

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 9/15/25, 1:10 PM Received: August 05, 2025 Status: Pending_Post Tracking No. mdy-zny0-qqdk Comments Due: September 15, 2025 Submission Type: API
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Docket: NIFA_FRDOC_0001

Recently Posted NIFA Rules and Notices.

Comment On: NIFA_FRDOC_0001-0173

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals

Document: NIFA_FRDOC_0001-DRAFT-0136

Comment on FR Doc # 2025-13207

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

Notice Title:

Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

Federal Register Citation: 90 FR 31600

Document Number: 2025-13207

Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Date Submitted: August 5, 2025

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

I respectfully submit this comment regarding the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

As NIFA evaluates and updates its information collection processes, I urge the agency to

include metrics and narratives relevant to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and climate-related impacts of funded projects and research programs. NIFA supports numerous activities across research, education, and extension that directly or indirectly intersect with climate change, and this should be reflected in its data collection.

Key recommendations:

Capture Climate Co-Benefits: Agricultural research, education, and community programming often result in carbon-related benefits—such as improved soil carbon sequestration, emissions reductions through efficiency improvements, or increased climate resilience. These outcomes should be documented as part of the program’s information framework.

Enable Emissions Accounting for Funded Projects: Researchers and institutions supported by NIFA grants could be encouraged (or required) to report estimates of CO₂ emissions associated with their work, or the emissions impact of innovations developed (e.g., low-input crop varieties, reduced tillage methods, regenerative grazing, etc.).

Track Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Outcomes: Many NIFA programs inherently address climate issues, even if not explicitly labeled as such. A more robust system for capturing and analyzing this impact would better reflect NIFA’s contributions to national climate goals and inform future investment.

Support Transparency and Public Trust: Including CO₂ and climate metrics in NIFA’s program performance data will help demonstrate to stakeholders—ranging from Congress to the general public—that federally funded agricultural research aligns with 21st-century environmental challenges.

In summary, I support the continuation and improvement of this information collection, with the strong recommendation that climate relevance be made a standard part of NIFA’s data landscape. Agriculture is both a contributor to and a potential mitigator of CO₂ emissions. NIFA is uniquely positioned to drive solutions—but only if those impacts are tracked.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen

Submitted Anonymously
Date: August 5, 2025

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Recently Posted NIFA Rules and Notices.

Comment On: NIFA_FRDOC_0001-0172
Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals

Document: NIFA_FRDOC_0001-DRAFT-0137
Comment on FR Doc # 2025-12606

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

Notice Title:
Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Previously Approved Information Collection

Federal Register Citation: 90 FR 30036
Document Number: 2025-12606
Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
Date Submitted: August 5, 2025

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

I submit this comment regarding the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) notice of intent to extend and revise a previously approved information collection. As NIFA continues to evaluate and improve the data it gathers from institutions and stakeholders, I strongly encourage the agency to integrate climate-related metrics—particularly related to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and mitigation potential—into its data collection framework.

Rationale:

Climate Impact of Agricultural Activities: NIFA-funded activities, including extension programming and applied research, often intersect with practices that affect CO₂ emissions—such as fertilizer usage, livestock management, land tillage, and crop rotations. Capturing emissions-relevant data would enhance understanding of how federally funded programs align with climate mitigation goals.

Opportunities for CO₂ Reduction and Sequestration: Many NIFA-supported projects promote soil health, composting, agroforestry, or cover cropping—practices that improve carbon sequestration and reduce emissions. A dedicated effort to quantify and track these impacts will support stronger evidence-based policy development and public accountability.

Forward-Looking Agricultural Policy: As the agricultural sector continues to evolve in response to climate change, USDA agencies should equip themselves with data that reflects the climate performance of public programs. Adding emissions estimates or climate indicators into reporting requirements is a necessary and proactive step.

Holistic Program Evaluation: Even where the core goals of a program are not climate-related, emissions intensity or reductions can be a valuable co-benefit to track. Including these indicators in information collections would allow for more comprehensive program assessments and help identify high-impact practices.

In conclusion, NIFA has a unique opportunity to embed climate-smart accountability and data collection into the foundation of its programs. I respectfully request that revisions to this information collection incorporate CO₂ and other climate-relevant considerations as part of a future-oriented, transparent, and resilient agricultural research agenda.

Thank you for your work and for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen
Submitted Anonymously
Date: August 5, 2025

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Comment On: NIFA_FRDOC_0001-0172
Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals

Document: NIFA_FRDOC_0001-DRAFT-0139
Comment on FR Doc # 2025-12606

Submitter Information

Email: gordon@ofrf.org
Organization: Organic Farming Research Foundation

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

NIFA Application Kit Comments_09_05_25_Letterhead