



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

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# Farm Bill Impacts on NIFA Grant Programs





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“THE SECRET OF  
CHANGE IS TO FOCUS  
ALL OF YOUR ENERGY,  
NOT ON FIGHTING THE  
OLD, BUT ON BUILDING  
THE NEW.”

— *SOCRATES*



# Farm Bill – Building the New...

- Partnerships
  - New 1890 and 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
  - Non-land Grant Colleges of Agriculture
- Processes
  - New Matching Provision
  - Centers of Excellence
  - Commodity Board Proposals - AFRI



# Partnerships with New Land-Grants

- 1890 Land-Grant Institution
  - Central State University – OH
- 1994 Land-Grant Institution
  - College of the Muscogee Nation – OK
  - Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College – MI



# Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture

- Farm Bill redefines Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture (NLGCA) to require certification
  - Must be public institution of higher education & offer 4-yr degree in a food and agricultural science
  - Web-based form to request certification  
<http://nifa.usda.gov/webform/request-non-land-grant-college-agriculture-designation>
  - Response to request within 30 days



# Building New Processes – New Matching Provision

- 100% match for certain competitive grant programs effective 10/1/14
  - List of impacted programs at <http://nifa.usda.gov/new-matching-requirement-frequently-asked-questions#faq2>
  - Does not replace old matching requirements



# New Matching Provision

- Many entities exempt from new match requirement, including:
  - 1862, 1890, and 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
  - Animal Health Schools
  - Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities
  - Insular area institutions
  - McIntire-Stennis recipients
  - Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture
  - Research agencies of USDA
  - Recipients of funds from certain higher education programs



