



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

FOOD PRODUCTION  
AND SUSTAINABILITY

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,  
AND ENVIRONMENT

YOUTH, FAMILY,  
AND COMMUNITY

FOOD SAFETY  
AND NUTRITION

INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMS

NTW Project Director Session  
Madison, WI  
Mar. 15, 2022

USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Brad Rein – Sustainable Ag., Technology, Economics & Social Sciences

## NIFA Program Expertise & Responsibilities

### Past

- NPL Agri-Industry Systems
- Acting IBCE Deputy Director
- Acting IFPS Deputy Director
- Agricultural Systems Division Director
- Embassy Science Fellow
- SARE Acting NPL

### Present Programs

- Urban, Indoor & Emerging Ag.
- AgrAbility
- Youth Farm Safety
- AFRI: Bioprocess/Bioengineering, Social Implications of Tech.
- Hatch Multi-State (5)
  - Micro-irrigation, Safety, Sustain Systems Env. Hort.

### NSL Present/Future

- Present
- NITRD IWG
  - Robotics
  - Cyber-Physical Systems
- Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America ASHCA
- Farm Foundation
- Future *Listen, Learn, Inform, Synergize*



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# *AgrAbility Oversight at NIFA*



Victoria Finkenstadt  
National Program Leader

Brad Rein  
National Science Liaison



Tiffany Woodson  
Program Specialist

Crystal Kyle  
Program Specialist







United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

## Grants Management Frequently Asked Questions

<https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/frequently-asked-questions-grant-management>

- AOR & PD changes
- Unallowable Costs
- No Cost Extensions
- Accessing Funds
- Payments



2021 Celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AgrAbility and the Americans with Disabilities Act!!!

Lelan Dixon, Program Specialist  
Brad Rein, National Science Liaison  
Victoria Finkenstadt, National Program Leader

Throughout his career, **Biden** has fought for the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities – working to pass anti-discrimination including the Americans with Disabilities Act



