United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT

FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY

FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA/NIFA Welcome

Aida Balsano

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

2019 AgrAbility NTW

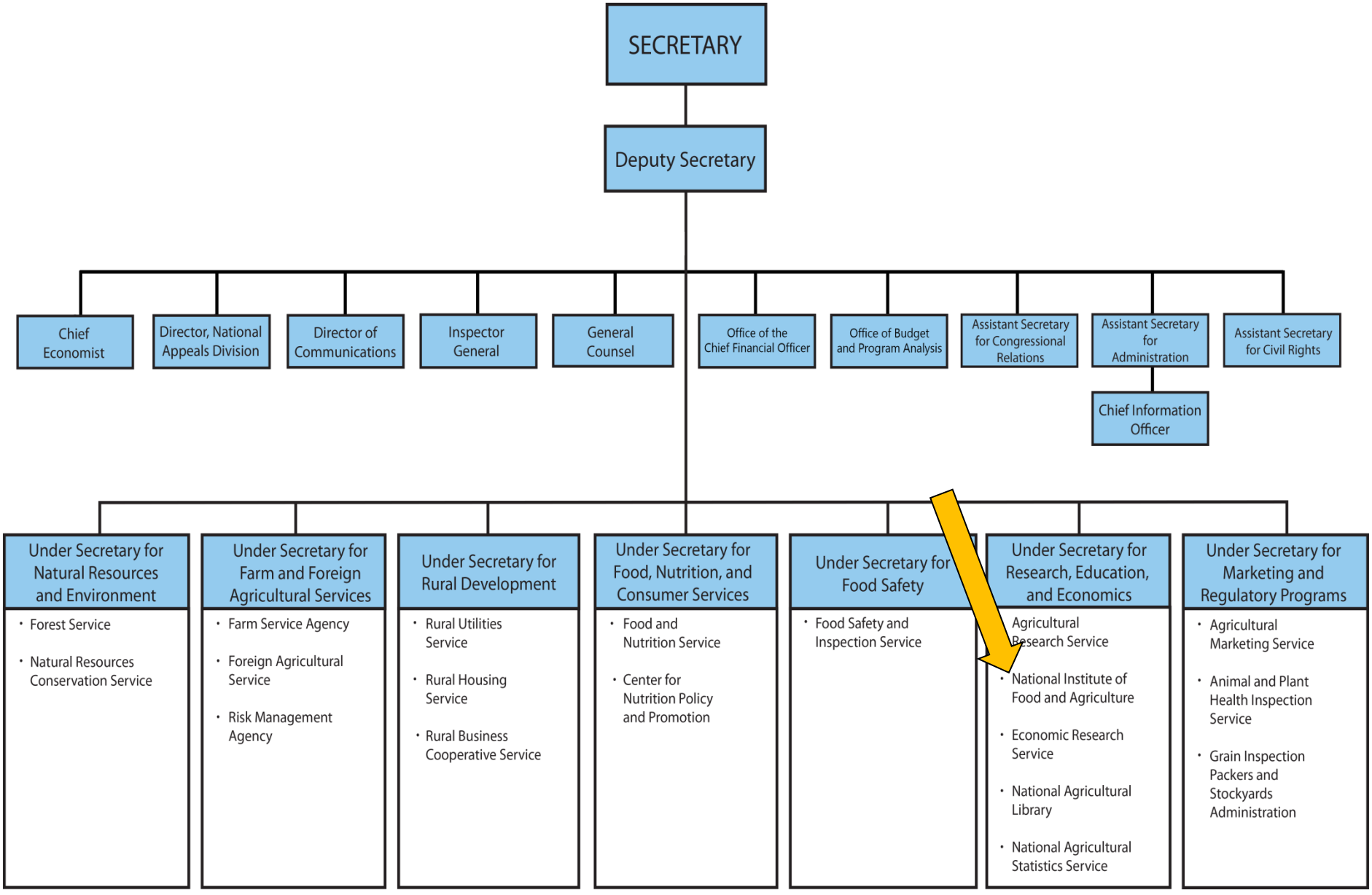
March 25, 2019

Lincoln, NE

Overview

- USDA and NIFA
- NIFA AgrAbility Program Management
- About the AgrAbility Program
- Functions, Roles and Expectations
- Reporting Requirements
- Contact

