



# NATIONAL PRIORITIES

# Charge

**(1) NAREEE shall review and provide consultation** to the Secretary, land-grant colleges and universities, and specified Congressional committees on:

- A. long-term and short-term national policies and priorities for agricultural research, extension, education, and economics (consistent with REE priorities); and
- B. the annual establishment of priorities that –
  - i. are in accordance with the purposes specified in a provision of a covered law (as defined in subsection (d) of section 1492) under which competitive grants (described in subsection (c) of such section) are awarded; and
  - ii. the Board determined are national priorities.

# 2014 Farm Bill

The Agricultural Act of 2014 contained a provision entitled "Section 7128. Matching Funds Requirement" that amended the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) by adding a new provision " Section 1492. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT."

The matching funds requirement would:

1. Establish a new, uniform matching requirement for NIFA competitive grants;
2. Require at least a 100% match;
3. Exempt ARS from the match;
4. Exempt institutions eligible to receive capacity funds (such as land-grants) and their partners from the match;
5. **Authorize the Secretary to waive the match for a year for research/extension grants " that the NAREEE Advisory Board has determined is a national priority" ; and**
6. Take effect on Oct. 1, 2014.

# 2015 NAREEE Response

The NAREEEAB wishes to provide input on the establishment of these national priorities in a way that will give the greatest flexibility to fund high priority and emerging research and extension activities. We believe that we have a very dynamic process for working with the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Mission Area through our mandated review of the Relevancy and Adequacy Funding Report of REE programs; our oversight of specific committees identified in the Farm Bill; and through continuing dialogue(s) with you and your administrative leadership team. We are currently engaged in a set of discussions to enhance our R&A evaluation process and to establish an even stronger blueprint for developing these reports.

Our recommendation for establishing national priorities, and thereby honoring the Farm Bill language in Section 7128, is to utilize the priorities established in the 2014 REE Action Plan as the foundation for considering such waivers and any additional priorities identified in the (proposed) 2012 Relevancy and Adequacy Funding Report. We believe using these established

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evaluation and strategic planning processes will provide the most efficient and effective way to address the needs for continuity for ongoing priorities and also to provide the capacity to deal with new and emerging needs.



NEXT STEPS?