

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

National Needs Fellowship Grants

Greater investment needed to train the next generation of policy-makers, researchers, and educators in food and agricultural sciences.

The Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program administered by the Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) trains students for masters and/or doctoral degrees and provides postdoctoral training for fellows who have completed their doctoral degrees in the food and agricultural sciences.

Grant awards support outstanding students as they pursue and complete their degrees and/or obtain postdoctoral training in areas where there is a national need for the development of scientific and professional expertise. At present there are eight areas of critical need:

- Genomics and bioinformatics in food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences.
- Natural resources and the environment, including forest ecosystem health and restoration, wood and fiber engineering, and resource economics.
- Agricultural systems engineering, including biobased products, bioenergy and food products engineering.
- Trade policy, resource economics, and economics of alternative energy.
- Food science, especially food safety and foods for health.
- Human nutrition, specifically in obesity, diet and exercise.
- Animal pathology and food animal diagnostics and other areas impacting the security of the food system.
- Training in "sustainable" sciences.

USDA reports that the NNF program has many unmet needs. In FY 2008, 76 proposals were submitted for 265 masters and PhD fellows for a total of \$17.8 million. Unfortunately, due to funding constraints, only 16 proposals (21%) were funded covering just 16 fellows (mostly PhDs) for a total of \$3.5 million. Congress must address this situation by providing a modest increase to a funding level of \$4.5 million.



A.P.L.U. PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2010

National Needs Fellowship Grants Program.....\$4.5 M

The NNF Program has five objectives:

- Support graduate training of students, to produce workforce-ready and globally competitive personnel in the food and agricultural sciences.
- Support training to fill nationally identified areas of expertise shortage in these disciplines.
- Increase the number of outstanding students, including those from traditionally under represented groups, annually entering graduate training in higher education in the food and agricultural sciences.
- Support graduate training to develop core competencies to meet the emerging market demands in these disciplines.
- Provide training and travel grants.

For additional information see page two
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National Needs Fellowship Grants

Appropriations Bill	Agriculture				
Agency	National Institute of Food and Agriculture (formerly Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service)				
Account	Research and Education Activities				
Program Name	National Needs Fellowship Grants				
Requested Amount	\$4,500,000				
Authorization	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(6).				
Description	This program provides funding to train students for masters and/or doctoral degrees in areas of targeted expertise shortage.				
Benefits/Impacts	<p>USDA reports that the National Needs Fellowship (NNF) program has many unmet needs. In FY 2008, 76 proposals were submitted for 265 masters and PhD fellows for a total of \$17.8 million. Unfortunately, due to funding constraints, only 16 proposals were funded covering just 16 fellows (mostly PhDs) for a total of \$3.5 million. The NNF Program has five objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support graduate training of students, to produce workforce-ready and globally competitive personnel in the food and agricultural sciences. ■ Support training to fill nationally identified areas of expertise shortage in these disciplines. ■ Increase the number of outstanding students, including those from traditionally under represented groups, annually entering graduate training in higher education in the food and agricultural sciences. ■ Support graduate training to develop core competencies to meet the emerging market demands in these disciplines. ■ Provide training and travel grants. 				
Funding History					
FY 2010 President's Budget	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
\$3,859,000	\$3,859,000	\$3,675,000	\$3,701,000	\$3,701,000	\$2,976,000
Misc. Information					
Matching Funds	This program does not require matching funds.				
Final Recipients	1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant and other colleges and universities having a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences.				
Note for Senate Offices	Funding is not being requested for this program through another appropriations bill.				
Additional Information	www.land-grant.org/kb.htm				

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, represents 217 U.S. universities and has members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.