

# Land Grant Universities' Mechanism for Creating and Managing Multistate Projects

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The multistate project system is designed to encourage and increase multistate collaborations on critical issues in agriculture, environment, and consumer sciences that have a national or regional priority.

# Legislation

- Hatch Act of 1888 established state agricultural experiment stations (SAES).
- Amended by 1946 Research and Marketing Act to designate 25% of each SAES's allocation for regional research.
- Amended by 1998 Farm Bill to be Multistate Research Fund (MRF).

# Funding

- Total Hatch ~ \$180M with ~ \$45M in MRF.
- Hatch MRF allocated to SAES directors by same formula as regular Hatch.
- Directors required to expend MRF on faculty participating in multistate projects.
- Expenditure at director's discretion for salary, travel, equipment, supplies, labor, etc.

## Funding (cont.)

- ~ 300 active projects with ~ 6,400 total faculty participating (some more than once).
- Average \$7,000 per participant, not much!
- Bottom line –

Faculty participate for programmatic reasons.

# Administration

- USDA/CSREES
  - Administers MRF
  - National rules, regulations, and oversight
- SAES Directors
  - Administers state's MRF allocation
  - Authorizes faculty participation
  - Assures appropriate peer review

## Administration (cont.)

- Four Regional SAES Associations
  - Establish regional research priorities
  - Facilitate development of new & replacement multistate research activities
  - Manage multistate research activities originating in that region
  - Appoint Administrative Advisors to ensure efficient & effective conduct of multistate research activities

# Multistate Research Project

- 5 year term, can be rewritten again
- Multistate and multidisciplinary
- Original research outcomes
- Addresses regional or national goals
- Interdependency
  - Common protocols
  - Central data collection or analysis
  - Sharing equipment
  - Common use of research samples or data
- Outreach component

# Rapid Response Project

- Same as Multistate Research Project except:
  - Response to acute crises, emergencies, or rapidly emerging opportunities.
  - Review/approval process much quicker.
  - Maximum term of two years, may become Multistate Research Project.

# Coordinating Committee and Extension/Research Activity

- Coordination of research a/o extension activities
- Exchange of ideas a/o information a/o data
- Generate interest in a specific area thru symposium, workshop, or conference
- Publication of joint articles on common issue
- Evaluation a/o standardization of methods or techniques to develop common protocol
- Identify critical research a/o extension need

# New Multistate Research Project Development

- Initiation
- Proposal Development
- Proposal Review
- Approval
- All phases web-based (NIMSS)

# Initiation

- Bioenergy Committee wants Multistate Research Project on “Animal Housing Energy Efficiency”
- Core development group established
- Administrative Advisor assigned
- Justification statement prepared and Request to Write a Proposal submitted
- Discipline-based Department Head groups review request (Animal Sci. & Ag. Engineering)
- Association Exec. Comm. approves request based on review comments

# Proposal Development

- National call for participation goes to all SAES, Extension, & federal agency research directors
- Appropriate industry scientists are contacted
- Expanded project group develops full proposal
  - Justification
  - Related, current, and previous research
  - Objectives
  - Methods
  - Measurements of progress
  - Outreach plan

# Proposal Review

- Full proposal submitted to Regional Association Executive Director
- Peer reviewed by at least 3 scientists knowledgeable in research area
- Project group revises proposal and/or responds to peer review comments
- Revised proposal submitted for approval

# Approval

- Multistate Research Committee
  - Four SAES directors, CSREES & ARS reps
  - Reviews final proposal
  - Assures adequate response to peer review
  - Assures documented interdependency
  - May require further proposal revisions
  - Grants Association approval for project
  - Transmits proposal to CSREES for final administrative approval

# Project Management

- Project Technical Committee
  - Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary
  - Administrative Advisor
  - CSREES representative
  - All other participants
- Annual project meeting
- Annual report submitted in NIMSS
- Mid-term review