§ 3430.311 Allocation of research funds.

(a) Fundamental research. Of the amount allocated by the Director for research, not less than 60 percent shall be used to make grants for fundamental research (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971)).

(1) Research by multidisciplinary teams. Of the amount allocated by the Director for fundamental research under this paragraph (a), not less than 30 percent shall be made available to make grants for research to be conducted by multidisciplinary teams.

(2) Equipment grants. Of the amount allocated by the Director for fundamental research under this paragraph (a) not more than 2 percent shall be used for equipment grants.

(b) Integrated programs. Not less than 30 percent of funds allocated to AFRI each fiscal year shall be used to fund integrated programs.

(c) FASE awards.

(1) Each fiscal year, a percentage of AFRI funding (no less than 10 percent of the available funding) will be awarded as FASE awards. This percentage requirement may be adjusted by the Secretary based upon priorities and stakeholder input.

(2) The Secretary shall use not less than 25 percent of the funds made available for FASE grants to provide fellowships to outstanding pre- and postdoctoral students for research in the agricultural sciences.

(d) Rapid Response Food and Agricultural Science for Emergency Issues Awards. The Secretary may allocate some funding to address emergency issues in the food and agricultural sciences as determined by the Secretary. Letters of intent and applications may be requested, as appropriate. Although the solicitation and award processes may be expedited for these awards, NIFA will adhere to AFRI peer review and competitive requirements of this subpart.

§ 3430.312 Emphasis on sustainable agriculture.

NIFA shall ensure that grants made under this subpart are, where appropriate, consistent with the development of systems of sustainable agriculture as defined in section 1404 of NARETPA.

Subpart H—Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

SOURCE: 75 FR 54761, Sept. 9, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3430.400 Applicability of regulations.


§ 3430.401 Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this program is to make competitive grants, in consultation with the Advisory Board, to support research and extension activities regarding organically grown and processed agricultural commodities.

(b) Grants may be made for the following purposes:

1. Facilitating the development of organic agriculture production, breeding, and processing methods;

2. Evaluating the potential economic benefits to producers and processors who use organic methods;

3. Exploring international trade opportunities for organically grown and processed agricultural commodities;

4. Determining desirable traits for organic commodities;

5. Conducting advanced on-farm research and development that emphasizes observation of, experimentation with, and innovation for working organic farms, including research relating to production and marketing and to socioeconomic conditions;

6. Examining optimal conservation and environmental outcomes relating