



CAPACITY FUNDING WORKSHOP

April 18, 2024

Amir Ibrahim, Ph.D., Associate Director

In today's presentation

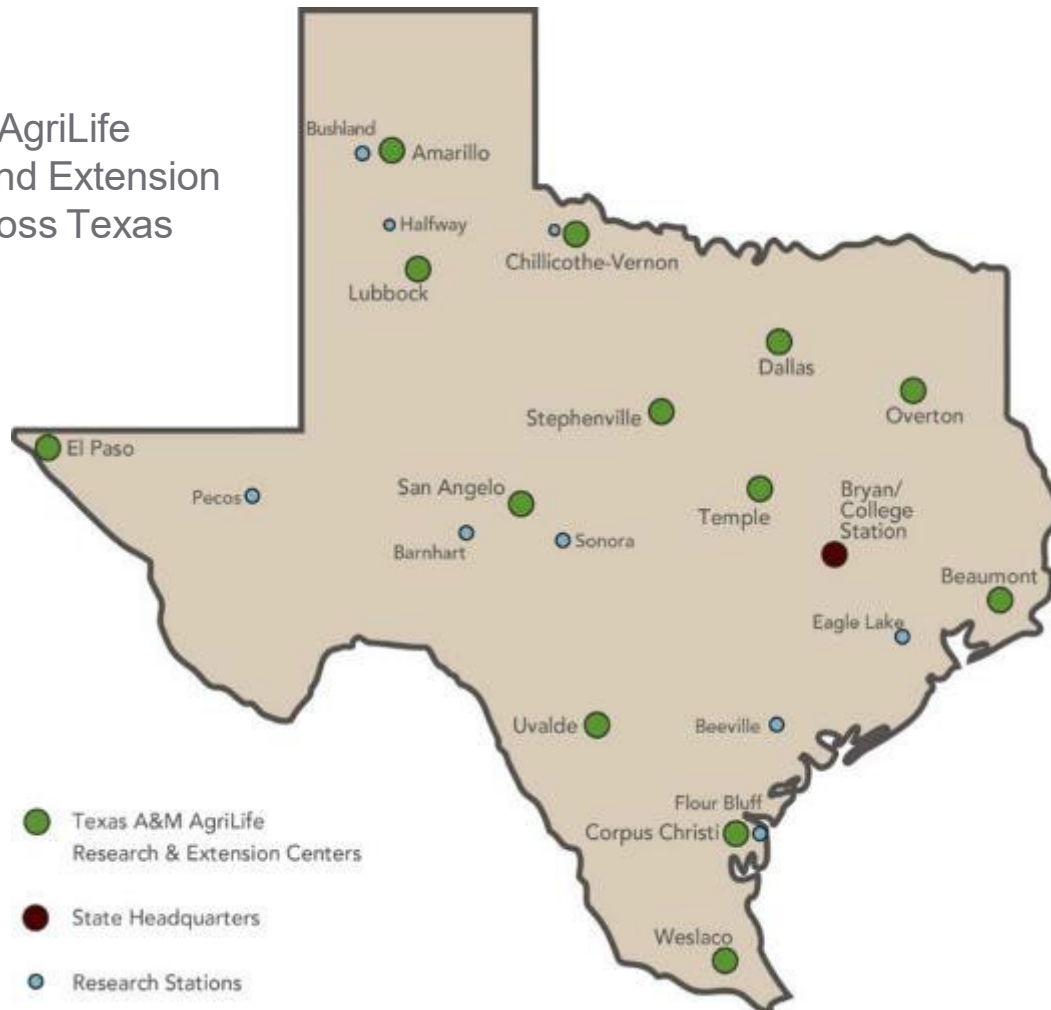
- **Introductions**
- **The Land-Grant System**
- **USDA NIFA Capacity Projects
(Formula funded projects)**
- **Communicating Your Science**
- **Q & A**

Kylie Daniels

- Originally From Amado, Arizona (Moved to Aggieland in 2018)
- Sam Houston Class of 2022
- Agri-Business Major
- Worked at Texas Equine Hospital for 5 years
- Started working in Project Records in February 2024

AgriLife Research at a Glance

13 Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Centers across Texas



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
RESEARCH

20 Academic departments on The Texas A&M University campus

\$285.2 Million Total research expenditures in FY23

2,500+ Employees

500+ Doctoral level scientists across all affiliated Texas A&M entities

Research Capacity Funding

- Hatch
- Hatch-Multistate
- McIntire-Stennis
- Animal Health & Disease Research

Texas State Match

Faculty salaries, facilities, operations, seed funding



Hatch Projects

The Federal Hatch funds and the required state matching dollars require AGLR faculty to have plans of work in the form of a Hatch Project.

