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1. 8.1: Forests and Related Resources.

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The Forests and Related Resources topic area aims to address the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations through the development of environmentally sound approaches to increase productivity of forest lands and develop value-added materials derived from woody resources. New technologies are needed to enhance the protection of the Nation's forested lands and forest resources and help to ensure the continued existence of healthy and productive forest ecosystems. Proposals focused on sustainable bi

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2. 8.2: Plant Production and Protection- Biology

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The objective of this topic area is to examine means of enhancing crop production by applying biological approaches to reduce the impact of harmful agents, develop new methods for plant improvement, and apply traditional plant breeding methods and new technologies to develop new food and non-food crop plants, as well as new genotypes of existing crop plants with characteristics that allow their use in new commercial applications. This topic area supports the following NIFA Societal Challenge Areas: Global Food Security and Hunger; Climate Change; Sustainable bioenergy; and Food Safety.

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3. 8.3: Animal Production and Protection

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations predicts that feeding the world's growing population will require a doubling of global food production by 2050. Fulfilling this need will require new technologies to improve both productivity and efficiency of food animals. The Animal Production and Protection topic area aims to develop innovative, marketable technologies that will provide significant benefit to the production and protection of agricultural animals.

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4. 8.4: Air, Water and Soils

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The Air, Water and Soils topic area aims to develop technologies for conserving and protecting air, water and soil resources while sustaining optimal farm and forest productivity.

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5. 8.5: Food Science and Nutrition

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The Food Science and Nutrition topic area aims to fund projects that support research focusing on developing new and improved processes, technologies, or services that address emerging food safety issues. The program will fund projects that develop novel rapid detection methods for food-borne pathogens and toxic metabolites to reduce food contamination and food-borne illnesses.

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6. 8.6: Rural Development

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

During the last 30 years, dramatic social, economic and technological changes have occurred in many rural areas in the United States. Although farming continues to be an important source of income, most of rural America is moving from an agrarian to post-agrarian economy. The results of this transformation have been uneven across the rural landscape. Some communities are facing economic decline and rural exodus, while in other communities, especially those in areas near large urban centers or rich in natural amenities, economic and population growth have accelerated.

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7. 8.7: Aquaculture

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The Aquaculture topic area aims to develop new technologies that will enhance the knowledge and technology base necessary for the continued growth of the domestic aquaculture industry as a form of production agriculture.

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8. 8.8: Biofuels and Biobased Products

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The objective of this topic area is to promote the use of biofuels and non-food biobased products by developing new or improved technologies that will lead to increased production of industrial products from agricultural materials. This research will lead to new opportunities to diversify agriculture and enhance agriculture's role as a reliable supplier of raw materials to industry. This topic area supports the NIFA Sustainable Bioenergy Societal Challenge Area and the Climate Change Societal Challenge Area.

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9. 8.12: Small and Mid-Size Farms

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The Small and Mid-Size Farms topic area aims to promote and improve the sustainability and profitability of small and mid-size farms and ranches (where annual sales of agricultural products are less than $250,000 for small farms and $500,000 for mid-size farms - hereafter referred to as small farms). The vast majority of farms in this country are small and they play an important role in the agricultural sector. The viability and sustainability of small farms is important to the Nation's economy and to the stewardship of our biological and natural resources.

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10. 8.13: Plant Production and Protection- Engineering

Release Date: 07-13-2011Open Date: 07-13-2011Due Date: 09-01-2011Close Date: 09-01-2011

The objective of this topic area is to examine means of enhance crop production by reducing the impact of harmful agents and developing effective crop production systems that are economically and environmentally sound. Projects that promote energy conservation or efficiency are strongly encouraged. Examples of appropriate subtopics for research applications from small businesses include, but are not limited to the following:

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