



United States
Department
of Agriculture

Research,
Education, and
Economics

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

August 6, 2021

DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

FROM: Michael Fitzner, Acting Director/PARS MICHAEL FITZNER Digitally signed by MICHAEL FITZNER
Date: 2021.08.06 09:16:07 -05'00'

THRU: Parag Chitnis, Associate Director of Programs PARAG CHITNIS Digitally signed by PARAG
CHITNIS
Date: 2021.08.06 09:29:13 -05'00'

SUBJECT: NIFA Review of Hatch Multistate Project Proposals

BACKGROUND: As part of NIFA’s effort to reduce the burden of reporting, the NIFA Reporting System (NRS) team, supported by the NRS Business Evaluation Team (BET), identifies duplicative and unnecessary data collections or process steps. The BET has proposed that NIFA eliminate NIFA approval of Hatch Multistate project proposals. According to the authorizing legislation for the Hatch program (the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998), the responsibility for conducting peer and merit reviews lies with the Land-Grant Universities.

PROPOSED CHANGE: Elimination of the requirement that NIFA staff provide approval of proposals for Hatch Multistate Research Projects (MRP), National Research Support Programs, and Rapid Response Projects. These are high-level plans of work (umbrella projects) developed under the guidance of the regional associations of agricultural experiment station directors and are managed with the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS) maintained by Clemson University.

NIFA staff will continue to represent NIFA on all approved multistate committees on which NIFA currently provides a representative and will continue to review the individual multistate research projects that are initiated in the NIFA Reporting System.

STAFF CONTACT:

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NIFA DIRECTOR’S DECISION: (Signified by eSignature)

Dr. Carrie Castille

Approve: Carrie G. Castille

Disapprove: _____

Discuss with me: _____

Date: 08/13/2021