- Serves as the umbrella for a faculty member's full research portfolio
- Administrative oversight of research conducted by experiment stations

A Hatch Project is a five year "plan of work" for AGLR faculty

- Unfunded project that guides faculty's research
- Include measurable goals and anticipated outcomes/impacts



Hatch Projects

Hatch projects can be single PI or team-based projects.

Benefits

- AGLR faculty with Hatch project or part of a Hatch-Multistate project are eligible for seed funding opportunities.
- Potential for research to be highlighted nationally by NIFA.
- Leveraging of extramural funding.



Hatch Supported Research Projects

Broad supported areas

- Soil and water conservation and use
- Plant and animal production, protection, and health
- Processing, distribution, safety, marketing, and utilization of food and agricultural products
- Forestry, including range management and range products
- Multiple use of forest rangelands, and urban forestry
- Aquaculture
- Home economics and family life
- Human nutrition
- Rural and community development
- Sustainable agriculture
- Molecular biology
- Biotechnology

>\$7.5 million

Amount received by AgriLife Research for FY2023

Similar amount matched — Largest among Ag. Experiment Stations out of \$185,800,581 total funded across 50 states (4.1% of total)

Source

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/capacity-grants/hatch-act-1887>

Components of a Hatch Proposal

Hatch Proposal

An umbrella 5-year project addressing the mission of the Hatch Act includes the following sections/elements:

- **Non-Technical Summary** – In lay terms, briefly describe the following:
 - (1) the issue and why it is important,
 - (2) your goal and objectives,
 - (3) the target audiences and how they will benefit, and
 - (4) how your activities lead to the outcomes described in the goal statement or objectives.

- **Methodology**

- Describe the ways in which the project will be conducted, with emphasis on the general scientific methods and any unique aspects or significant departures from usual methods.
- The Non-Technical Summary and Methodology sections in NRS are both limited to 8,000 characters each. This includes spaces and punctuation.

Hatch-Multistate Projects

Similar to Hatch projects but involve a team of investigators associated with AES in other states working together to solve a complex scientific problem of regional or national interest.

- Excellent opportunity to build/expand professional network

Information on Multistate projects is available on the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS) Web site: <http://www.nimss.org> /

- Faculty interested in joining a Multistate project must complete an Appendix E form in NIMSS. AgriLife has created a Laserfiche Form to Accommodate this process (<https://it-lf-ecmf.tamu.edu/Forms/ag-res-appendix-e>) .

Can I file a Multistate Project as my Hatch Project?

- No. You should first have a Hatch Project as a stand-alone project. Having a Hatch Multi-State project is still beneficial but is optional. Project Records will walk you through the steps to obtain a Hatch Multi-State project with USDA NIFA.
- Hatch funding from USDA NIFA is greater than Hatch Multi-State funding.

>\$1.8 million

Amount received by AgriLife Research for FY2023

\$1,896,643 required match out of \$60,940,015 total funded across 50 states (3.0% of total)

Multistate Project Management

Five regional associations are responsible for facilitating cooperative regional and national research



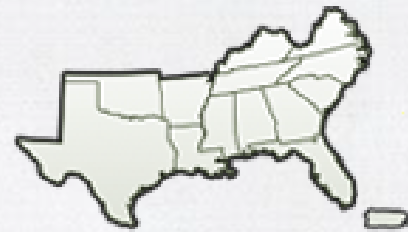
ARD



NCRA



NERA



SAAESD



WAAESD

Regional Association Project Designations – NC, NE, S, W | Source: SAAESD

The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program

Purpose

- Support forestry research in the production, utilization, and protection of forestland
- Train future forestry scientists
- Involve other disciplines in forestry research
- to build/expand professional network

