NIFA in a Nutshell

• Primary agency in USDA supporting extramural science (research, education and extension)
• Federal partner of Land-Grant Universities, including Cooperative Extension
NIFA Programs

• Many programs, both competitive and “capacity”
• Each has its own authorities & funding
• May be research, education, extension, or “integrated” (2 or 3 of above)
NIFA Programs and Extension

• Some programs are specifically for Cooperative Extension or “extension” function
• Some programs allow but do not require it
• Focus and priorities evolve, so watch for Requests for Applications (RFAs) and read them carefully
• See http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/funding.cfm
Selected Programs – Lead or Partner

- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development
- Community Food Projects
- Small Business Innovation Research
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
Sustainable Ag Research & Education

• **Purpose**: advance new ideas in sustainable agriculture: profit, stewardship, community.
• Whole-farm approach
• Farmers as partners and important reservoirs of knowledge
• Regional: MD applies thru Northeast SARE
• See “Get a Grant” option at [http://nesare.org](http://nesare.org)
• Multiple grant types; you can lead or partner
SARE Grant Types (Large)

- **Research and Education**: Outcome-driven projects that explore new sustainable techniques and support farmer adoption.

- **Professional Development**: Outcome-driven projects that deliver sustainable agriculture training to extension, NRCS, and others.
SARE – Research & Ed. Example

No-till, No-herbicide Planting of Spring Vegetables Using Low Residue Winter Killed Cover Crops

Coordinators: Natalie Lounsbury & Ray Weil, UMD, College Park
Participant: Bryan Butler, UME, Carroll County
SARE Grant LNE11-312, $154,405
SARE Grant Types (Smaller)

- **Farmer Grants**: For commercial farmers who want to explore an interesting new idea.

- **Partnership Grants**: For farm advisors who want to work with farmers on trials, demonstrations, and quality of life issues.

- **Graduate Student Grants**: For grad students researching sustainable ag topics under the supervision of a faculty advisor.
SARE – Partnership Example

Developing a Cost Effective, Energy Efficient Greenhouse Using Solar Heating to Extend the Growing Season

Willie Lantz
UME, Garrett County

SARE Grant ONE09-104, $6,960
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

- **Purpose**: enhance the entry and success of new farmers and ranchers
- **Approach**: education, training, mentoring, technical assistance
- **Amount**: up to $250,000/year for up to 3 years
- **Grantees**: collaborations of public and private organizations
- **Timing**: Proposals due June 12, 2014

[www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp.html)
BFRDP – Example

Maryland Collaborative for Beginning Farmer Success
J. Hanson, B. Beale, S. Dill, W. Lantz, R. Myers,
Univ. MD

NIFA Award
#2012-49400-19552
$676,680
Community Food Projects

- **Purpose**: meet food needs of low-income people; increase self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs; and promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues
- **Grantees**: private non-profits
- **Size**: $10,000 to $300,000 over 1-3 years
- Most projects must have 1:1 match
Community Food Projects - Example

Cultivating Community:
ECO City Farms at
Bladensburg, MD
Margaret Morgan-Hubbard
Riverdale, MD

NIFA Award #
2012-33800-19714
$299,965
Small Business Innovation Research

- **Purpose**: help small businesses conduct research to increase the commercialization of innovations and foster participation by women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses.

- **Grantees**: small for-profit (<500 employees)

- **Size**: $100,000/$450,000 phase I/II

SBIR - Example

CSA Model to Bring Locally Grown Foods to the Workplace, Inner City Households and Schools Utilizing a Supermarket Infrastructure

Rainbow Organic Farms
Bronson, KS
Agriculture & Food Research Initiative

• Flagship Program, many subprograms
• Research and Integrated Research/Education/Extension
  – Foundational grants: Ag Econ & Rural Communities
  – Challenge areas: Food Security, Childhood Obesity
• Grantees: universities & research institutions
• Size: $300,000 to multi-million
• www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html
AFRI - Example

Reducing On-Farm Enteric Pathogens through Cropping Methods and Improved Food Safety Trainings

Shirley Micallef
University of Maryland

NIFA Award
#2014-68003-21588
$424,999
Jill Auburn, National Program Leader

Division of Ag Systems, Institute of Food Production & Sustainability, NIFA

jauburn@nifa.usda.gov
202-720-2635