



Fiscal Year 2013 Farm Bill Spending Plan Implementation Questions and Answers

1. Now that the fiscal year (FY) 2013 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 FY13 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.

2. May states have overlapping agreements?

Yes, but only if the work to be performed under the FY13 agreement is different from that occurring under the FY12 agreement. FY13 funding cannot be used to finish FY12 work. In addition, cooperators with overlapping agreements must submit to APHIS separate reports and requests for payment for each agreement.

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

Yes. In those situations where the work funded by an FY12 agreement must be completed for FY13 work to begin, the effective start date of the FY13 agreement can be in the future. The FY13 agreement must be signed and work must begin on or before September 30, 2013. Please remember that funds received in FY13 cannot be held for use in FY14 even though the agreement's performance period is one year and may not end until sometime in 2014. Work of some nature (such as planning or procurement) must commence in FY13.

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

Universities and non-profits are entitled to request 10 percent of their negotiated indirect costs or their rate, whichever is less. While federal agencies are not limited by the 10 percent rule, the negotiated overhead in many of those agreements is close to that percentage. Overhead rates for state cooperators are negotiated with each entity. Please note that these provisions apply to cooperative agreements and not grants. APHIS is not providing any grant funding.

5. Is it possible to get feedback specific to my suggestion if it wasn't included in the FY13 Spending Plan?

Yes. To obtain feedback specific to a suggestion that wasn't included in the FY13 Spending Plan, please send an email to PPQ.Section.Farmbill-10201@aphis.usda.gov that includes your name, phone number, the title of your suggestion, and the suggestion number (if known). A representative from the Goal Team that reviewed your suggestion will contact you. General information regarding Farm Bill, Section 10201 is available online at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/section10201>.