NIFA Reporting System   
Project Initiation

NIFA has a new reporting system called NRS. This document will help complete the information in NRS in order to submit the initiation for college and NIFA review. There is also a guidance document PDF Guide for PDs that NIFA provides. Some fields have character limits and those are noted. Contact Terri Fayle ([tfayle@ksu.edu](mailto:tfayle@ksu.edu), 2-7255) with questions.

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| **Logging in to NIFA's NRS**   * Navigate to [nrs.nifa.usda.gov](https://nrs.nifa.usda.gov/). * Your User ID is your email address you used to create your eAuth account. There is an option to reset password if needed. * Once logged in you should see the Dashboard which contains tiles for at least Projects & Programs but may also include others. * NIFA hasn’t yet developed a User Guide for this new system. | Use this column to enter your information to be copied/pasted into NRS later. Some expected information has been prepopulated (Summary and Methodology). |
| **Creating the Project Initiation**   * On the Projects & Programs tile, click Add Project/Program. |  |
| **Funding Source**   * Funding Source – select one from the dropdown, if unsure contact Terri   + Research Capacity Funding (Hatch)   + Research Capacity Funding (Hatch Multistate) (add’l fields show up, choose your project)   + Animal Health and Disease Research   + McIntire-Stennis   + Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) |  |
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| **Primary Critical Issue**   * KAES has identified 5 critical issues, you will find them listed at the end of this document. Please choose the most accurate critical issue for your project. If nothing fits, you will have to choose something. You should also contact Dr. Draper so he can make edits to the CI’s in the future. * Not needed on AHDR, McIntire-Stennis. |  |
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| **Organizational Project Number**   * Prefix – will always be KS * Number – Enter something temporary (like TBD) and Terri will edit later. |  |
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| **Title – 175 characters**   * Insert project title. If MultiState, duplicate multistate title exactly. |  |
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| **Start Date**   * Choose today, or 10/1 if your project starts in the future. | 10/01/2022 |
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| **End Date**   * For MultiState, choose the end date corresponding to the regional project. For Hatch, choose 9/30 of the year you want to end the project. The longest a project can go is five years, but they don’t have to. | 09/30/2027 (flexible if you need shorter project) |
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| **Project Director**   * That’s you! 😉 |  |
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| **Performing Department**   * Choose your department name, the field does have search capabilities. Code will auto-populate. |  |
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| **Non-Technical Summary – 8000 characters**   * In lay terms and **labeled headered** sections. * This is the information NIFA shares most broadly. * If this is a Multistate project, the objectives are already identified in the regional version of the Multistate project and imported here. Check the box for the objectives you will work on.   **Objectives are not required for Multistate projects, they are listed elsewhere** | **Issue and why it is important**  **Goal Statement**  **Objectives**  **Target audiences and how they will benefit**  **How activities lead to the outcomes described in the goal statement or objectives** |
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| **Methodology – 8000 characters**   * **For each objective**, describe the ways in which the project will be conducted, with emphasis on the general scientific methods and any unique aspects or significant departures from usual methods. | **Objective 1**  **Objective 2**  **Objective 3, keep adding objectives if needed** |
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| **Integrated Activities – 4000 characters**   * This is a very important field for the Ag Expt Station, particularly for Multistate projects. If your project results in Extension outcomes as well as Research outcomes, **please** select Yes and describe. An Extension appointment is not required to say Yes. Extension Activity = delivering science-based knowledge to people outside of the traditional classroom, enabling them to make practical decisions. Some funding types do not ask this question, if the box is absent, ignore this. |  |
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| **Research Effort Categories**   * Insert Basic vs. Applied percentages. **One entry must be at least 51%.** |  |
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| **Animal Health Percentage**   * Zero, unless you are specifically under Animal Health and Disease Research. Do not enter percent for Hatch, Hatch Multistate, McIntire-Stennis. |  |
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| **Multistate Activities – 4000 characters**   * This field is only used by Hatch Multistate projects which are recorded in NIMSS. Not used for McStennis, Hatch, Animal Health. * Select Yes or No. If you select Yes, additional fields are exposed. * Insert in the Description field:   + A description of what makes this a multistate activity (1-2 sentences). List investigators and their objectives from the multistate project. Identify the multistate project number. |  |
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| **Classifications**   * This section is difficult to complete in a Word doc. You choose options from a drop down. Three dropdowns and one percentage make up one entry. The best option is to login and select these options, or you can review the [Manual of Classification](https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/MANUAL%20OF%20CLASSIFICATION.pdf). Percent must total 100%. You can enter as many lines as you like.  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Line** | **Knowledge Area** | **Subject of Investigation** | **Field of Science** | **Percent** | | 1 |  |  |  |  | | 2 |  |  |  |  | | 3 |  |  |  |  | | 4 |  |  |  |  | | |
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| **Assurances**   * If Human Subjects are involved, you will need:   + Exemption number, for exempt projects   + protocol approval date from committee * If Animal Subjects are involved, you will need:   + Protocol approval date from committee |  |

