



# **AFRI Issues & Input to CSREES**

**ESS Annual Meeting**

**Traverse City, Michigan**

**September 22, 2008**

**Dr. Bruce McPheron**

**ESCOP Chair**

**Portions of PP from Deborah Sheely, CSREES**

# **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Section 7406 of the Farm Bill**

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**Established to make competitive grants for:**

- **Fundamental research**
- **Applied research**
- **Extension**
- **Education**
- **Integrated research, education and/or extension**

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

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## The program will address:

- **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**
- **Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities**

## **AFRI: Implementation**

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**Written comments accepted until September 24, 2008**

**Program announcement released by November 30, 2008**

**RFA released by mid-January, 2009**

**Proposal deadline dates beginning four weeks after RFA release**

# CSREES interpretation of AFRI Fund Allocation

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- **Authorized for appropriation of \$700 million for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012**
- **No less than 30% will be made available for integrated research**
- **Of funds allocated for research:**
  - **No less than 40% made available for applied research**
  - **No less than 60% made available for fundamental research**
    - **No less than 30% for multi-disciplinary teams**
    - **No more than 2% for equipment grants**

## **SEC. 7406. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

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- Authorized at \$700 million for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012
- First division of funds is: “*not less than 60 percent is made available to make grants for fundamental research*” and “*not less than 40 percent is made available to make grants for applied research*” (Page 367\*)
- Second division of funds is: “*not less than 30 percent shall be made available for integrated research pursuant to section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998*” (Page 369\*)

\*Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

Note that the House and Senate marks for FY 2009 are just over \$200 million

## **SEC. 7406. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE. (p.367)**

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**(5). ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall allocate funds to the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative to ensure that, of funds allocated for research activities—**

**“(A) not less than 60 percent is made available to make grants for fundamental research (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971)), of which—**

**“(i) not less than 30 percent is made available to make grants for research to be conducted by multidisciplinary teams; and**

**“(ii) not more than 2 percent is used for equipment grants under paragraph (6)(A); and**

**“(B) not less than 40 percent is made available to make grants for applied research (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994**

## **SEC. 7406. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE. (p.369)**

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***“(11) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—***

***“(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$700,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, of which—***

***“(i) not less than 30 percent shall be made available for integrated research pursuant to section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626); and***

***“(ii) not more than 4 percent may be retained by the Secretary to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this subsection.***

## Definition of Fund Allocation

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- **Current CSREES interpretation of the statute is that the 30% integrated requirement comes off the top first which would result in fewer funds for research.**
- **“ESCOP and ESS strongly support the legislative intent that funds would be split 60% for fundamental research, 40% for applied research with 30% of the total to be integrated research.”**

# Definition of 406 Integrated

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- **USDA is currently deliberating on the 406 definition of *integrated*:**
  - **It must be research, education, and/or extension - at least 2 out of 3 if not all 3) or**
  - **Whether it means that at least 30% of AFRI appropriated funds must be spent on existing 406 programs (i.e., IPM, WQ, Food Safety, Organic Transition, PMAP, RAMP, etc.)**
- **“ESCOP and ESS strongly support the broader interpretation of the 406 definition. Without this desired interpretation, we would not be able to fulfill the desired outcomes and impacts of the integrated programs.”**