USDA NIFA United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture



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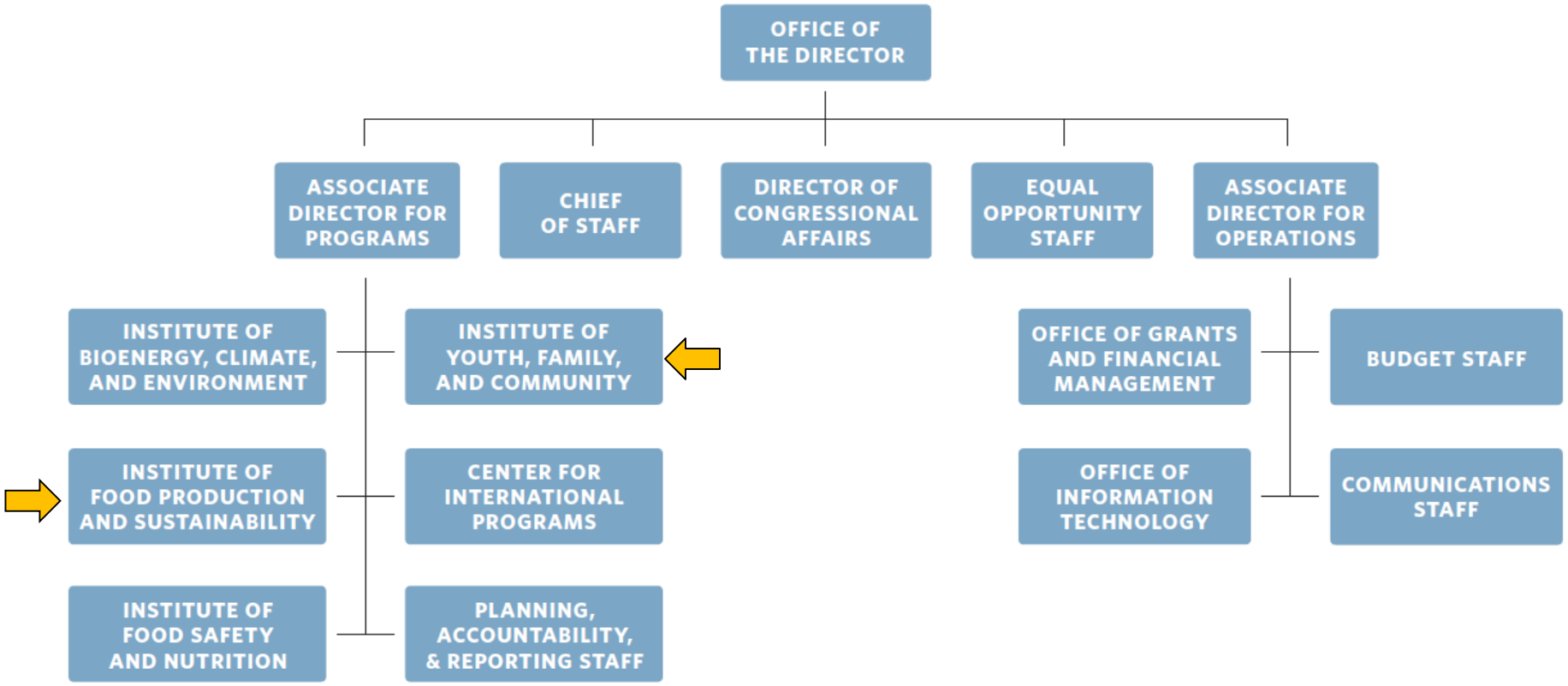
The Organization of USDA'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE — *2.23.14*

OVERVIEW VERSION



NIFA Org Chart 02_25_14r1ind4.pg 2 | NIFA Communications Staff

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NIFA's Integrated Approach to Science