**Critical Issue Definitions**

**Global Food Systems**

As the state's largest employer, agriculture drives the Kansas economy. In 2020, the agricultural industry contributed $70.3 billion to the Kansas economy. Agriculture is the largest employer in the state, with 250,058 people accounting for 13 percent of the entire workforce. We are improving food and agricultural systems to feed the world's growing population, which will economically benefit Kansas.

To feed and sustain a growing population, K-State Research and Extension is focused on developing innovative practices to help farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses improve profitability, efficiency and sustainability for Kansas, our nation and the world through cutting-edge research in areas such as genetics, disease prevention, food security and farm bill education.

Projects and programs would include:

* Developing and testing new crop, vegetable, and tree varieties;
* Reducing food waste caused by insects, poor storage, and processing techniques;
* Creating sustainable agricultural systems that intensify productivity;
* Identifying ways to maintain cattle rangeland threatened by variations in climate;
* Leading national and international teams to solve global food issues;
* Helping families stretch their food dollars.

**Water**

Water quality in central and eastern Kansas and water quantity in western Kansas are important issues. Current irrigation trends could deplete 69 percent of the groundwater in the Ogallala Aquifer within 50 years, drastically affecting the Kansas economy. Sediment and silt are washing into large reservoirs that supply drinking water and recreation to many Kansans.

To ensure future generations have a reliable source of clean water, our focus will be to develop and implement programs to help Kansans maintain and improve water quality and quantity. These include pioneering new practices and techniques; researching high-priority water issues; facilitating meetings among local, state and federal officials and effectively communicating research results.

Projects and programs would include:

* Breeding new drought-tolerant crop varieties that can be used for human and pet food, livestock feed, and fuel.
* Developing more efficient irrigation and water monitoring systems for home and farm use.
* Reducing runoff and sedimentation into reservoirs.
* Improving livestock genetics to increase feeding efficiency, which reduces feed and water needs.
* Working with the State of Kansas and partnering with stakeholders to implement strategies identified in the 50- year Vision for the Future of Water Plan.

**Health**

Thirty-five percent of Kansas adults are obese, and 16.7 percent of Kansas children live in poverty. Targeting the diversity of Kansans, our programs address quality of life, healthy development and healthy behaviors across life stages for all socioeconomic groups.

Projects and programs would include:

* Identifying and implementing practices to help prevent adult and childhood obesity
* Providing options to help families and practitioners understand health-care choices for elderly Kansans.
* Sharing unbiased information about national changes in health insurance requirements.
* Educating consumers on safe food handling with food preparation, food preservation, food service and more.

**Community Vitality**

Kansas communities face many challenges that demand leadership in an arena of increasing complexity and contention. Research indicates that building community leadership capacity is critical to community viability and sustainability (Flora and Flora, 2008; Green and Haines, 2008). Residents who are connected and invested in their local community are more likely to connect to their community throughout life. KSRE will work to help citizens and communities - whether rural, suburban or urban - grow and prosper.

Projects and programs would include:

* Helping communities of all sizes maintain necessary services, such as grocery stores, that hire locally and generate local sales tax.
* Working directly with farmers, ranchers and families to develop better financial management practices.
* Engaging community groups and local businesses by providing leadership, research-based expertise and technical assistance to make communities better places to live and work.

**Developing Tomorrow's Leaders**

The complex global society of the future will require leaders with effective teamwork and communication skills. We need to prepare leaders of all ages, so they may contribute to a vibrant Kansas economy for years to come.

Projects and programs would include:

* Establishing a national model for bringing ethnically diverse families to 4-H
* Adding value to the economy, 4-H members are twice as likely to attend college and pursue careers in science, engineering and computer technology.
* Meeting the needs of military youth and their families at Kansas military installations and families of deployed members of the National Guard and Army Reserve
* Training Kansans of all ages to be better citizens and leaders.