

Clarification of NIFA Policy for Integrated Research and Extension Reporting

I am writing to clarify a memo I sent to all 1862 and 1890 Deans and Directors of November 8, 2012. This memo described a new policy stating that we now will submit all Plans of Work (POW) and Annual Reports (AR) to NIFI at the “state level”. This policy was approved by the Office of Management and Budget via the Federal Register process. The policy requires that each 1862 and 1890 Research and Extension organization work together to develop and submit a combined POW and AR.

This policy provides NIFA a mechanism for quickly identifying the *programmatic* collaboration between Research and Extension (and multiple Land-Grant Universities in some states). NIFA must quickly respond to stakeholders and decision-makers at all levels of government when asked for ROI when Research and Extension is involved. NIFA programs look for open lines of communication and feedback loops between Research and Extension when reviewing POW and AR. This is evident when each institution or state has a single POW.

NIFA collecting data about integrated programs does not imply any intent to force restructuring at Land-Grant institutions. We simply want a single report showing collaboration between Research and Extension. The institution can choose how to structure their administrative units.

I have asked my staff in the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting office to include this topic as an item in upcoming webinars and newsletters.