

## Gronlund, Heather - REE-NIFA

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**Subject:** NIFA Application Kit (OMB 0524-0039) Comment to Federal Register Notice

**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 (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and climate-related impacts of funded projects and research 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 in 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with their work, or the emission 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 goals and inform future investment.

**Support Transparency and Public Trust:** Including CO<sub>2</sub> and climate metrics in NIFA's program performance data will help demonstrate to stakeholders—ranging from Congress to the general public—that federally funded 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 and a beneficiary of climate change, and 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