



North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

209th Meeting
 Beck Agricultural Center, Purdue University
 West Lafayette, IN
 Tuesday, July 25, 2017, 10 am to 2 pm

Draft AGENDA

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item #</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
10:00 am	1.0	Welcome and Call to Order	Archie Clutter, NCRA 2017 Chair
	2.0	Approval of Spring 2017 Minutes, see: http://ncra.info/docs/Historical/Minutes/April2017.pdf	
	3.0	Adoption of the Agenda	
10:05 am	4.0	Interim Actions of the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCRA ESS Chair • ESCOP B&L Committee NC Nominations 	Archie Clutter
10:30 am	5.0	1994s and 1862s: Exploring Priorities and Capacities	John Phillips
11:00 am	6.0	Exploring a Collaborative Working Space for Graduate Education in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Agbiosciences	Shawn Donkin
<i>12:00 noon</i>	<i>Working lunch, boxed lunches provided</i>		
12:15 pm	7.0	NIFA Update	Parag Chitnis
12:30 pm	8.0	NCRA Plan	Archie Clutter, All
1:00 pm	9.0	MRC Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multistate projects approved for 2018 • New MRC Member Needed • 2018 Nomination Call for Excellence in Multistate Research Award 	Joe Colletti, Deb Hamernik, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton
1:10 pm	10.0	NRSP Review Committee Update	Jeff Jacobsen (for Doug Buhler)
1:30 pm	11.0	NC Admin Boot Camp Report	Ernie Minton, Jeff Jacobsen, Bill Barker, Bill Gibbons
1:40 pm	12.0	Fall NCRA Meeting Topic Ideas	All
1:50 pm	13.0	National Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Bill Update • Infrastructure Survey • Other 	All
		Future Meetings: http://ncra.info/Organization_UpcomingMeetings.php	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop, September 25-28, 2017, Philadelphia, PA, Hyatt at the Bellevue • 2017 APLU Annual Meeting, November 12-14, 2017, Marriot Wardman Park, Washington, DC 	
2:00 pm	Adjourn		

Written Briefs (for information only)

- [End of FY2017 NCRA Office Budget](#)
- [ESCAP Joint COPs 2017 summer meeting agenda and briefs](#) (external link; for information only)

NCRA Office Budget Summary as of 7/17/2017

Written brief, for information only.

FY2018 Assessments Received:

Michigan State University	\$ 36,190.00	April 2017
Univ of Nebraska	\$ 36,343.00	April 2017
Purdue University	\$ 35,440.00	April 2017
Kansas State University	\$ 34,299.00	May 2017
South Dakota State University	\$ 31,370.00	May 2017
Ohio State University	\$ 37,382.00	May 2017
University of Illinois	\$ 38,080.00	June 2017
Iowa State University	\$ 39,255.00	June 2017
FY'18 INCOME TOTAL	\$ 288,359.00	

NCRA FY2018 Budget (with 2017 actuals as of 7/17/2017)

INCOME				
	FY2016	FY2017		FY2018
Description	Final	Budget	YTD***	Budget
State Assessments	370,763	425,763	425,761	425,763
Account Carryover (MSU)	17,371	17,371	17,371	40,015
TOTAL INCOME	388,134	443,134	443,132	465,778
EXPENSE				
	FY2016	FY2017		FY2018
Description	Final	Budget	YTD***	Budget
NCRA				
Regional Initiatives	12,000	-	-	
NCRA Subtotal	12,000	-	-	
MICHIGAN STATE				
Executive Director Salary	190,000	196,000	196,000	205,000
Fringe*	44,466	51,156	51,156	53,505
Office Operating	2,476	3,000	4,535	3,000
Travel	20,961	30,000	31,131	30,000
Training	8,550	-	-	-
MSU Administrative/Service Fees	4,930	5,603	5,603	5,830
MSU Subtotal	271,383	285,759	288,425	297,335
U of WISCONSIN				
Assistant Director Salary	67,255	72,255	72,255	79,480
Fringe**	27,393	30,462	30,675	35,637
Office Operating	2,320	3,000	1,258	3,000
Travel	9,725	8,000	9,852	8,000
Training	200	-	380	500
Meeting Support	-	2,000	1,756	2,000
UW Subtotal	106,893	115,717	116,176	128,617
TOTAL EXPENSE	390,276	401,476	404,601	425,952
BALANCE	(2,142)	41,658	38,531	39,826

*MSU FY18 fringe: 26.1%; FY17 26.1%, 25.75% estimated; FY16 25.45%.

