

NCAC2 FY24 Project Reviews and Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Virtual meeting – Wednesday, January 31, 2024
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Central Time
(9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Pacific Time; 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Eastern Time)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/93750630072?pwd=S1RGN09jck1RK1E2ODJ5eE5XMXdOUT09>

Meeting ID: 937 5063 0072

Passcode: 360801

1. NCAC2 Participant Roll Call

Present:

John Angelos (Chair); California - University of California, Davis
Christopher Chase; South Dakota - South Dakota State University
Harm HogenEsch; Indiana - Purdue University
Lois Hoyer; Illinois - University of Illinois
Suresh Marulasiddappa; Wisconsin - University of Wisconsin
Scott McVey; Nebraska - University of Nebraska
Heidi Pecoraro; North Dakota - North Dakota State University
Angela Pillatzki; South Dakota - South Dakota State University
Gireesh Rajashekara; Ohio - Ohio State University
Guillermo Scaglia; North Dakota - North Dakota State University
Michael Schutz; Minnesota - University of Minnesota
Srinand Sreevatsan; Michigan - Michigan State University
Alan Young (Secretary/Chair-Elect); South Dakota - South Dakota State University
Steven Harris; Administrative Advisor; Iowa - Iowa State University
Robert Smith; USDA-NIFA Representative; National Program Leader- Animal Health
Kathe Bjork; USDA-NIFA Representative; National Program Leader- Animal Health
Christina Hamilton; NCRA Assistant Director and NIMSS System Regional System Administrator

b. Welcome new leadership of NCAC2:

Steven Harris (AA; Iowa) provided introductory comments as NCAC2's new Administrative Advisor.

c. Thank you to past members:

Our past members (Anne Dorrance (Ohio State); Frank Blecha (Kansas); Molly McCue (Minnesota)) were thanked for their service.

d. Welcome new members:

Our newest members (Hans Coetzee (Kansas); Alonso Guedes (Minnesota); Deborah VanOverbeke (Nebraska) were welcomed.

3. NIFA updates (Bob Smith; Kathe Bjork)

Bob Smith and Kathe Bjork provided NIFA updates (see attachment (Appendix A)).

2. Project Reviews

Project Review Instructions:

- a. Primary Reviewer: Present the review and recommendation
- b. Secondary Reviewer: Supplement primary review as needed and recommendation
- c. Open comments from remainder of NCAC2 participants
- d. Primary reviewer must submit completed review through NIMSS by **February 15, 2024**
NCAC reviews due in NIMSS, using the assigned online form (log in at www.nimss.org, select Reviews >> My Reviews >> Edit/Input).

The question came up during the meeting about what the difference was between ‘approve/continue with normal revision’ versus ‘approve/continue with revision.’ Chris Hamilton explained that this was currently being reviewed since it was a point of confusion. For midterm review projects, regardless of the final recommendation (either ‘approve/continue with normal revision’ or ‘approve/continue with revision’), Chris submits comments to the leadership of the multistate committee so that our committee’s feedback gets back to the multistate project. The former can be used if no major changes to the existing project activities and the latter to indicate that the project is deficient and should work to improve prior to the new renewal cycle.

For new/renewal project reviews, NCAC comments are used by the NCRA MRC (multistate research committee) to craft final project recommendations for full NCRA AES director approval. This approval/revision/rejection is shared with the project proposal leadership. If revisions are required, the revised proposal is shared again with the MRC for final approval.

Chris also clarified the following re: NCERA (NC Extension & Research Activity) and NCCC (Coordinating Committee) projects: for NC it is acknowledged that ERAs and CCs get little to no funding (sometimes travel) and for those groups they are only requested to submit meeting minutes. In cases where those groups do submit a full report, that is very helpful, however, they are not negatively reviewed if they do not submit full reports. Currently there is an effort nationally to re-evaluate reviews and NIMSS forms, and better guidance should be available within the next year.

