**Message from Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education**

**CFAES & Sustainability**

Note: Over the past year, as part of my duties as President of the American Society of Agronomy, I have written a number of articles for the society magazine, CSA News. Some of these articles may be of interest to the CFAES research community. The following originally appeared in the July 2019 CSA News, presented here with permission, and has been modified slightly to address the CFAES community more directly.

I occasionally hear questions as to what degree CFAES research should be involved in sustainability. My thesis is that we are, and should be, deeply involved in this topic and our engagement needs to expand as the topic gains importance. There are two primary reasons people may question our efforts in sustainability. The first is that it is a complicated topic involving many tradeoffs and, as a whole, it is difficult to quantify. The use of nitrogen fertilizer is a good example of this conundrum. The production and use of nitrogen fertilizer utilizes nonrenewable resources and potentially contributes to global climate change and the degradation of water resources. Conversely, nitrogen fertilizers enhance carbon capture by soil, thus reducing erosion among other benefits, and increasing crop yields, thereby reducing the land base required to produce adequate food. It is difficult to determine the net effect, particularly when such tradeoffs exist for other crop production practices as well.

The second reason is the increasingly common use of sustainability claims as marketing tools for many products, some legitimate and others perhaps not. One could conclude that the science doesn't matter, so why should we bother. Some view sustainability as an “either or” proposition when in reality it is a continuum where a practice or set of practices can move you along the continuum toward a higher degree of sustainability. Sustainability is sometimes conflated with programs such as the USDA certified organic designation, which is an “either or” proposition, but practices that increase sustainability may or may not fulfill the requirements for the certified organic designation, and vice versa. There are substantial education needs!

The recent report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services provides a big picture view of the importance of sustainability. Nearly 1 million species are at significant risk of extinction due to pressures of a growing human population on natural resources. Business as usual is not a viable strategy and CFAES will continue to contribute to identifying alternatives.

One can use the certified organic designation as an example of why we should be deeply involved in sustainability. Persons or organizations with expertise in vegetable production, for example, should be knowledgeable about tillage options, pest and disease control, fertility, and genetics, including practices that meet the certified organic designation, much like we should be knowledgeable of where such practices fall on the sustainability continuum. Thus, the complexity of sustainability, and the commercial use of the concept, presents many researchable topics and a demand for sustainability to be included across all of the land-grant mission areas. Given the breadth of our expertise and favorable environment for interdisciplinary work, sustainability is one of our strengths and I encourage your contributions to the science and education efforts.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

FFAR NEW INNOVATOR IN FOOD & AGRICULTURE RESEARCH—Copy & Paste: https://orapps.osu.edu/fundops/opportunity/4372
FFAR is seeking nominations for its 2020 New Innovator in Food and Agriculture Research Award. This program intends to support and promote the future generation of exceptionally talented and creative new faculty who are conducting critical and highly innovative research—no matching is required. ONE (1) nominated applicant from an institution may apply, therefore the Office of Research is holding an internal limited submission competition.
Deadline: February 10, 2020

THE INITIATIVE FOR FOOD AND AGRIcULTURAL TRANSFORMATION (InFACT), LINKAGE AND LEVERAGE SEED GRANT PROGRAM
The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) invites you to submit proposals for our Linkage and Leverage seed grant program. Teams of faculty, staff, students, and external partners may apply. There will be three deadlines for proposal submission. Proposals for the Winter cycle are due 2/14/2020.
Deadline: February 14, 2020

SEEDS: THE CFAES RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM, PARTNERSHIP COMPETITION (ROUND 2)
Proposals to the SEEDS Partnership Competition should initiate projects in collaboration with industry and nonprofit foundations or other nontraditional sources of funding. The Partnership Competition allows for CFAES researchers to develop effective and productive relationships with industry and community partners, engage in innovative research, generate additional private- and public-sector support for their research programs, and promote technology transfer between the University and partner.
Deadline: February 26, 2020

GROWING RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES (GRO) - COPY AND PAST THIS LINK: https://orapps.osu.edu/fundops/opportunity/4342
The Office of Research has launched a multi-faceted program to help position Ohio State for research excellence in new areas. Phase one of Growing Research Opportunities (GRO) includes funding for ideation workshops and futures workshops to support interdisciplinary research teams developing ideas for new funding pursuits. Workshop proposals will be accepted to March 2. Interested teams should contact the Research Development Office at 614-292-8170 to discuss ideas prior to submission. Virtual and in-person information sessions are offered on Feb. 13, 2020.
Deadline: March 2, 2020