**UW FY18 est. fringe: 44.6% + monthly service charge of \$15.66; FY17 fringe 42%, 37.5% estimated.

***Full FY expenditures for salary + fringe + MSU admin fees, YTD actuals, for other categories.

NCRA Accounts at MSU and UW

Account at MSU	FY16	FY17	FY18
MSU Starting Balance	7,191	17,371	40,015
MSU Income	370,763	425,763	425,763
MSU Budgeted Expenses	283,383	285,759	297,335
MSU Budgeted Expenses + UW invoice	372,572	403,119	426,725
Estimated MSU Ending Balance/Carryover	5,382	40,015	39,053
Actual MSU Ending Balance/Carryover	17,371	tbd	
Account at UW	FY16	FY17	FY18
UW Starting Balance*	16,520	(1,184)	(773)
UW Income	-	-	-
UW Expenses	106,893	116,176	128,617
Actual UW Ending Balance/Carryover**	-	-	
<i>UW Operating Reserve (3 mo)</i>	25,000	25,000	25,000
<i>Estimated UW Invoice to MSU**</i>	92,619	117,360	129,390
<i>Actual UW Invoice to MSU</i>	89,189	116,587	
*Unexpected UW fringe rate change from 37.5% to 42%.			
**UW will invoice MSU mid-quarter for actual expenses (\$32,155 in August 2017; \$32,155 in November 2017; \$32,155 February 2017, and ??? In May 2018 to cover final 2018 expenses).			

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Item 8.0: NCRA Plan

Presenters: Archie Clutter, Jeff Jacobsen

XXX	Initial NCRA Plan Element
XXX	Active NCRA Plan Element
XXX	New NCRA Plan Element

NCRA Plan

1. MULTISTATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE (MRC)

Ensure that multistate projects are linked to priority NC research themes (NOTE: assumes there are agreed-upon themes)

- Cross reference (matrix) NC multistate projects with Battelle Study, ESCOP Roadmap, USDA NIFA priorities, PCAST Report, ECOP Strategic Opportunities, Natural Resources Roadmap, NCCEA, key federal agencies, others. Also, need to account for NCR faculty participation in other regional committees.

ACTION: Align MRC priorities and review processes. Consider all options (combine, terminate, create). Identify research gaps and emerging issues and determine next steps.

- Future Multistate projects – Industrial hemp (SERA), Big data or open access data (NRSP proposed not approved) and NC librarians, Unmanned aerial systems (SERA), viticulture (NC ?), microbiome, oats (SD, MN), organic systems, local/urban/regional food systems, Monarch butterfly, soil health, others.

ACTION: Openly consider priority of NC projects and the various committee options.

Create/enhance assessment methods to get stakeholder (groups vary by task/issue) and peer input

- Do we routinely ask the same (or any) questions of NCAC groups? Completed. Need to develop questions and provide to the AAs and NCAC members. For example: recent initiatives at the federal level, professional society perspectives on issues and their initiatives)
- Do we ask anything of the state/regional/national commodity groups or organizations, foundations and other federal agencies?

ACTION: Review the interactions and review contributions from NCAC groups.

- Encourage stronger NCAC discussion and input. Discuss existing state mechanisms to receive input and determine if these could (should) be scaled up or other alternatives considered. Reviewed all NCAC projects and discussed with AAs.

Are MRC funding approaches across the NCR appropriate and adequate? Are there alternative models to be considered?

ACTION: Inventory of use, needs/opportunity. NCRA could discuss implications and alternatives.