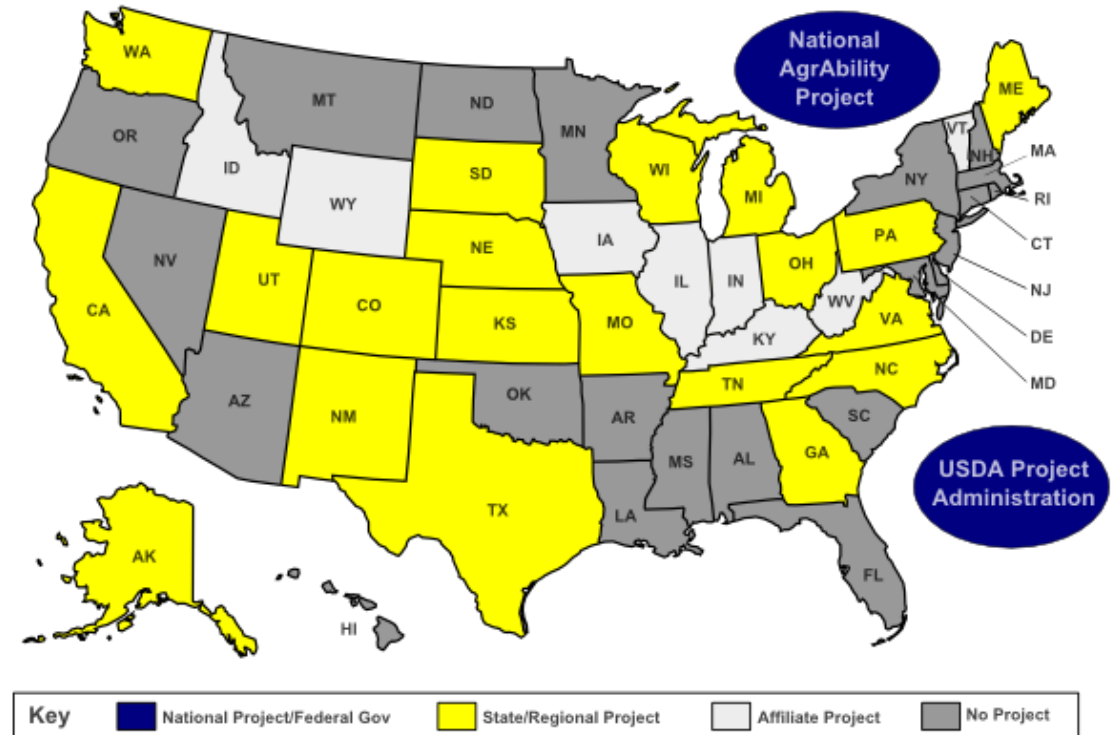
1990 Farm Bill  
Section 1680



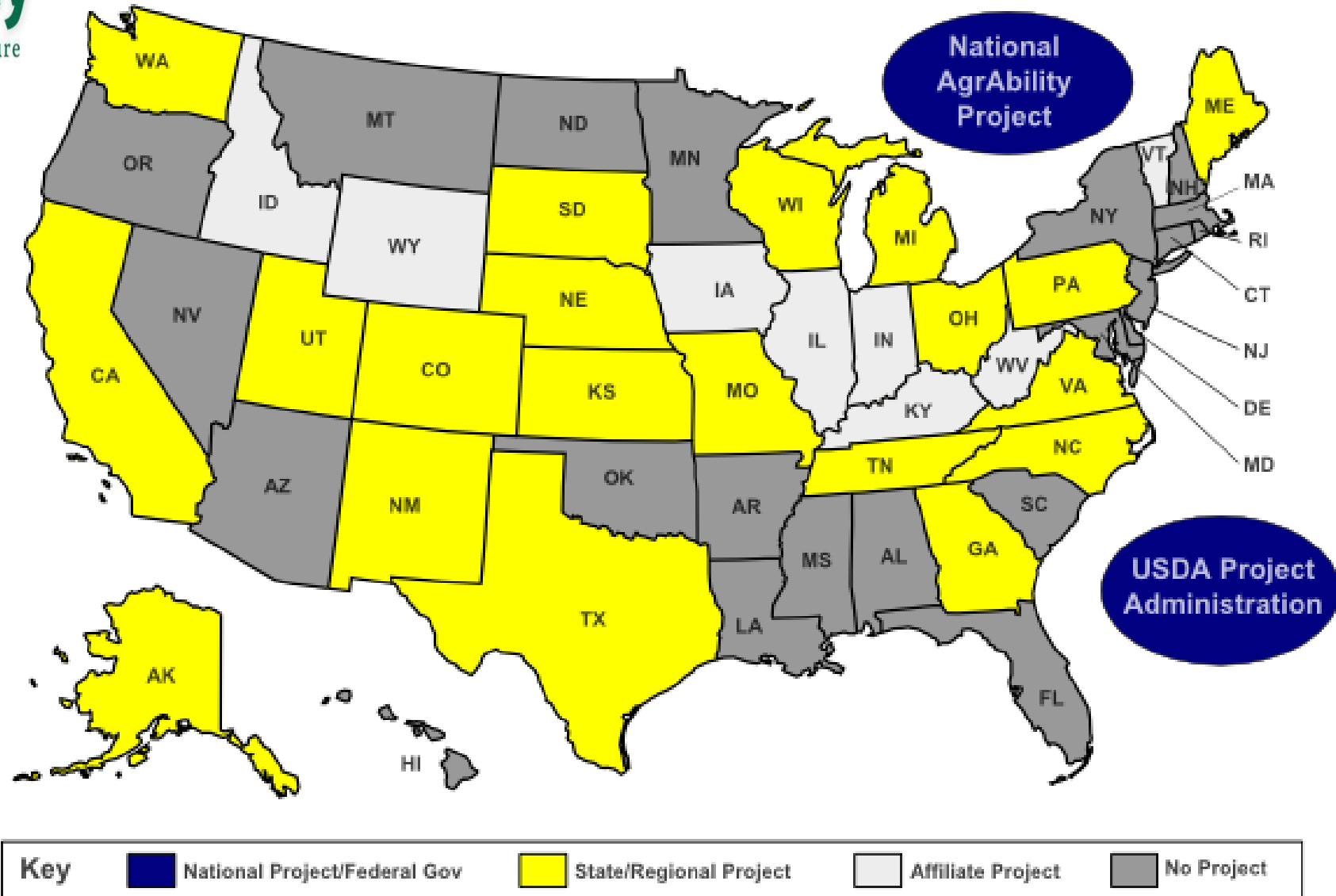
FY21 \$4.3 million  
Extension 3(d)  
Farm Safety and Youth Farm  
Safety Education