NEW SEEDS: THE CFAES RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM, EMERGING NEEDS PROPOSALS
The new Emerging Needs program provides funding for areas of research that directly support CFAES stakeholders and for which current external funding is limited or not yet available. The program will also consider funding projects that allow faculty to learn or develop new techniques or approaches that will position CFAES to better serve stakeholders or make faculty more competitive for future funding opportunities. An area of emphasis will be selected each year by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education in consultation with the CFAES Research Advisory Committee and CFAES leadership (chairs, associate deans, and dean/VP). The Fiscal Year 2020 program is described below. Please read this carefully to ensure projects submitted in response to this request fall within the 2020 program objective.

Fiscal Year 2020 Objective: Fund new and applied research in direct support of addressing critical issues affecting one or more commercial agricultural products important for Ohio and for which external funding is not readily available or adequate to support CFAES stakeholders. Preference will be given to projects that: (1) identify solutions to problems that can be directly and immediately implemented by producers, or (2) represent commercial agricultural products for which no or limited funding opportunities exist.

Example projects would include, but are not limited to, soil fertility, insect, disease, pest, or weed issues with fruits, vegetables, berries, hemp, or other specialty crops in conventional or organic production systems.
Deadline: March 2, 2020

EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

MULTI-STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH OR EXTENSION PROJECTS - NORTH CENTRAL REGION
The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development at Michigan State University announces a competition for two seed grants aimed at enhancing the ability of Land Grant institutions to positively influence the quality of life in rural areas of the twelve-state North Central region of the United States.
Deadline: February 10, 2020

THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
The U.S. EPA is seeking applications under a newly developed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant program focused on keeping trash out of the Great Lakes. Funding categories include: (1) trash removal projects at beaches and other recreation areas, shorelines, coastal wetlands, harbors, river mouths, and riparian corridors immediately adjacent to the Great Lakes and (2) trash removal projects which include the use of devices/ machinery to remove trash from the Great Lakes river mouths and harbors. Approximately $2 million is available through the Trash-Free Great Lakes program to fund up to 13 projects.
Deadline: February 14, 2020
**ARPA-SYSTEMS FOR MONITORING AND ANALYTICS FOR RENEWABLE TRANSPORTATION FUELS FROM AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT (SMARTFARM)**

The SMARTFARM program seeks to develop monitoring technologies to quantify feedstock-related emissions and enable new market incentives for efficiency in feedstock production and carbon management.

**Concept Paper Deadline: February 19, 2020, 9:30 AM ET**

**WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATHEMATICS FIELDS PROGRAM (WAMS)**

NIFA requests applications for WAMS to support research and extension activities that increase the number of women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas who will pursue and complete a postsecondary degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) disciplines. NIFA requests applications for the WAMS program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 or FY 2021. The anticipated amount available for grants in both years is approximately $400,000.

**Deadline: February 24, 2020.**

**FFAR 2020 SEEDING SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM**

FFAR is now accepting pre-proposal applications for the Foundation’s flagship competitive program that funds research solutions in FFAR’s six Challenge Areas in collaboration with unique partners. Every year, FFAR funds at least one proposal in each Challenge Area, awarding grantees up to $1 million. Seeding Solutions grantees are required to provide matching funds from non-federal sources and identify an innovation that addresses an intractable problem in food and agriculture within one of FFAR’s Challenge areas, with a public service aim of making data open and accessible.

**Pre-Proposal Due: February 26, 2020**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES**

The Capacity Building Program for Study Abroad, also known as the IDEAS Program (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) will award approximately 21 grants of up to $35,000 each to U.S. colleges and universities for projects that create, increase, or diversify study abroad programming for U.S. undergraduate students.

**Deadline: February 28, 2020**

**THE INTERNATIONAL CUT FLOWER GROWERS ASSOCIATION AND ITS RESEARCH ARM, THE JOSEPH H. HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

All interested parties should submit research proposals on fresh cut flowers for funding consideration during the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 fiscal year. Proposals must deal with cut flowers and may range from culture, including plant management through pruning and pinching, to marketing and production management studies. Of particular interest to cut flower growers is research on the control of downy mildew and mealy bugs (environmental, chemical, biological), as well as general biological control of greenhouse pests. Contact the gdsu@osu.edu for the RFP.