Formula

- State area, forest resources, and forest industry contributions

Major supported research areas

- Reforestation and land management to produce crops and timber
- Utilization of wood and forest products
- Forest and rangeland management to produce forage for domestic and wildlife
- Forest protection against fire, pest and destructive agents
- Watershed management and water quality
- Forest management for recreation purposes

>\$525,000

Amount received by AgriLife Research for FY2023

With a similar match out of \$35,461,896 total funded across 50 states (1.54% of total funding)

Animal Health and Disease Research

Purpose

promote animal health research at accredited state veterinary schools or colleges or agricultural experiment stations.

>\$243,000

Amount received by AgriLife Research for FY2023

With a \$149,471 match out of \$3,665,820 total funded across 50 states (6.63% of total) Largest among 50 states.



Travel and Compliance

Faculty and staff traveling as part of a capacity funding project must fill out a specific travel form for reimbursement and record-keeping

<https://it-lf-ecmf.tamu.edu/Forms/ag-msh-travel>

Laserfiche form for Multi-State travel was recently put into production and the form is now active for travel request submission.

You must receive approval for reimbursement, ***prior to*** traveling for the authorized NIMSS annual meeting.



Importance of Hatch/NIFA Reporting

AGLR must submit a report annually to NIFA on the accomplishments/outcomes of Hatch funding.

- This is required for continuation of funding

AGLR faculty members must submit a report annually in the newer NIFA Reporting System platform (aka NRS) on the accomplishments of their NIFA project (Hatch, Multistate, and grants)

- The quality of the report matters!

AGLR Hatch Reporting Process

- Hatch Project Reports are Due annually
- Reports will be reviewed and used to prepare the Federal report for AGLR.
- Individual project reports and the Federal report for AGLR will be reviewed by NIFA (accept or return)

FRESH from the Field

Weekly highlights of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Fresh from the Field is a weekly album showcasing transactions funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Success Stories

Super sponge removes mercury from water

Mercury is very toxic and can cause long-term health damage, but removing it from water is challenging. With NIFA funding, researchers at the **University of Minnesota (UMN)** created a sponge that uses nanotechnology to absorb mercury from polluted water in seconds. The sponge can be used on tap water, industrial wastewater,



Importance of Hatch/NIFA Reporting

NIFA uses your reports to raise awareness about ag and to demonstrate the public value of Hatch/NIFA funding.

- Success stories in “Fresh from the Field”
- Press releases
- Social media
- Annual Reports
- Budge Justifications

Reports are used by various NIFA audiences:

- Congress
 - Congress cares about your outcomes and impacts!
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOhDcUY-7GA&feature=youtu.be&t=3h35m32s>
- Land-grant partners, advocates, other federal agencies, media, general public



FRESH from the field

Weekly highlights of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's grantee community

Fresh from the Field is a weekly album showcasing transformative impacts made by grantees funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

March 30, 2017

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agriliferesearch.tamu.edu

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Congress

- Budget Justifications
- Outcomes Reporting
- Fiscal Planning

Communications

- NIFA Annual Report
- Marketing and Promotion
- Branding

Office of the NIFA Director

- Presentations/Speeches
- Requests for Additional Funds
- Audits

PARS

- Evaluations, Strategic Planning
- Performance Measurement, Needs Assessment, Systems Improvements, Ad-Hoc Requests

National Program Leaders

- Program Management
- RFA Improvements

Other USDA Offices

- Process Improvements
- Collaboration and Networking

Take-Home Message

Congress and NIFA care about your projects' outcomes

NIFA cares about good quality reports and uses the information you share via the reporting database and direct communication

Clearly communicating your science helps us to obtain information and accurately amplify your message.