Current Proj # (Temp #)	Renewal or Midterm (R/M)	Title/Reviewers	Project/Proposal Homepage (Ctrl+Click to follow link)	Example Review Form for FYI only (review MUST be submitted directly to the assigned NIMSS form; Ctrl+Click to follow link)
NC229 (NC_temp229)	R	Swine Viral Diseases Primary: Harm HogenEsch Secondary: Sri Sreevatsan	https://www.nimss.org/projects/19058	AppH: https://www.nimss.org/forms/appendix_h.pdf Recommendation: Accept with major revision
NC1180 (NC_temp1180)	R	Control of Endemic, Emerging and Re-emerging Poultry Respiratory Diseases in the United States Primary: John Angelos Secondary: Scott McVey	https://www.nimss.org/projects/19061	AppH: https://www.nimss.org/forms/appendix_h.pdf Recommendation: Accept with minor revision
NCCC42 (NCCC_temp42)	R	Committee on Swine Nutrition Primary: Gireesh Rajashekara Secondary: John Angelos	https://www.nimss.org/projects/19091	AppJ: https://www.nimss.org/forms/appendix_j.pdf Recommendation: Approve/continue with normal revision
NCERA57 (NCERA_temp57)	R	Swine Reproductive Physiology Primary: Alan Young Secondary: Heidi Pecoraro	https://www.nimss.org/projects/19089	AppJ2 (ignore the word “optional”): https://www.nimss.org/forms/appendix_j2.pdf Recommendation: Approve/continue with normal revision
NC1029	M	Applied Animal Behavior and Welfare Primary: Lois Hoyer Secondary: Mike Schultz	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18776	AppI: https://www.nimss.org/forms/appendix_i.pdf Recommendation: Approve/continue with revision (provide specific recommendations)
NC1192	M	An integrated approach to control of bovine respiratory diseases Primary: Sri Sreevatsan Secondary: Harm HogenEsch	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18831	AppI: https://www.nimss.org/forms/appendix_i.pdf Recommendation: Approve/continue with revision (provide specific recommendations)

NC1211	M	Precision Management of Animals for Improved Care, Health, and Welfare of Livestock and Poultry Primary: Scott McVey Secondary: Lois Hoyer	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18777	AppI: https://www.nimss.org/forms/appendix_i.pdf Recommendation: Approve/continue with normal revision
NCERA219	M	Swine Production Management to Enhance Animal Welfare Primary: Mike Schutz Secondary: Heidi Pecoraro	https://www.nimss.org/projects/18800	AppK: https://www.nimss.org/forms/appendix_k.pdf Recommendation: Approve/continue with revision (provide specific recommendations)

3. Review Committee Leadership and Succession Plan & Roles and Responsibilities:

We discussed future leadership of NCAC2. Heidi Pecoraro (North Dakota (NDSU)) volunteered to be next in line in leadership of NCAC2. A new Secretary/Chair-Elect should be identified at our Jan/Feb 2025 meeting. The table below summarizes NCAC2 leadership into 2029-2030.

Role:	Jan/Feb 2024 meeting	Jan/Feb 2025 meeting	Jan/Feb 2026 meeting	Jan/Feb 2027 meeting	Jan/Feb 2028 meeting	Jan/Feb 2029 meeting	Jan/Feb 2030 meeting
Chair	John Angelos	Alan Young	Alan Young	Scott McVey	Scott McVey	Heidi Pecoraro	Heidi Pecoraro
Secretary/ Chair-Elect	Alan Young*	Scott McVey	Scott McVey*	Heidi Pecoraro	Heidi Pecoraro*	TBD at 2025 meeting	TBD at 2025 meeting*
*Secretary/Chair-Elect assumes role of Chair immediately following the indicated meeting							

A summary of roles/responsibilities for NCAC2 are summarized below.

Role	Responsibilities
Chair	Drafts and distributes meeting agenda; sends out requests for reviewers; organizes meeting/date with participants in conjunction with regional system administrator; runs Business Meeting; works with Secretary to finalize meeting minutes; uploads final meeting minutes into NIMSS
Secretary (Chair-Elect)	Drafts meeting minutes (note: outgoing Secretary is responsible for compiling meeting minutes following the meeting in which they become the new Chair); works with Chair to finalize meeting minutes; is the Chair-Elect and becomes Chair following completion of a 2 year term as Secretary
Participant	Completes primary/secondary reviews as needed; primary reviewer compiles final comments and recommendations in collaboration with secondary reviewer and uploads final review into NIMSS by listed deadlines

4. Other agenda items – no other agenda items were brought forward.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am (PST).



National Institute of Food and Agriculture Update

NCAC2 – Animal Health Advisory Committee

A Virtual Meeting - January 31, 2024

I. News and Personnel Updates (<https://nifa.usda.gov/newsroom>)

- A. NIFA has now ~350 employees and is fully staffed.
- B. Dr. Manjit Misra was appointed NIFA Director effective May 8, 2023. Dr. Misra comes to NIFA from Iowa State University where he was Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and served for more than 30 years as Director of the university’s Seed Science Center.
- C. Dr. Dionne Toombs has transitioned into her permanent role as Associate Director for Programs from her previous role as NIFA Acting Director in which she served since April 2022.
- D. Dr. Frank Siewerdt, National Program Leader, departed NIFA on April 21 to become Chair of the Department of Poultry Science at North Carolina State University.
- E. Dr. Debora Hamernik retired from NIFA effective August 30. Dr. Venu “Kal” Kalavacharla is now serving as acting Deputy Director of the Institute of Food Production and Sustainability.

II. NIFA Budget

For FY2024, NIFA is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution that funds the Federal Government through March 1, 2024. In FY2023, NIFA received just over \$1.708 billion in discretionary appropriations and \$231M in mandatory funding. The AFRI programs received \$300M for Foundational & Applied Science, \$57M of which went to Animal Health & Production. NIFA’s budget information is available to the public at <https://nifa.usda.gov/budget>.

