



Fiscal Year 2014 Farm Bill Spending Plan Implementation Questions and Answers

Now that the fiscal year (FY) 2014 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 FY14 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 FY14 agreement is different from that occurring under the FY13 agreement. FY14 funding cannot be used to finish FY13 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 FY13 agreement must be completed for FY14 work to begin, the effective start date of the FY14 agreement can be in the future. The FY14 agreement must be signed and work must begin on or before September 30, 2014. Please remember that funds received in FY14 cannot be held for use in FY15 even though the agreement's performance period is one year and may not end until sometime in 2015. Work of some nature (such as planning or procurement) must commence in FY14.

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

The 2014 Farm Bill restricts, within Section 10007 only, indirect costs to a maximum of 15% of the total Federal funds provided under the cooperative agreement, or, at a negotiated or other indirect cost rate cap established by law, whichever is less.

Note that in accordance with the Statutory Cap on Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements (NICRA), universities and other nonprofit institutions receiving federal funds under a Cooperative Agreement with APHIS may not recoup indirect costs in excess of the negotiated rate or 10% of the total direct costs of the agreement, whichever is less.

Indirect costs are generally not specific to a project but are needed by the cooperator for the general operation of the organization and the conduct of its activities. Examples of such costs include the operation and maintenance of buildings, grounds, and equipment; depreciation; and administrative salaries.

Is it possible to get feedback specific to my suggestion if it wasn't included in the FY14 Spending Plan?

Yes. To obtain feedback specific to a suggestion that wasn't included in the FY14 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 http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/farm_bill.shtml