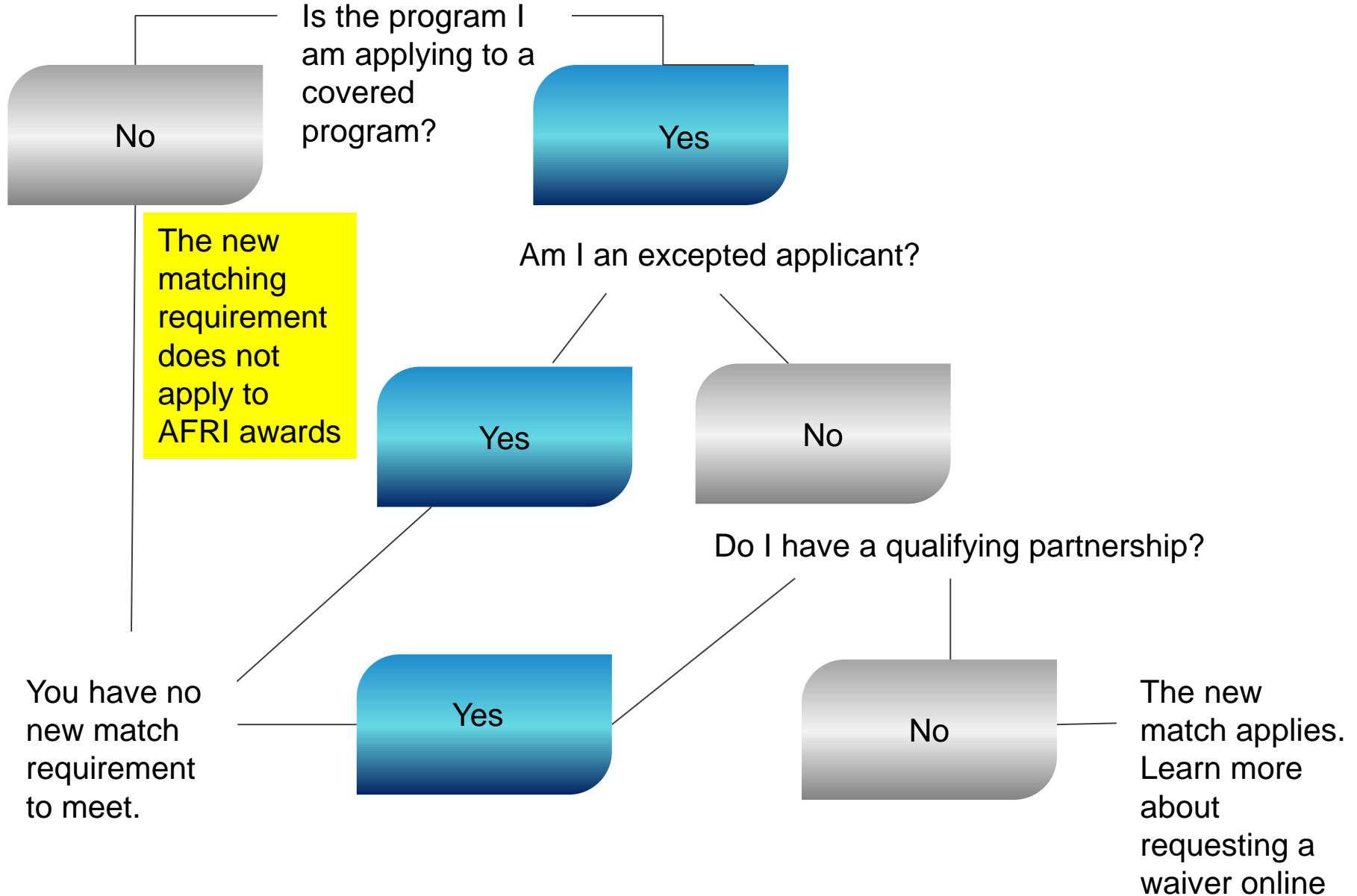
# New Matching Provision

Applicants who are not exempt, may

- Partner with an exempt entity to become exempt
- Request a 1-yr waiver, if proposed activities are consistent with NAREEEAB priorities



# Do I need to meet the new 100% match requirement for competitive grant programs?





# Building New Processes – Identifying Centers of Excellence

- 2014 Farm Bill requires NIFA identify Centers of Excellence for food and agricultural research, extension, and education activities
- Purpose: to provide these Centers of Excellence with priority consideration when selecting recipients of grants from the Agency's research or extension competitive grant programs



# Who Can Be a Center?

- Centers' include 1 or more of the following:
  - State agricultural experiment stations;
  - colleges and universities;
  - university research foundations;
  - other research institutions and organizations;
  - Federal agencies;
  - national laboratories;
  - private organizations, foundations or corporations; and
  - individuals



# What Competitive Grant Programs Will Offer Center of Excellence Opportunities in FY15?

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Challenge Areas	Farm Business Management and Benchmarking
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Foundational Program	Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification
Aquaculture Research	Methyl Bromide Transition
Biomass Research and Development Initiative	Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative
Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program	Organic Transition Program
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	Rural Health and Safety Program
Crop Protection/Pest Management	Specialty Crop Research Initiative



# How will Centers of Excellence be Identified?

Use existing grant application process

- For programs offering Centers opportunities in FY 2015, Requests for Applications describe
  - Types of applications offering Centers opportunities
  - Criteria for Center of Excellence (from legislation)



# How will Centers of Excellence be Identified?

Use existing grant application process

- To be considered, applicants justify how proposed research/extension activities outlined in application meet criteria
  - Include within Project Narrative, subject to same page limitations
- Center of Excellence status will be specific to a grant application



# How will Centers of Excellence be Identified?

Criteria for recognition as Center, as related to proposed research/extension activity in applications:

1. Ability of Center to ensure coordination and cost effectiveness by reducing unnecessarily duplicative efforts in research, teaching, and extension;
2. In addition to any applicable matching requirements, ability of Center to leverage available resources by using public-private partnerships among agricultural industry groups, institutions of higher education, and the Federal Government;



# How will Centers of Excellence be Identified?

Criteria for recognition as Center, as related to proposed research/extension activity in applications (continued):

3. Planned scope and capability of Center to implement teaching initiatives to increase awareness and effectively disseminate solutions to target audiences through extension; and
4. Ability or capacity of Center to increase economic returns to rural communities by identifying, attracting, and directing funds to high-priority agricultural issues.





# How will Centers of Excellence be Identified?

Additionally,

- Where practicable (not required), Centers applicants should describe proposed efforts to improve teaching capacity and infrastructure at colleges and universities, including:
  - Land-grant colleges and universities
  - Cooperating forestry schools
  - Certified Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture, and
  - Schools of veterinary medicine



# How Will NIFA Provide Priority for Funding Centers?

1. Eligible applications will be competitively peer reviewed and ranked using program's standard evaluation criteria
2. Where applications are ranked highly meritorious and request consideration as Centers, peer panels will review justification to determine whether Centers standard was met
3. Where Centers and non-Centers applications are found equally meritorious, selection for funding weighed in favor of Centers
  - Effectively, a tie breaker



# How Will NIFA Provide Priority for Funding Centers?

Please note:

- If ranked highly meritorious but did not request Center of Excellence consideration or did not meet Center standard, still can be funded
- If applicant meets Center of Excellence standard and is selected for award, Notice of Award will reflect that distinction for that particular grant program
  - Distinction will be for duration of award or as identified in grant terms and conditions



# Building New Processes – Commodity Board Ideas for AFRI

- Invite Commodity Boards to propose ideas for funding that align with AFRI priorities
- Assess ideas and solicit applications in those selected as part of FY16 AFRI RFAs - subareas
- If applicants to these subareas are selected for award, awards would include equal funding from NIFA & Commodity Board



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