Assist in the training of new AAs and resourcing new directors

- Create and update as needed (MI, MN, MO, WI, SD)

2. CATALYZE GROWTH AND QUALITY IN PARTNERSHIPS

Explore new networks across thematic areas with faculty expertise (group, program and facility registry), shared analytical/service/pheno and genotyping/clinical facilities, watershed/wetland labs, climate science centers, geospatial technologies and many others. Integrate and optimize the LTARs, LTERs, forest stations and field station system (e.g. dairy, specialty crops) investments in regional/national system.

ACTION: Create an inventory template(s) for each state to complete prior to meeting and conduct a 'speed dating' session(s).

What is the strategic relationship between NCRA and NCR Administrative Heads, Extension, CARET and Academic Programs? Is there any type of regional (maybe national) programmatic aspirations to identify and articulate an NCR agenda or enhance key programs (e.g. across climate, water, health and other themes)? NCCEA is a recognized regional entity with potential priority focus given the NCRA.

ACTION: Directors discuss potential opportunities

- NC Climate Expertise (AES and CES)
- North Central Water Network collaborations (Greg Cuomo and Jeff are active)
- NC Boot Camp for new/recently appointed administrators

Enhance graduate student training and synergies across the NCRA (e.g. graduate student exchange and experiences, recruitment, shared NCR courses)

- Exploring a Collaborative Working Space for Graduate Education in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Agbiosciences (postponed to Mini LG 2017)

Strategic discussions, actions and leveraging with regional faculty expertise across NCRA institutions and:

- USDA ARS, National Animal Disease Center and other national labs
- Danforth Center and others
- Research centers and stations (with faculty and/or staff) and others
- Existing Centers/Institutes at LGUs and programs in veterinary medicine, biomedical and engineering (NCR Antibiotic Resistance Roundtable)
- Private sector research programs (Protein Highway)

Explore the strategic opportunities for programmatic collaborations

- Canadian and Mexican universities (given the recent addition into APLU and potential existing linkages as well as proximity to several NCRA States) (APLU has formed a committee, explore invitations to mini Land-grant meeting)
- Commodity groups in region/nation
- NRCS, Forest Service, BLM, Conservation Districts and others
- 1890, 1994, other institutions
- Protein Highway or Ag Innovation Corridor (I29-I35 and Highway 75 [US and Canada]) (Greg Cuomo exploring opportunities)
- Sun Grant Advisory Group
- Regional Governor's Association or State Departments of Ag/Environment/Natural Resource Agencies (consider integrating NASDA, NACO)

Create new and expand stakeholder assessment, consultation and implementation activities

ACTION: tbd

3. ENHANCE THE NCRA:

Periodic communication (e.g. conference calls or emails) with Executive Committee

- Instituted monthly Executive Committee calls either by phone and/or zoom
- Conduct as needed with NCCEA or other groups

Add value to the region and NCRA brand

- NCRA (and other regions) presence on ESCOP website
- NCRA Website redone in 2011. Future consideration
- An increasing number of LGUs are declining to host 'allied' websites at their institution. Explore the ramifications for those sites that are part of the NC portfolio. Could be connected to 'big data' initiatives.

Budget

- Routine activity

Engage with and build relationships with key groups (USDA NIFA, Cornerstone Government Affairs, APLU)

- CARE Panel Manager (x2)
- Interactions with all levels of administrators, NPLs, staff
- Sightlines National Steering Committee member
- Tactical Sciences Conversation with UMD and NIFA
- Attend NERAOC as a rotation; CARET/AHS and contribute to Congressional one-pagers; Joint COPs; S&T Liaisons
- NIFA webinars; Feedback to NIFA; Preapproval for equipment purchase with capacity funds, Time and Effort reporting

Professional development for AD and ED

- UW and MSU as appropriate; Diversity training; NIFA webinars, NERAOC meeting; SSSC annual meeting, USDA Agricultural Economic Outlook Forum
- Develop plan/ideas for on-going experiences

Promote regional multistate awardees through NCRA action

- Instituted refinement process (with assistance from NC state communication/editor staff for NC nomination prior to national submission)
- Provided signed certificate to all members of the NC regional awardee
- Created letter for MRC Chair to send as feedback to all applicants
- Improved the national call for multistate project nominations and evaluation criteria for S&T review

