific response to fill knowledge gaps or provide tools and outreach to deal with the emergency issue quickly. When an emergency issue will be addressed by this program, an announcement soliciting letters of intent and describing that issue will be available on the CSREES web site at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/rapidresponseafri.cfm>.

Other Key Information

- A letter of intent is required for this program either in response to an emerging critical issue or to identify an unsolicited emerging critical issue. Letters of intent will be reviewed and considered as they are submitted on an ongoing basis. Communication with the National Program Leader is required before submission of the Letter of Intent. See Part II, F for format and submission instructions.
- Letters of intent will be reviewed by an adhoc panel and the proposed project(s) with the most merit will be requested to submit an application(s) that will be subject to merit and peer review. Please note that requests for letters of intent and applications may have relatively short deadlines (e.g., 15-30 days) to address that critical emerging issue in an expeditious manner.
- Letters of intent and applications will be accepted from the time of the initial posting of the FY 2009 AFRI RFA until July 30, 2009 (5:00 P.M., ET).
- If a project is funded, beginning in the first year of funding, the project director will be required to attend annual investigator meetings. Reasonable travel expenses should be included as part of the project budget.

Other Key Information (Integrated Applications Only)

- Project proposals must include at least two of the three components of the agricultural knowledge system (i.e., research, education, and extension). Each component should be represented by one or more objectives within the proposal. Projects must budget sufficient resources to carry out the proposed set of research, extension and/or education activities, with **no more than two-thirds** of a project's budget being allocated to a single knowledge area. Please see Part II.C.2 for a full listing of integrated project requirements, which should be followed closely to ensure success in the peer review process.
- Please see Part IV, A. for the criteria that will be used to evaluate integrated proposals. Applicants are also encouraged to see <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/integrated/integrated> for an example of an integrated proposal and other grant-writing resources.
- Applications must include the elements of a logic model detailing the activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project. This information may be provided as a narrative or formatted into a logic model chart. The logic model planning process is a tool that should be used to develop your project **before** writing your proposal. Two additional pages are allowed for this information. More information and resources related to the logic model planning process are provided at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/integrated/integrated_logic_model.html.
- The AFRI encourages integrated projects that develop content suitable for delivery through eXtension. This content is for "end users" as opposed to staff development and must align with the eXtension Guiding Principles, Implementation Plan and other requirements as presented at <http://about.extension.org/university-researcher/>. Funds may be used to contribute to an existing Community of Practice or to form a new Community of Practice as appropriate.

- The AFRI encourages integrated projects that lead to measureable, documented changes in learning, actions or conditions suitable for 4-H audiences and stakeholder groups while meeting identified program priorities. Projects should align with 4-H Mission mandates of Science, Engineering, Technology, Healthy Living or Citizenship. See guiding principles at <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/> or contact your university Cooperative Extension headquarters.