

Field Day: National Institute of Food and Agriculture



Opportunities for Research Funding in Animal Breeding and Genetics

The 2018 Farm Bill directed the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to establish “an Agricultural Genome Program (AG2PI) to expand the knowledge of public and private sector entities and persons concerning genomes for species of importance to the food and agriculture sectors in order to maximize the return on the investment in genomics of agriculturally important species.” Congress authorized up to \$40 million annually for this program for FY2019–FY2023; \$1 million have been appropriated for FY2020 and FY2021. The RFA established that AG2PI should focus on collaborative science engagements, “with the goal to develop a community of researchers across crops and animals that will lay the foundation for expanding knowledge concerning genomes and phenomes of crops and animals of importance to US agriculture.” Frank Siewerdt, NIFA National Program Leader, Division of Animal Systems, will discuss current funding opportunities.

NIFA Wants Your Outstanding Plant Breeding Proposals

Supporting Your Program Through AFRI and Other NIFA Initiatives

There are several granting agencies and programs that fund high-priority research involving plant breeding. From climate-smart agriculture and enhancing human nutrition to development of rural economies, plant breeding is capable of addressing many societal challenges and is worthy of public support. Success will increasingly require both multidisciplinary approaches and coordination networks that feed discoveries into new cultivars. Christian Tobias, NIFA National Program Leader, will present some funding opportunities as well as provide thoughts on what makes for outstanding proposals.

About the presenters:



Dr. Frank Siewerdt leads two AFRI programs (“Animal Breeding and Functional Annotation of Genomes” and “Welfare and Well-being of Agricultural Animals”) at NIFA, and is one of the NPL in AG2PI, Biotechnology Risk Assessment, and the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable. Prior to joining NIFA, he was part of the broiler genetics industry, a faculty member in two universities, and a livestock genetics officer at the FAO of the United Nations.



Dr. Christian Tobias is co-responsible for the AG2PI initiative and the AFRI programs in plant breeding at NIFA. Prior to joining NIFA, he spent 19 years at the USDA-ARS working to genetically dissect switchgrass traits controlling biomass yield and composition.

March 16, 2022

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

(Central Time, UTC-5)

Purpose: To introduce funding opportunities offered by NIFA and describe best practices for these proposals.

Register for this Zoom virtual meeting:

<https://tinyurl.com/AG2PI-FD16>

Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

A recording will be available at a later date at: ag2pi.org/



Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative (AG2PI) is funded by USDA-NIFA awards 2020-70412-32615 and 2021-70412-35233.