



Farm Bill Section 10007, Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program

Fiscal Year 2015 Farm Bill Spending Plan Implementation Questions and Answers

Now that the fiscal year (FY) 2015 Spending Plan has been released, when should cooperators submit their work plans and detailed financial plans?

In the coming days and weeks, cooperators will be contacted by APHIS to initiate the process of establishing cooperative agreements. Cooperators that are renewing agreements may submit FY15 work and financial plans as soon as they are ready. Guidance for establishing overlapping or back-to-back agreements is provided in the responses to the questions below. Cooperators establishing new agreements are encouraged to submit their work and financial plans as soon as possible.

May states have overlapping agreements?

Yes, but only if the work to be performed under the FY15 agreement is different from that occurring under the FY14 agreement. FY15 funding cannot be used to finish FY14 work. In addition, cooperators with overlapping agreements must submit to APHIS separate reports and requests for payment for each agreement.

May states structure agreements so that they run back-to-back?

Yes. In those situations where the work funded by an FY14 agreement must be completed for FY15 work to begin, the effective start date of the FY15 agreement can be in the future. The FY15 agreement must be signed and work must begin on or before September 30, 2015. Please remember that funds received in FY15 cannot be held for use in FY16 even though the agreement's performance period is one year and may not end until sometime in 2016. Work of some nature (such as planning or procurement) must commence in FY15.

What is the percentage of allowable overhead that may be charged?

The 2014 Farm Bill restricts indirect costs charged against a cooperative agreement under Section 10007 to the lesser of 15% of the total Federal funds provided under the cooperative agreement or the indirect cost rate applicable to the recipient as otherwise negotiated or established by law. For example, if the total award were \$100,000, with \$25,000 going to salary and benefits, \$25,000 to travel, \$25,000 to supplies and \$25,000 to equipment, then the maximum overhead charge allowable would be 15% of \$100,000 or \$15,000. However, if the cooperator had a negotiated indirect cost rate of 40% of salaries and benefits, the maximum allowable charge would be 40% of \$25,000 or \$10,000.

Is it possible to get feedback specific to my suggestion if it wasn't included in the FY15 Spending Plan?

Yes. To obtain feedback specific to a suggestion that wasn't included in the FY15 Spending Plan, please send an email to farmbillsection10007@aphis.usda.gov that includes your name, phone number, the title of your suggestion, and the suggestion number. A representative from the Goal Team that reviewed your suggestion will contact you. General information regarding Farm Bill, Section 10007 is available online at www.aphis.usda.gov/farmbill