Links

<https://agriferesearch.tamu.edu/capacity-funding/>
<https://cers.tamu.edu/>

The screenshot shows the Texas A&M AgriLife website header with navigation links: Home, Proposal Development, Corporate Engagement, Events, Contacts, and Resources. The main heading is "CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH SUPPORT" with the tagline "Allowing scientists to focus on research." Below this is a call to action: "Sign up for our weekly Funding Opportunity Newsletter". The main text states: "Texas A&M AgriLife is committed to seeking faculty grant support from all possible funding entities. The AgriLife office of Corporate Engagement and Research Support (CERS) is one group that can help. The CERS office assists faculty in obtaining federal and private funding for research that is multidisciplinary, larger, or more strategic in nature. This unique office was created to help faculty manage the administrative burden of these larger projects so they may focus on what they do best—research. In order to accomplish this mission, the office:

- Provides faculty with support and coordination of large, multidisciplinary and strategic proposals, and
- Engages private industry and seeks out opportunities for innovative research that aligns with the private entity's goals, the faculty member's interests, and the mission of Texas A&M AgriLife.

The group works to develop and maintain relationships with AgriLife faculty, partnering institutions, companies, and funding agencies to achieve the best fit between funding opportunities and researcher goals.

The CERS office works closely with AgriLife's Contract Office, Texas A&M Innovation, as well as Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services (SRS) to smoothly facilitate tasks that are required in securing research dollars. Projects that are outside of the typical parameters of what CERS can help with should work directly with the AgriLife Contract Office (corporate funding) or SRS (competitive funding). If you aren't sure, contact one of us in the CERS office and we can point you in the right direction.

The screenshot shows the Texas A&M AgriLife Research logo and navigation menu: HOME, ABOUT, RESEARCH CAPABILITIES, SERVICE & CORE FACILITIES, NEWS & NEWSLETTER. The main heading is "USDA-NIFA CAPACITY FUNDING" with the subtext "Information about federal capacity funding for research and related forms".

Capacity Funding for Land Grant Institution Research

Research scientists working as part of a land-grant institution in the U.S., including Texas A&M AgriLife Research, are eligible to compete for capacity funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA-NIFA.

[Learn more from USDA-NIFA >](#)

CAPACITY FUNDING PROGRAMS

AgriLife Research faculty qualify for four types of USDA-NIFA capacity funding:

Hatch

This funding is based on a five-year plan of work that serves as the umbrella for a faculty member's full research portfolio. The plan of work aims to fulfill provisions of the Hatch Act of 1887, funding agricultural research at State Agricultural Experiment Stations, SAE.

[Read more >](#)

Hatch-multistate

This is similar to Hatch funding with the additional requirement of including participants from qualifying institutions in other states to solve mutual challenges.

[Read more >](#)

McIntire Stennis capacity grant

The purpose of this funding is to increase forestry research in the production, utilization, and protection of forestland to train future forestry scientists and to involve other disciplines in forestry research.

[Read more >](#)

