



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

Research,  
Education, and  
Economics

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

1400 Independence  
Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

TO: Roger Rennekamp, Director  
Gary Pierzynski, Director

FROM: POW Administrators /s/  
Planning, Accountability & Reporting Staff  
Email: [pow@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:pow@nifa.usda.gov)

SUBJECT: FY2020-2024 Plan of Work Update Review

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture has reviewed the Fiscal Year 2020-2024 Ohio State University Main Campus and University of Ohio Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work Update as required under the Agricultural, Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998. The Plan of Work Update (POW) is accepted. We appreciate your efforts in submitting the POW, which we will use in support of the planning, leadership, and evaluation of NIFA programs.

Ann Lichens Park, National Program Leader, and the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff completed the POW review. The review was based on the criteria published in the Federal Register notice dated January 25, 2006, with additional guidance and on-line training on the POW published on the NIFA AREERA Plan of Work Website (<https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/pow>), and the Plan of Work Review Checklist and Review Summary" you received last reporting year.

The "2020-2024 Plan of Work Review Checklist and Review Summary" from the National Program Leader who reviewed your POW is attached. We hope you find these comments useful and suggest you read them carefully for recommendations and requirements needed to help you in preparing for the next Plan of Work Update, which will come due by April 1, 2020.

You will receive a separate communication from the Office of Grants and Financial Management, concerning any requirement for the submission of the Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension funds, sections 105 and 204 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

We appreciate you working with us to improve our reporting and accountability system as we continue to improve the web-based Plan of Work and Annual Report as part of the overall Research, Education and Extension Reporting System.

If you have questions following your review of our comments, please e-mail your comments to [POW@usda.gov](mailto:POW@usda.gov).

Attachment

cc:  
NIFA State Reviewer



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## NIFA Office of Grants and Financial Management

# 2020 Ohio State University Main Campus and University of Ohio Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work Review

Status: Final

Date: 2019-08-14 19:37:02 UTC

## Plan Overview

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Recommend Approval?

Approve  Return

Executive Summary: The summary follows suggested guidance.

Approve  Return

FTE Estimates: Total FTEs are included for each appropriate institution of the plan.

Review Comments:

The Executive Summary provides a good overview of the current focus of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at the Ohio State University. It notes that CFAES is in the process of developing an updated strategic plan and refreshing its infrastructure. The Executive Summary describes Four Grand Challenges as follows: Sustaining Life; One Health; Rural-Urban Interface; and Leadership. It also describes two critical issues that relate to the four grand challenges. The critical issues are 1) water quality and 2) prescription drug abuse and opioid addiction. The Executive Summary includes estimates of FTEs for 2020 to 2024.

## Merit Review

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Recommend Approval?

Approve  Return

At least one merit and scientific review process is described.

Review Comments:

The section on Merit/Peer Review Process describes the CFAES Research Competitive Grants Program, and an external review of the 4-H Youth Development program that was recently completed by OSU Extension.

## Stakeholder Input

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Recommend Approval?

Approve  Return

Describes what action(s) will be taken to seek stakeholder input that encourages stakeholder participation.

Approve  Return

Describes what method(s) will be used to identify groups and individuals from whom to collect input.

Approve  Return

Describes what method(s) will be used for collecting stakeholder input.

Approve  Return

Describes how input collected will be considered in program planning.

Review Comments:

The Stakeholder Input section notes that both formal and informal methods are used to seek stakeholder input and encourage stakeholder participation. Advisory committees are used to identify new stakeholders, to discuss current programs and to gather input for future directions and planning. Additionally, electronic messaging, social media, webinars, blogging and interactive group messaging systems are used, allowing more stakeholders to provide input. In 2018, OSU Extension did a county-based statewide needs assessment survey, which will be expanded on. The Farm Science Review (FSR) is Ohio's premiere agricultural event. CFAES uses the FSR to add to their clientele list, knowledge of needs, and feedback on impacts and outputs. CFAES uses surveys and panels to collect stakeholder input. They use public media to advertise events for the general public. OSUE routinely performs community needs and health assessments. Stakeholder input influences hiring decisions, shifts in priorities and resource allocations for both budgeting and strategic planning.

## Critical Issues

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Recommend Approval?

Approve  Return

Critical Issues are appropriate for the state, include relevant Science Emphasis Area associations, and have an appropriate term (i.e., Short-Term, Intermediate, or Long-Term).

Review Comments:

The Critical Issues section focuses on 1) Health and Wellness, 2) Economic Vitality, 3) Food Security and Production, 4) Environmental Quality and Sustainability and 5) Thriving Across the Lifespan.

These are each important issues that are appropriate for Ohio. They include relevant Science Emphasis Areas for each Critical Issue. The each have a long-term focus, which seems appropriate.

## **General Recommendations**

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Recommend Approval?

Review Comments:

The Ohio State University's Plan of Work is concise and contains all of the required information. It provides an appropriate picture of CFAES' merit review processes and CFAES' methods to identify, collect and use stakeholder input. The Plan of Work describes Critical Issues that seem appropriate for Ohio.