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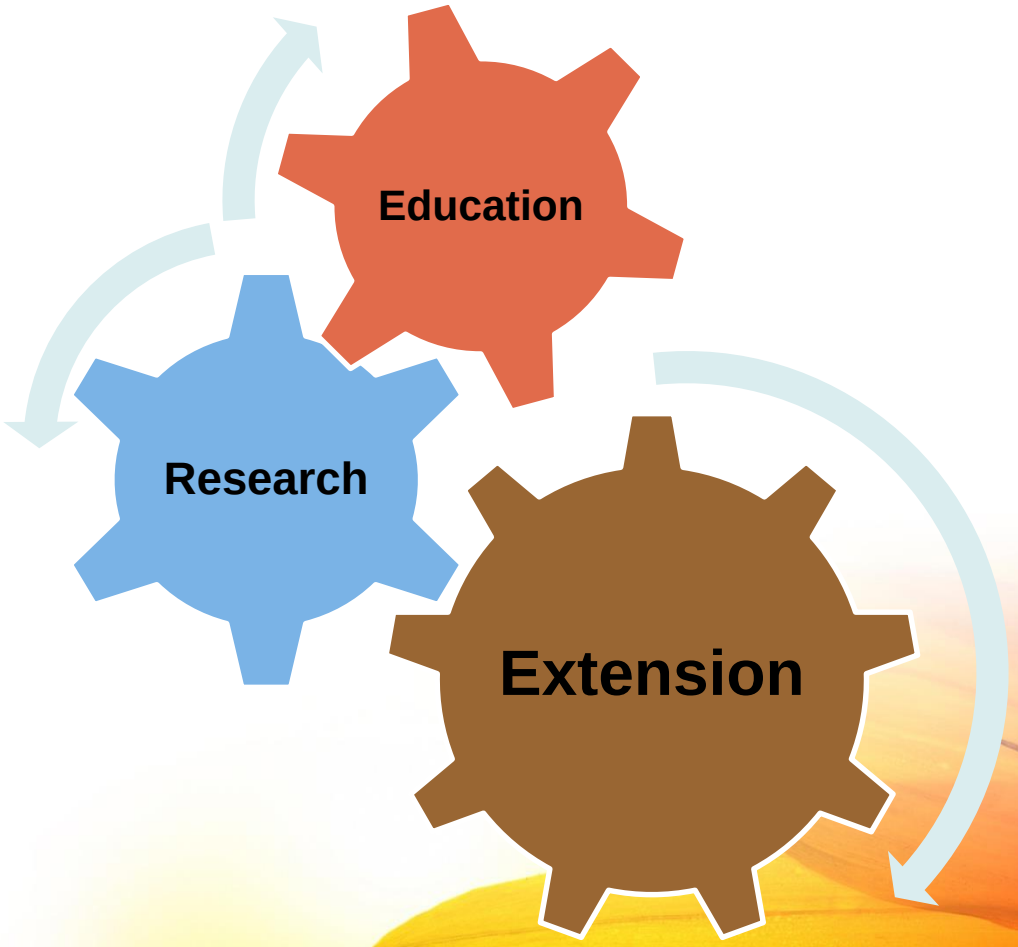
NIFA's Integrated Approach to Science



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AgrAbility Oversight at NIFA

Caroline Crocoll
Division Director
Family & Consumer Sciences

Brad Rein
Division Director
Agricultural Systems

Aida Balsano, Ph. D.
National Program Leader
Division of Family & Consumer Sciences
Institute of Youth, Family and Community

Steven Thomson, Ph. D.
National Program Leader
Division of Agricultural Systems
Institute of Food Production and Sustainability

Lelan Dixon, M.A.
Program Specialist with DAS/IFPS

AgrAbility Program Mission

*Support state and regional projects in developing their **capacity** to provide **assistance** to **individuals with disabilities**, and their families, who are engaged in **farming and farm-related occupations**.*

Disability Language vis-à-vis AgrAbility

The person first and the disability second - Person-First Language (farmer with a disability vs. disabled farmer).

Emphasis is on abilities and assistive technology role, not limitations.

Use language that emphasizes the need for accessibility rather than the presence of a disability.

Create balanced human interest stories.

History of AgrAbility

- Authorized through the 1990 Farm Bill.
  - Modeled after state programs that assisted agricultural workers in VT, IA, and IN.
  - Authorized partnership between LGU and non-profit organizations serving individuals with disabilities.
  - Established funding recommendation.
  - Provided guidance on eligible programs.

- Appropriated under Smith-Lever 3(d)

  Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety line item

History of AgrAbility cont.

- Competitive grants program.
- The program funds:
  - State and Regional AgrAbility Projects (SRAPs);
  - one National AgrAbility Project (NAP).
- Projects are funded for up to 4 years.

AgrAbility Program Focus

- Increased knowledge of practices and activities for farmers with disabilities.
- Increased appropriate assistance options.
- Improved modifications that increase independence and productivity.
- Increased chance that individuals with disabilities and their families can continue to be successfully involved in production agriculture.

AgrAbility Program Implementation

- Education - long term investment strategy
- Assistance
- Marketing
- Networking

- Evaluation

AgrAbility Funds DO NOT Support

- Paying for assistive technology or other farm site modifications
- Soliciting other federal funds
- Paying tuition or student fees
- Paying overhead or indirect cost
- Conducting research (work must remain within accepted bounds of Extension)

Federal Level Functions (NIFA's Role)

- Satisfy Legislative and Executive branches
- Provide fair, effective, and efficient administration of Federal assistance.
- Provide program oversight.
- Communicate program successes and impacts to NIFA, USDA, Congress and stakeholders to justify continued support for the program.

NAP's Role

- Grantee of the NIFA AgrAbility Program.

- Assists and connects SRAPs.
- Limited, on-demand service in areas without SRAPs.
- Outreach to 1890 LGUs, 1994 LGUs, and farmer veterans.
- NTWs
- Annual program evaluations

SRAPs' Role

- Inform us if you have a change in or reorganization of project staff, and/or program implementation challenges.
- Attend face-to-face and virtual NTWs.
- Submit client demo data to NAP staff on time.
- Participate in NAP needs assessments and evaluation.
- Participate in NAP-led Quality of Life survey.
- Keep your directors, colleagues, and NIFA informed of any significant recognitions of your project.
- Submit your application for project funding continuation on time.

