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PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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