

(9) New and emerging issues, facing farmers and ranchers, including climate change and changing world markets.

(10) Conservation assistance.

(11) Risk management education.

(12) Diversification and marketing strategies.

(13) Curriculum development.

(14) Understanding the impact of concentration and globalization.

(15) Basic livestock and crop farming practices, forestry and range management.

(16) Acquisition and management of agricultural credit.

(17) Environmental compliance.

(18) Information processing.

(19) Other similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers or ranchers.

CSREES may include additional activities or focus areas that further address the critical needs of beginning farmers and ranchers as defined in this subpart. Some of these activities or focus areas may be identified by stakeholder groups or by CSREES in response to emerging critical needs of the Nation's farmers and ranchers.

(b) *Other BFRDP Projects.* In addition to the competitive grants made under paragraph (a) of this section, competitive awards (grants or cooperative agreements) will be made:

(1) to establish beginner farmer and rancher educational enhancement projects that develop curricula and conduct educational programs and workshops for beginning farmers or ranchers in diverse geographical areas of the United States; and

(2) to establish and maintain an on-line clearinghouse.

§ 3430.605 Funding restrictions.

(a) *Facility costs.* Funds made available under this subpart shall not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

(b) *Indirect costs.* Subject to § 3430.5460, indirect costs are allowable.

(c) *Participation by other farmers and ranchers.* Projects may allow farmers and ranchers who are not beginning farmers and ranchers to participate in the programs funded under this subpart if their participation is appropriate and will not detract from the primary pur-

pose of educating beginning farmers and ranchers as defined under this subpart.

§ 3430.606 Matching requirements.

(a) *Requirement.* Awardees are required to provide a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions in an amount at least equal to 25 percent of the Federal funds provided by the award. The matching funds must be from non-Federal sources except when authorized by statute. The matching requirements under this subpart cannot be waived.

(b) *Indirect costs.* Use of indirect costs as in-kind matching contributions is subject to § 3430.52.

§ 3430.607 Stakeholder input.

CSREES shall seek and obtain stakeholder input through a variety of forums (*e.g.*, public meetings, request for input and/or via Web site), as well as through a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, from the following entities:

(a) Beginning farmers and ranchers.

(b) National, State, tribal, and local organizations, community-based organizations, and other persons with expertise in operating beginning farmer and rancher programs.

(c) The Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers established under section 5 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. 1929 note; Pub. L. 102-554).

§ 3430.608 Review criteria.

(a) *Evaluation criteria.* CSREES shall evaluate project proposals according to the following factors:

(1) Relevancy.

(2) Technical merit.

(3) Achievability.

(4) The expertise and track record of one or more applicants.

(5) The adequacy of plans for the participatory evaluation process, outcome-based reporting, and the communication of findings and results beyond the immediate target audience.

(6) Other appropriate factors, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) *Partnership and collaboration.* In making awards under this subpart, CSREES shall give priority to partnerships and collaborations that are led by