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States with Currently Active AgrAbility Projects

State/Regional AgrAbility Projects

- Alaska
- California
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Illinois*
- Indiana*
- Kansas
- Maine
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- North Carolina*
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Wisconsin

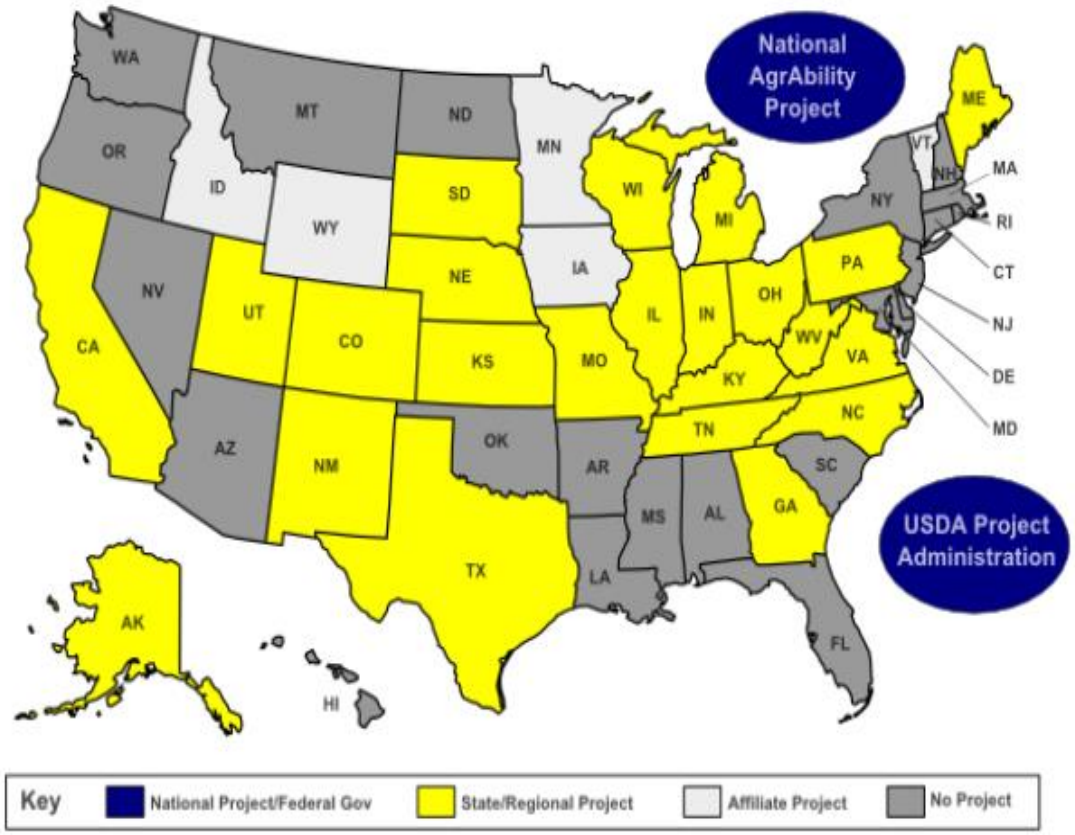
National AgrAbility Project

Indiana (Purdue University)

www.agrability.org

AgrAbility Projects Directory

Select one of the states below to view the contact information for that state or region:



Alaska - Arkansas - California - Colorado - Georgia - Idaho - Illinois - Indiana - Iowa - Kansas - Kentucky - Maine - Michigan - Minnesota - Missouri - Nebraska - New Mexico - North Carolina - Ohio - Pennsylvania - South Dakota - Tennessee - Texas - Utah - Vermont - Virginia - West Virginia - Wisconsin - Wyoming

National AgrAbility Project State and Regional AgrAbility Projects USDA Affiliated Collaborators

REEport

- To determine satisfactory progress of the project.
  - Progress Report
    - Annually, for 1st, 2nd or 3rd year of funding.
  - Final Report
    - At the end of year 4, i.e. final year of funding.

REEport cont.

http://portal.nifa.usda.gov

- REEport Information and Resources: **http://nifa.usda.gov/tool/reeport**

- Technical Assistance: **reeport@nifa.usda.gov**

How Do We Use Your Reports?

National Program Leaders

- Program Management
- RFA Improvements

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

Congress

- Budget Justifications
- Outcomes Reporting
- Fiscal Planning

Communications

- NIFA Annual Report
- Marketing and Promotion
- Branding

Other USDA Offices

- Process Improvements
- Collaboration and Networking

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Contact Information

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