Animal Health and Disease Research

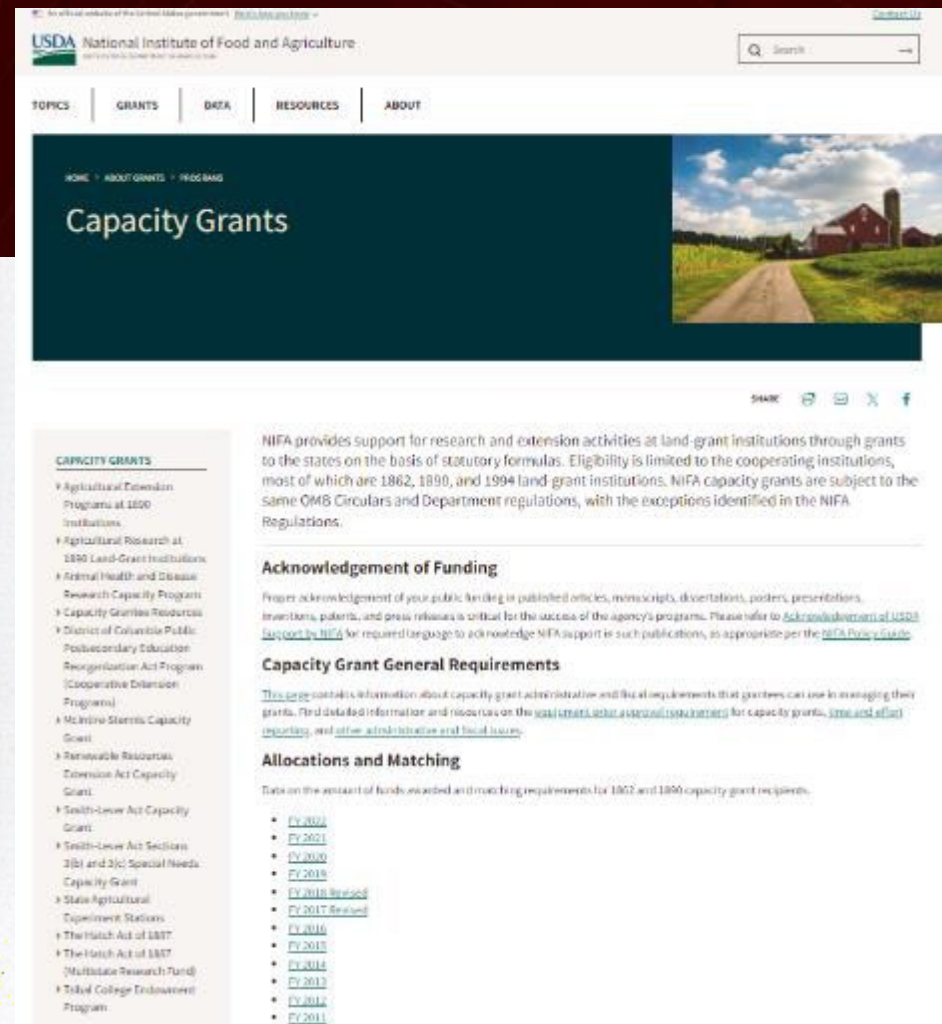
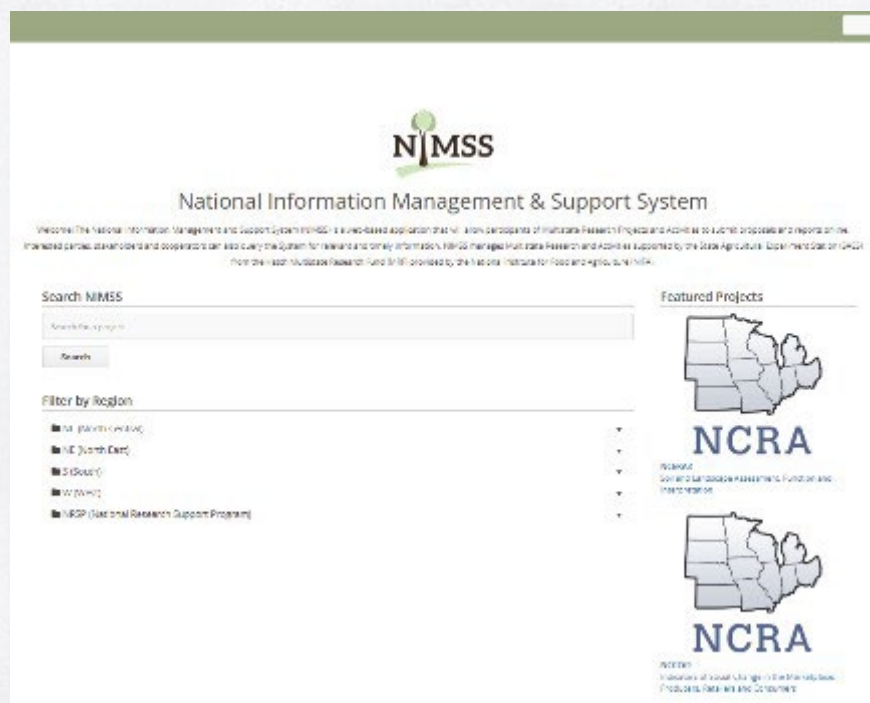
The purpose of this funding is to promote animal health research at accredited state veterinary schools or colleges or agricultural experiment stations.

[Read more >](#)

Links

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/capacity-grants>

<https://nimss.org/>





QUESTIONS?

Capacity Funding Workshop, April 18, 2024

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TEXAS A&M
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