Regional programs

- Open access data (ESS, NCRA, new NRSP); New LGUs; State and federal budgets; Diversity initiative (NCRA and as ESS initiative); Climate (NC AES/CES discussions and website); Tech transfer faculty feedback experiences (NCRCRD); Unique facilities
- Provide accountability actions with USDA and others (e.g., NIMSS regional lead); NRSP1 AA
- Create initiatives (courses, training, joint committees; discussion with grad program leaders) with graduate students to leverage and grow the NC enterprise; Off-the-top funding mechanisms; Practices and future IP trends with domestic and international markets
- State visit rotations for ED (consider integrating 1994 connections)
- Other themes – water, soil health, hemp, UAS, organic systems (periodic calls), microbiomes, anti-microbial resistance (NC1206, Antibiotic Resistance Roundtable)
- Best Practice Sessions: P&T, TT or NTT faculty (early); Start-up and retention packages; Program redirection, evolution or elimination; Space renovations and (re)allocation; Succession planning with faculty and administration; Creating educational opportunities for faculty, legislators, state agencies, federal officials, upper administration regarding stations/centers and other aspects of unique operation; Working with millennials, Issues with faculty with businesses (e.g. productivity, time and effort, space and equipment rental, Pre- and Post-award services (grant review, workshops); Building and facility security; Teaching workloads and splits; Split-funded positions (university and grower groups/agencies); Diversity hires and spousal accommodations; Pre- and Post-approval grant award services; F&A conversations (institutional distribution, sources [federal, regional, state associations/agencies, foundations, industry], waivers, all with an eye to the future
- Funding alternatives with operations, maintenance, renovations or new construction at centers or stations (e.g. timber, gravel, livestock, stone, farmer-owned, foundation/gifts,

endowments, development professional focus); **Pros and cons of user fees associated with greenhouses** (postponed), labs, centers/station, equipment

- Uses of NIFA capacity funds and leveraging to capture competitive funds
- Professional advancement and best practices exchange for staff and leaders at centers/stations organized as NCCC
- Provide seed money to regional priorities to leverage with external groups and other institutions (Organic, Dairy Research Institute (**on-going discussion more as CES activity**), Climate, Water, Big data, Open Access Data, others)
- Several states conduct a Washington, DC visit for new faculty. Should there be an analogous program for existing faculty and/or NCRA directors?
- Organized state visits for NCRA directors
- Facilitate a service for department/unit reviews (like USDA used to do; recently this has been mentioned as a restart within the agency)

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Item 9.0: MRC Report, July 2017

Presenter: Joe Colletti, MRC Chair

Actions requested:

- For information – project approval summary below
- New MRC member volunteer needed to replace Daniel Scholl
- Comments/discussion on the updated [Call for Nominations](#) for the 2018 ESS Award for Excellence in Multistate Research (see tracked changes below)

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Summary of New and Renewed NCRA Multistate Project Proposals Approved for 10/1/2017 to 9/30/2022

- NC7, Conservation, Management, Enhancement and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources.
- NC1200, Regulation of Photosynthetic Processes.
- NC1201, Methods to Increase Reproductive Efficiency in Cattle.
- NC1202, Enteric Diseases of Food Animals: Enhanced Prevention, Control and Food Safety.
- NC140, Improving Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Tree-Fruit Production Through Changes in Rootstock Use.
- NC170, Personal Protective Technologies for Current and Emerging Occupational and Environmental Hazards.
- NC1198, Renewing an Agriculture of the Middle: Value Chain Design, Policy Approaches, Environmental and Social Impacts.
- (NEW) NC1205, MONARCH BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION.
- (NEW) NC1206, Antimicrobial Resistance.
- NCERA184, Management of Small Grain Diseases.
- NCERA225, Implementation and Strategies for National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation.
- NCERA103, Specialized Soil Amendments and Products, Growth Stimulants and Soil Fertility Management Programs.
- NCERA224, IPM Strategies for Arthropod Pests and Diseases in Nurseries and Landscapes.
- NCERA218, Health, well-being, and economic opportunity for LGBT persons in rural communities.
- NCCC215, Potato Breeding and Genetics Technical Committee.