LGU's/Extension (1862, 1890)  
Non-profit Disability Organizations (Easter Seals,  
Independent Living, Farm Veterans Coalition, APRIL)  
Professional Societies (RESNA, ISASH, ASABE)



Grown from 8 awards in 1991 to 22 awards in 2021





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture



# Services Provided

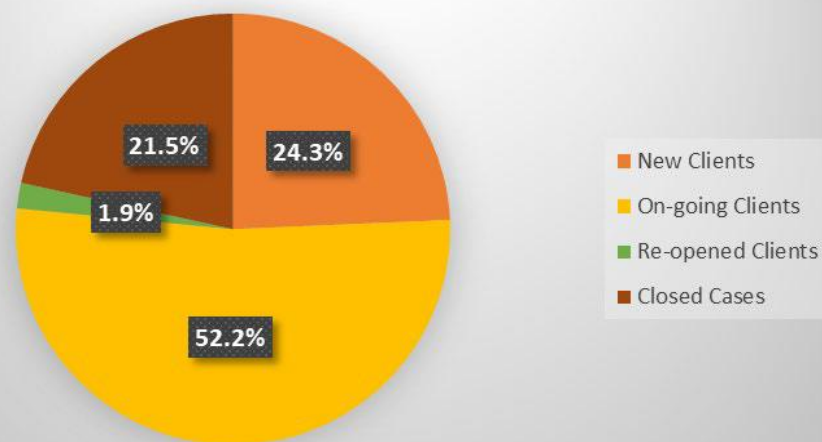
## Farmers

- Modify farm and ranch operations
- Adapt equipment
- Increase farmstead accessibility
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify funding sources
- Coordinate community services
- Farmer Advocate
- Resources Provider
- Support Grants

## Veterans

- Veteran Advocate
- Veteran Affair Link
- Benefits
- Networking to other Veterans
- Assistance with locating Farmland
- Start up Education
- COL Cindy Chastain the National AgrAbility Liaison
- Veteran Specific Links

### 2018-2019 Client Status (n=1,518)



Includes only clients receiving on-site visits

### CAUSE OF DISABILITY (n=1,516)

- |                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Chronic illness (non-incident) | 48.5% |
| 2. Non-ag-related incident        | 24.1% |
| 3. Ag-related incident            | 15.5% |

### NAP Website (AgrAbility.org)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Increase over last 3 years
Hits*	3,669,148	3,982,387	5,441,577	45%
Page Views	899,124	868,629	1,596,500	80%
Total visitors	309,402	293,909	341,860	11%



---

**Results from 14 States Found that on Average...**

- 240 AgrAbility intervention group participants'...
  - QOL levels increased 26% ( $p < .001$ ).
  - ILW levels increased 28% ( $p < .001$ ).
- 99-100 non-AgrAbility comparison group participants'...
  - QOL levels declined 4% (N.S.)
  - ILW levels increased 8% ( $p < .05$ ).

Source: Fetsch, R. J., & Collins, C. L. (2018). The effects of AgrAbility on the mental/behavioral health of farmers and ranchers with functional limitations: A comparison study. *Medical Research Archives*, 6(2). <http://www.journals.ke-i.org/index.php/mra/article/view/1691/1762>

## *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

## Engaging farmers/ranchers at National Training Workshops







United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

*Listen,  
Learn,  
Inform,  
Synergize*





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

## *Contact Information*

***Vicki Finkenstadt***

*National Program Leader*

[Victoria.finkenstadt@usda.gov](mailto:Victoria.finkenstadt@usda.gov)

(816) 520-8456

***Brad Rein***

*National Science Liaison*

[brein@usda.gov](mailto:brein@usda.gov)

(202) 454-5442

***Tiffany Woodson***

*Program Specialist*

[tiffany.woodson@usda.gov](mailto:tiffany.woodson@usda.gov)

***Crystal Kyle***

*Program Specialist*

[Crystal.Kyle@usda.gov](mailto:Crystal.Kyle@usda.gov)

(816) 908-3177



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture



Wrap it up  
grandpa?