**Deadline: February 29, 2020**

**BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BFRDP)**

NIFA requests applications for the BFRDP for FY20 funding to support the delivery of education, mentoring, and technical assistance programs to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the U.S. with entering, establishing, building, and managing successful farm and ranch enterprises. The anticipated amount available for Standard and Educational Team grants in FY 2020 is approximately $14 million.

**Pre-Proposal Deadline: March 19, 2020**

**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE - FOUNDATIONAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE (AFRI-FAS)**

The AFRI-FAS requests applications for grants in six Farm Bill priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. Priority areas include: (1) Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; (2) Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; (3) Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; (4) Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; (5) Agriculture Systems and Technology; and (6) Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. The RFA also includes eight specific priorities for co-funding with the American Pulse Association, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, The Cotton Board, Kansas Wheat Commission, The National Honey Board, and USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council.

**Deadline: Varies by Program, See RFA**

**FULBRIGHT COMMISSION IN URUGUAY**

A three-month fully funded opportunity for U.S. students pursuing master's and Ph.D. degrees in viticulture, viniculture, agriculture or related fields. This fully-funded program will support two U.S. students for research and internships with National Institute of Agricultural Research, focused on the wine industry in Uruguay.

**Deadline: April 30, 2020**

**THE CONSERVATION, FOOD AND HEALTH FOUNDATION**

The Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation seeks to protect natural resources, improve the production and distribution of food, and promote public health in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. The foundation helps build the capacity of organizations and coalitions with grants that support research or improve the learning and generation of local solutions to complex problems.

The foundation supports projects that demonstrate local leadership and promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences; develop the capacity of local organizations; and address a particular problem or question in the field. It prefers to support projects that address under-funded issues and geographic areas.

**Required Letter of Intent/Pre-Application Deadline: July 1, 2020 | Proposal Deadline: September 3, 2020**
NEWS

Register for the CFAES Annual Research Conference
The 2020 CFAES Annual Research Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at the Shisler Conference Center 1680 Madison Ave Wooster, Ohio 44691. Transportation will be provided for free from Columbus Campus to Wooster Campus. Questions: Amy Glaze glaze.41@osu.edu 614-688-1551 (Register here)

NIFA Informed Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)
In accordance with General Provision 762 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. 116-94), NIFA will be waiving the match requirement for recipients of grants under SCRI. This means that no matching funds will be required of FY 2020 applicants or awardees, and applicants will not need to submit a waiver request with their application.

Plan Ahead
Beginning October 1, 2020, the federal government will no longer consider standard driver licenses and identification cards as sufficient forms of identification for air travel. TSA will require a federally compliant driver license, identification card or another acceptable form of identification (such as a US passport or military ID) to fly within the U.S.

Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)
The Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP), sponsored by the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), is a gateway to graduate education at Big Ten research universities. SROP helps prepare undergraduates for graduate study through intensive research experiences with faculty mentors and enrichment activities. Opportunity is open to rising undergraduates with a GPA above 3.0. Deadline to apply is 2/10/20. Learn more, here.

Audit Topic: Effort Certification
In Spring 2019, Internal Audit conducted an audit of CFAES research activities. One of the issues highlighted in the audit report was a misstated time and effort certification (eCert). It was recommended that procedures and controls be strengthened within CFAES to ensure future compliance with University policy and Federal regulations. Read more about the audit findings, here.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). All departments and labs should display the required poster, which can be found here.

ARPA-E SCALEUP Program Webinar
ARPA-E intends to host a webinar to provide an overview of the Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP) FOA and review the role of investors and potential partners. The webinar will be held on February 24, 2020, at 1:00 PM EST. If you are interested in attending, please register here. Kindly note that the webinar conversation will not be geared toward FOA applicants, but rather towards their potential partners.

RECENT AWARDS
Laura Lindsey—HCS, Scott Demyan, Klaus Lorenz, & Rattan Lal—SENR; $1,494,969: To research the development and evaluation of pathways to net-zero emission agriculture and cropping systems, Sloan (Alfred P) Foundation.
Anne Dorrance & Feng Qu—Plant Path, Leah McHale—HCS; $771,597: Developing the perfect molecular markers and new germplasm for rapid incorporation of resistance to soil borne pathogens of soybean, SmithBucklin.
Kelly Tilmon, Andy Michel, & Reed Johnson—Entomology; $563,406: Soybean entomology research and extension in the North Central Region, North Central Soybean Research Program.
Sayeed Mehmood, SENR; $482,011: Leveraging education and research to promote maple syrup production in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.
Jackie Kirby Wilkins, Extension; $274,961: Opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery, USDA Rural Development.