



Increasing the impact of Nebraska's Hatch-Multistate Funding

Issue:

The Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station (NEAES) has traditionally provided project support funding for faculty that participate in multistate projects. Our multistate grant of approximately \$1 million/year allowed for per-project funding typically ranging from \$7,000-50,000 per year. While every PI or PI group prepared Nebraska-specific regional projects, in some cases the funding level provided (over the years) became unlinked and/or unrelated to our highest priority programmatic needs. Our allocations, in some cases, were considered entitlements. There was a need to re-link funding to priority programmatic needs and change funding expectations, while minimizing disruptions to funded students, employees, and productive ongoing projects.

What has been done:

- Issue was identified, and also funneled into an ongoing faculty/administrative committee process that allowed additional support for change to surface.
- A proposed plan for converting multistate allocations into a competitive internal grant program was outlined.
- The plan was shared with the NEAES faculty advisory committee and other faculty groups for feedback.
- Plan was modified to allow a longer phase-in period that better protected students and reduced disruption to ongoing research.
- RFA was prepared and program implemented; first round of awards was granted (ranging from \$0 - \$100,000/year for 5 years).
- RFA and awards are now being made on a yearly cycle as 5-year projects expire.

Impacts/New Partnerships:

- Change in culture is being achieved regarding receipt of multistate (and other NEAES) resources. It is no longer assumed to be an entitlement.
- Sufficient funding was provided to projects so that significant impact can be expected.
- Funding was realigned to match research needs and capabilities.

Outcome of Project:

- This effort was designed so that the formula grant resources used to address Nebraska's critical agricultural, nutrition, and family/human science efforts are more efficiently leveraged to create maximum societal impact. It will be the impact of the research, facilitated by this effort, which will result in meaningful outcomes.

How has your project been aided by your FSLI experience?

- Having a better understanding of my own approach to tasks, and realizing others may not approach decision-making in the same way, helped me realize the importance of using an iterative and consultative process for suggesting changes.
- FSLI made me more aware of how people and organizations approach and deal with change. This has enabled me to better institute change.

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