



Introduction to the Federal Budget Process and CSREES Funding

CSREES Administrative Officers' Conference
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Very First Disclaimer

- Traditionally, the CSREES Budget Officer, Tina Buch, speaks on the federal budget process.
- Unfortunately, she cannot be here, so you are stuck with me. But Tina knows many of you, and sends her regards.



Federal Budget Process

Timeline stays the same from year to year...usually.

But as we all have seen recently, sometimes the process varies:

In FY 2007, we had a full-year continuing resolution.

And...



More on the Budget Process

CSREES has just finished with Congressional Hearings on the FY 2009 Budget request. We are awaiting “Q and A’s” from the Congress.

Normally, while we addressed details on the next fiscal year, we would be developing the frame of the budget that is two years away...2010.



Federal Budget Process (continued)

BUT...

For FY 2010, we won't submit a budget
until the next administration asks us
to.



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- Appropriations...October 1 (but note that Congress doesn't usually get this done on time. In FY 2007, we didn't even have a full-year continuing resolution until February 15, 2007; in 2008, our appropriation was signed December 26, 2007.



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- OMB Passback (Late November)...often the day after Thanksgiving...if all were normal, this would be for FY 2010
- President's 2010 Budget due to Congress no later than the first Monday in February, 2009



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- AND FINALLY (sort of*)
- Appropriation hearings...February, March, April...Spring break
- * The process really never ends...Hearings on a given year are followed by Agency Estimates being due for the following year, and so on, and on, and on....



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- Who are the key players in the budget process?
- OMB
- Secretary of Agriculture
- OBPA
- REE Under Secretary
- CSREES Administrator



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- What is the role of stakeholders in the budget process?
- When can stakeholders provide input?
- Why aren't budgets larger?
- Why doesn't the CSREES budget mirror the budget recommendations of stakeholders like NASULGC?



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- MORE QUESTIONS!
- What is the budget “passback” or “allowance?”
- Can CSREES appeal its passback?
- What is the responsibility of a Federal employee in the budget process?



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- Why doesn't CSREES share all the details with its staff and stakeholders prior to the release of the budget in February? And what does it mean that the budget is "Behind the Curtain?"
- What if I file a Freedom of Information Act request to get this budget information?



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- What are the differences among an appropriation, an authorization, and a budget resolution?



Federal Budget Process (continued)

So, where are we now in the process?

- FY2008: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161) passed on 12/26/07. Included a 0.7 % rescission, and restored earmarked Special Grants and Federal Administration research and extension grants.



Federal Budget Process (continued)

- FY 2009: budget request was released on February 4th; it emphasizes competitive programs, continues to support interagency collaborations, and supports such high priority issues as biofuels, agrosecurity, invasive species, higher education programs, minority serving programs, et al.

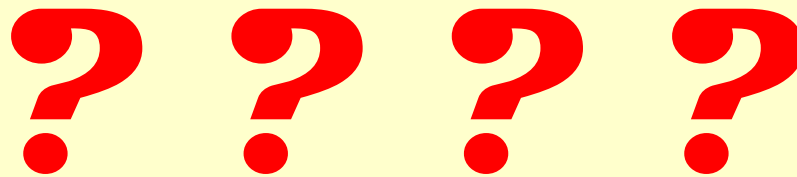


The LAST Budget Process Slide!

- FY2010: we are planning for 2010 now, but remember: for this year, we will wait for a new President before we submit our request.



QUESTIONS?





Interlude

A jumper-cable walks into a bar.

The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."



ON TO FUNDING!

- FINE...WE HAVE AN APPROPRIATION...WHAT DOES CSREES DO WITH ALL THAT MONEY?



Who Does CSREES Fund?

- You (or, at least, your institution.)
- ...and lots of other eligible persons and organizations. Eligibility varies from program to program.



What Does CSREES Fund?

The mission of CSREES is *to advance knowledge.*

- We believe that we can do this best by enabling others to conduct research, extension, and education activities.
- So...we fund research, extension, and education programs that tend to advance knowledge in agriculture.



Three Types of Funding

- Competitive...National Research Initiative, for example
- Formula...Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c), for example
- Congressionally Directed funding...these are the “special” projects that Congress inserts into the CSREES budget...Earmarks.



Another Disclaimer!

- There is enough of this stuff to put you to sleep easily...but we don't want that.
- So...go to <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/> and click on “Funding Opportunities”

Fine...let's talk about a few selected programs from each type of funding.



Competitive

- Big example: the National Research Initiative...\$191 million in FY 2008.
- Small example: Methyl Bromide Transition Program...\$3.1 million in FY08.



Other Competitive Programs

- Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers
- Food Safety Initiative (“406 authority”)
- International Science and Education Grants Program (“non-406 integrated activity.”)



Formula

- Big Example...Hatch Research...\$195 million in FY 2008
- Small Example...Section 1433 Animal Health and Disease...\$5 million in FY08.



Other Formula Programs

- Evans-Allen Research
- Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c)
- Extension for 1890 Institutions
- McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research



Earmarks

- We don't like them, because they tend to address limited audiences, and because in a zero-sum budget environment they reduce resources for everyone else.
- But once we have them, they get subjected to the same rigorous treatment as any of our other grant programs...



In Summary

THINK

“3”



Think “3”

3 Partners

- Federal
- State
- Local



Think “3”

3 Functions

- Research
- Education
- Extension



Think “3”

3 Major Types of Funding

- Formula
- Competitive
- Earmarks



The Bottom Line

Regardless of the type of program, or the means of funding, or which partners are involved, the purpose is always the same: “...to advance knowledge.”



Thank you!