REE Moving Into 2015

- Presidential Initiatives
- Farm Bill Updates
- 2015 Budget Update
Presidential Initiatives

• Focus on challenges to agricultural production
  – Pollinators
  – Climate Change impacts – drought, pests

• Animal and human health
  – Anti-microbial resistance
  – Alternatives to antibiotics for herd and flock health
Pollinators

- On-going investment by all 4 REE agencies in pollinators and bee health
- Presidential Initiative to Coordinate responses to Pollinator Loss
- Within USDA: NRCS, ARS, NIFA, ERS, NASS, Forest Service
- Focus is on practices on working lands and natural systems - research solutions and BMP
- Draft National Strategy is due December 20, 2014
Seven Regional Climate Hubs

...and two sub-hubs – in CA focusing on specialty crops and in Puerto Rico
USDA Regional Climate Hubs will provide:

- Technical Support
- Assessments and Forecasts
- Outreach and Education

USDA will work with Federal Partners:

- National Climate Assessment
- NOAA’s Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program
- DOI’s Climate Science Centers
- DOI’s Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
Anti-Microbial Resistance

- Anti-microbial resistance is emerging globally
- Impacts can be on animal husbandry and human health
- White House has issued Executive Order and created a Task Force to plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistant Bacteria (CARB)
- USDA has a key role – Secretary is member of the Task Force
- USDA One-Health Working Group is coordinator
Farm Bill – Implications & Implementation
Leveraging Federal Dollars

- Research title of the 2014 Farm Bill includes four different approaches to encourage greater partnerships to leverage Federal funds
  - Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (more on that from Board Member Johnson);
  - Centers of Excellence;
  - Matching Funds; and
  - Commodity Promotion Boards and AFRI
Centers of Excellence

• Requires NIFA to prioritize funding to institutions and entities that self-organize as ‘Centers of Excellence’
• NIFA is currently developing processes to recognize these Centers and determine how prioritized funding would work
Matching Funds

- Requires every recipient of a large list of NIFA’s competitive grant to match dollar for dollar except those instructions that receive ‘capacity and infrastructure’ funds including:
  - Land-grant institutions (1862, 1890, or 1994);
  - Non-exempted institutions that partner with a land-grant institution;
  - Non-land-grant colleges of agriculture;
  - Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities;
  - Recipients of McIntire-Stennis cooperative forestry funds; or
  - Research agencies of USDA
Matching Funds

• Will apply to grant programs beginning in FY 2015
• NIFA has developed guidance materials which will be released shortly
• NAREEE Advisory Board established national priorities, using the priorities established in the 2014 REE Action Plan, for a potential waiver by the Secretary
• FY 15 ‘Cromnibus” passed and this provision is waived for AFRI - ONLY
Commodity Promotion Boards & AFRI

- NIFA accepts suggestions on topics for AFRI grants from national, state, and local commodity boards
- If NIFA chooses to run a competition on the suggested topic, the commodity board must provide an equal match of funds available
- NIFA is currently seeking input on the mechanics of how this would work
2015 Budget Update

- Cromnibus is still being analyzed
- ARS, NIFA and ERS received slight increases
  - These increases appear to cover prior mandated costs.
- On a positive note, ARS did receive an appropriation for buildings and facilities.
Moving Forward

• The message that USDA research never made the UP escalator is getting attention.
• We still need to make the facts clear
• The recently introduced Unified Message – Elevating Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Research as a National Priority is very important for our future
• The next slide shows 1990 to 2014.
As usual it has been a pleasure to address you

THANK YOU