2017~~8~~ Experiment Station Section Award for Excellence in Multistate Research (~~July 2017~~[September 2016](#))

Purpose

The fundamental mandate of the Multistate Research authority compels State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) to *interdependently* collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority, but for which no one state station could address singularly. Demonstration of interdependence is a high standard, and has become a hallmark of the Multistate Research Program's management objectives.

The purpose of the Experiment Station Section Excellence in Multistate Research Award program is to annually recognize those station scientists who are conducting exemplary multistate activities and enhance the visibility of the multistate program. A recipient Multistate Project will be selected from the pool of nominees submitted by the five regional research associations (NCRA, NERA, SAAESD, WAAESD, and ARD), and judged by the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee to exhibit sustained, meritorious and exceptional multistate research activities. The ESCOP Executive Committee will provide final approval.

Award

The Experiment Station Directors have approved a monetary recognition of \$15,000 from the Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF) for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner. Up to \$5,000 has been available to cover travel for up to two members of the recipient project (the Administrative Advisor and Chair or their designees) to attend the awards ceremony at the APLU Annual Meeting. The remaining \$10,000, and any unused travel funds, has been available to support activities which enhance and contribute to the research and/or outreach objectives of that multistate project, consistent with the appropriate use of Hatch MRF. Use of these funds is a project committee decision made in conjunction with its Administrative Advisor.

Eligibility

Any current Multistate Project (research, ERA, CC) listed in NIMSS (www.nimss.org) is eligible for consideration for an Excellence in Multistate Research Award. The nomination is predominantly based upon the five-year project period.

The Multistate Research authority allows other non-SAES partners to join in these project-based collaborations. Thus, many multistate projects include extension specialists as members, as well as Agricultural Research Service or Forest Service research scientists. In addition, many projects have private sector and non-Land-grant participants. Moreover, the majority of multistate projects have participants from more than a single region, with many having representation from all regions such that they are national in scope.

Basis for Nomination

Each of the five regional research associations may nominate one Multistate Project chosen from the entire national portfolio of active projects. [An individual project can document collaborative activities with one or more different multistate projects, if applicable, within the appropriate nomination criteria.](#) Nominations shall be made to the Chair of the respective regional Multistate ~~Review-Research~~ Committee (MRC) [or Multistate Activities Committee \(MAC\)](#) via the regional Executive Director's office. The documentation for this type of nomination should be sufficient to allow the review committee members to evaluate the Project according to the criteria listed below.

Criteria and Evaluation

Successful selections from regional nominations and advanced to the national competition for the ESS Excellence in Multistate Research Award will demonstrate high standards of scientific quality, research relevance to a regional priority, multistate collaboration on the problem's solution, and professional leadership in the conduct of the project.

All nominated projects, in the required format, shall be evaluated using the same criteria (with weights shown) based on the Project's:

- Issue, problem or situation addressed (5%)
- Objectives (5%)
- Accomplishments as outputs, outcomes and impacts (40%)
- Added-value and synergistic ~~advantages from interdependence~~[activities](#) across mission areas (30%)
- Evidence of multi-institutional and leveraged funding with examples of sources (15%)
- ~~Summary List~~ of participating institutions [and units](#) (5%)

Selection Process

The ESCOP Science and Technology (S&T) Committee will serve as the review panel. The review will select from the annual group of regional nominees a national winner in time for public announcement and award presentation at the APLU Annual Meeting each year. All nominated projects will be evaluated using the same criteria.

Award and Presentation

The national winning project will be recognized by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) Chair and USDA NIFA Administrator during the Awards Program held at the APLU Annual Meeting. Each of the regional award winning projects will be included in the APLU Awards Program by project number and title, technical committee chair, administrative advisor and participating institutions. This National Awardee narrative will be created by the Impact Writer and submitted to S&T Executive Vice-Chair. The title of the national winning project will be added to a plaque located at the USDA Waterfront Center.