III. NIFA Events

- A. For announcements of technical assistance webinars, application deadlines, informational webinars and other items of interest see: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/events>
- B. NIFA Listens: Stakeholder input opportunity in November 2022, report is available here: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/nifa-listens>

IV. Competitive Programs

- A. In FY2024, three AFRI Requests for Applications (RFAs) will again be released. See <https://nifa.usda.gov/afri-request-applications>:
 - 1. The Foundational and Applied Science RFA ([AFRI-FAS](#)) was published on December 15, 2023. There will be multiple deadlines for applications depending on the program area.
 - 2. The Sustainable Agricultural Systems RFA ([AFRI-SAS](#)) is expected to be published on February 16, 2024. Funding of \$70 million will be allocated to the program, with 7 awards anticipated.
 - 3. The Education and Workforce Development RFA ([AFRI-EWD](#)) is expected to be published February 29, 2024.
- B. Other competitive programs with opportunities for animal science research, extension and/or education. See NIFA Request for Application Calendar: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/upcoming-request-applications-calendar>
 - 1. Equipment Grants Program
 - 2. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR); 8.3 Animal Production & Protection (includes diagnostics)
 - 3. Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program (LHTR)
 - 4. AFRI Foundational and Applied Science program area priorities:
 - a. Critical Agriculture Research and Extension (CARE) – A1701
 - b. Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems – A1712
 - c. Data Science for Food and Agricultural Systems (DSFAS) – A1541
 - d. Small and Medium-Sized Farms – A1601
- C. Interagency Funding Opportunities
 - 1. Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease – NIFA partners with the National Science Foundation

(NSF), NIH and the U.K. Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. Applications are submitted to and reviewed at NSF with NIFA, NIH & U.K. participation. NIFA plans to invest \$5 million in FY2024.

D. Program outcomes for AFRI Foundational Programs in **FY2022**. Outcomes for FY2023 are pending.

Animal Health and Production and Animal Products (\$55.75 million total program funds)				
Program Area	Program Contacts (for FY23-24)	Funding (\$ million)¹	Standard Awards²	Success Rate
Animal Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics	Angelica van Goor & Tim Sullivan	\$5.4	10	34%
Animal Reproduction	Mark Mirando & Kamilah Grant	\$6.5	15	25%
Diseases of Agricultural Animals ³	Tim Sullivan & Kathe Bjork	\$13.0	31	23%
Animal Nutrition, Growth, and Lactation	Steve Smith & Mark Mirando	\$9.3	20	26%
Welfare of Agricultural Animals	Kamilah Grant & Mark Mirando	\$4.9	10	50%
Inter-Disciplinary Engagement in Animal Systems (IDEAS) ⁴	Angelica van Goor	\$4.0	9	35%
Agricultural Biosecurity ^{3,5}	Michelle Colby & Amer Fayad	\$2.8	6	30%

¹ Funding allocation from FY23 appropriation only. Programs also used the remaining 50% of FY22 appropriation to fund proposals submitted in FY22 as the 2nd part of the approach to use 3 years of appropriations to fund 2 years of submission and get AFRI back on track to be almost fully expended within the same year that funds are appropriated.

² Budgets not exceeding \$650,000 (including indirect costs) for up to 5 years; excludes seed, sabbatical, equipment & conference awards.

³ Excludes proposals and awards for COVID-19 related work supported through the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service from ARPA funds.

⁴ Funding excludes \$3 million contribution from other AFRI Program Areas (BNRE, AERC, AST).

⁵ Funding excludes \$2.4 million contribution from Plant Health and Production and Plant Products.

IV. Contact Information for the Division of Animal Systems

National Program Leaders

Robert Godfrey	Division Director	(816) 610-9823	Robert.Godfrey@usda.gov
Kathe Bjork	Animal Health	(816) 591-7415	Kathe.E.Bjork@usda.gov
Michelle Colby	Animal Biosecurity	(202) 577-8815	Michelle.Colby@usda.gov
Kamilah Grant	Animal Reproduction & Welfare	(352) 805-8872	Kamilah.Grant@usda.gov
Bob Smith	Veterinary Medicine	(202) 445-3468	Robert.M.Smith@usda.gov
Steven Smith	Animal Production Systems	(202) 445-5480	Steven.I.Smith@usda.gov
Timothy Sullivan	Animal Health & Aquaculture	(816) 527-5434	Timothy.Sullivan@usda.gov
Angelica Van Goor	Animal Genomics and Health	(816) 584-5304	Angelica.Van.Goor@usda.gov

National Science Liaison

Mark Mirando	Animal Production Systems	(202) 445-5575	Mark.Mirando@usda.gov
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Program Specialists

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Program Coordinator

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Program Assistants

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