

§ 3430.607

authorized by statute. The matching requirements under this subpart cannot be waived.

(b) *Indirect costs.* Use of indirect costs as in-kind matching contributions is subject to § 3430.52.

§ 3430.607 Stakeholder input.

NIFA shall seek and obtain stakeholder input through a variety of forums (e.g., public meetings, request for input and/or via Web site), as well as through a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, from the following entities:

(a) Beginning farmers and ranchers.

(b) National, State, tribal, and local organizations, community-based organizations, and other persons with expertise in operating beginning farmer and rancher programs.

(c) The Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers established under section 5 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. 1929 note; Pub. L. 102-554).

§ 3430.608 Review criteria.

(a) *Evaluation criteria.* NIFA shall evaluate project proposals according to the following factors:

(1) Relevancy.

(2) Technical merit.

(3) Achievability.

(4) The expertise and track record of one or more applicants.

(5) The adequacy of plans for the participatory evaluation process, outcome-based reporting, and the communication of findings and results beyond the immediate target audience.

(6) Other appropriate factors, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) *Partnership and collaboration.* In making awards under this subpart, NIFA shall give priority to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach.

(c) *Regional balance.* In making awards under this subpart, NIFA shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographical diversity.

§ 3430.609 Other considerations.

(a) *Set aside.* Each fiscal year, NIFA shall set aside at least 25 percent of the funds used to support the standard

7 CFR Ch. XXXIV (1-1-12 Edition)

BFRDP projects under this subpart to support programs and services that address the needs of the following groups:

(1) Limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in § 3430.602).

(2) Socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)).

(3) Farm workers (including immigrant farm workers) desiring to become farmers or ranchers.

(b) *Consecutive awards.* An eligible recipient may receive a consecutive grant for a standard BFRDP project under this subpart.

(c) *Duration of awards.* The term of a grant for a standard BFRDP project and an award for an educational enhancement team project under this subpart shall not exceed 3 years. Awards for all other projects under this subpart shall not exceed 5 years. No-cost extensions of time beyond the maximum award terms will not be considered or granted.

(d) *Amount of grants.* A grant for a standard BFRDP project and an award for an educational enhancement team project under this subpart shall not be in an amount that is more than \$250,000 for each year.

[74 FR 45970, Sept. 4, 2009, as amended at 76 FR 35323, June 17, 2011]

Subpart K—Biomass Research and Development Initiative

SOURCE: 75 FR 33498, June 14, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3430.700 Applicability of regulations.

The regulations in this subpart apply to the Federal assistance awards made under the program authorized under section 9008 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108), as amended by section 9001 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246).

[76 FR 38549, July 1, 2011]

§ 3430.701 Purpose.

In carrying out the program, NIFA, in cooperation with the Department of