Timeline

- October – Announcement sent to Directors and Administrators, Administrative Advisors and NIMSS participants by ESCOP Chair
- February 28 – Nominations due at Offices of the Executive Directors
- March – Nominations reviewed by regional Multistate Research or Multistate Activities Committees and recommendations submitted to regional associations
- March/April – Regional associations approve regional nominations at Spring meetings
- [April](#)/May - Regional associations review, edit and finalize their nomination prior to the final submission
- May ~~2330~~ – Associations submit final regional nominations to ESCOP S&T Committee via the regional association supporting S&T Committee (**pdf and word document**)
- June – ESCOP S&T Committee reviews regional nominations in early June and submits recommendation for national winner to ESCOP Executive Committee
- June/July – ESCOP Executive Committee selects national winner
- July – National winner submitted to APLU and ESCOP Chair announces at Joint COPs
- July/~~August~~– S&T Executive Vice-chair collects information from regional associations and submits materials to APLU for booklet and program script; NIFA notified for Waterfront Center plaque inscription
- September – National winner announced at ESS meeting
- November – National award presentation at APLU Meeting

Nomination Format

(The nomination should be a very concise summary and must be in this format.)

Nominating Region: _____

Nominator: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project or Committee Number and Title: _____

Technical Committee Chair: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Administrative Advisor: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project Summary (noting the following):

- Issue, problem or situation addressed (5%)
- Objectives (5%)
- Accomplishments (40%)
 - Outputs
 - Outcomes
 - Impacts (actual or anticipated)
- Added-value and synergistic [activities across mission areas advantages from interdependencies](#) (30%)
 - Multi-disciplinary activities
 - Multi-functional integrated activities
 - Additional partnerships, associations or collaborations
- Evidence of multi-institutional and leveraged funding with examples of sources (15%)
- Participating institutions [and units](#) (5%) (**page 4 only**)

Nominations will be **no more than 3 single spaced pages** (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) plus a 1 page [summary-list](#) of Participating institutions and units (alphabetized) for a **total of 4 pages**. Regions may utilize other information in selecting their nominee. The final regional nomination should be submitted by email to the Offices of the regional Executive Directors, by **c.o.b. February 28, 2018**:

Chris Hamilton, North Central <christina.hamilton@wisc.edu>

[Dr. Richard Rhodes III, Northeast](#) <rehodes@uri.edu>

[David Leibovitz, Northeast](#) <david_leibovitz@uri.edu>

Donna Pearce, South <donna_pearce@ncsu.edu>

Sarah Lupis, West <Sarah.Lupis@colostate.edu>

Dr. [Alton](#) Thompson, ARD <athompson1@ncat.edu>

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Item 10.0: NRSP Review Committee Update

Presenters: Doug Buhler, Jeff Jacobsen

Link to the NRSP_temp1 updated proposal (coming soon)

Summary of June 5 NRSP-RC Meeting

Midterm review conducted for NRSP3 and NRSP10, both excellent.

Recommendations for NRSP 1 Proposal Modification

1. No changes in NIMSS portion of proposal
2. Retain training component in impact writing portion, but target it specifically and only toward multistate project groups and administrative advisors in order to improve the usable content of multistate reports, particularly the termination report.
3. Consider utilizing various types of distance education, as well as face-to-face training with project groups or subsets, either during their annual meeting or at workshops with representatives of multiple projects.
4. Consider collaborations with communicators and writers in various colleges that are known to be skilled at writing impact statements and solicit their supervisor's support for their involvement in training multistate groups, particularly when it can be done locally.
5. Set benchmarks in the proposal for production of impact statements, training activities, and social media use so that progress can be assessed at the mid-term review.
6. Better define the respective roles and responsibilities of the Communication Specialist, student employee, and Program Director and how their activities are coordinated
7. No changes in the budget from the original proposal

Recommendations for NRSP 1 Steering Committee Actions

1. Consider whether or not the multistate impact writing and communication portion of NRSP 1 should be developed as a separate NRSP proposal at the next project renewal. The NRSP Review Committee would appreciate a recommendation on this question in time for the mid-term review.
2. Continue to encourage NIFA to do the necessary programming to better integrate NIMSS with REEport.

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