

## Agricultural Research Service, USDA

## § 550.34

Cooperator, and require changes as deemed necessary, if the material mentions by name the REE Agency or the USDA, or any USDA employee or research unit or location.

### § 550.30 Advertising.

The Cooperator will not refer in any manner to the USDA or agencies thereof in connection with the use of the results of the project without prior specific written authorization by the awarding Agency. Information obtained as a result of the project will be made available to the public in printed or other forms by the awarding Agency at its discretion. The Cooperator will be given due credit for its cooperation in the project. Prior approval is required.

### § 550.31 Questionnaires and survey plans.

The Cooperator is required to submit to the REE Agency copies of questionnaires and other forms for clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 and 5 CFR part 1320.

### § 550.32 Project supervision and responsibilities.

(a) The Cooperator is responsible and accountable for the performance and conduct of all Cooperator employees assigned to the project. The REE Agency does not have authority to supervise Cooperator employees or engage in the employer employee relationship.

(b) The PI shall:

(1) Work jointly with the ADODR in the development of the project statement of work;

(2) Work jointly with the ADODR in the development of the project budget;

(3) Report, and obtain approval for, any change in the project budget;

(4) Report, and obtain approval for, any change in the scope or objectives of the project;

(5) Assure that technical project performance and financial status reports are submitted on a timely basis in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award;

(6) Advise the ADODR of any issues that may affect the timely completion of the project;

(7) Assure that the Cooperator meets its commitments under the terms and

conditions of the non-assistance agreement;

(8) Assure that appropriate acknowledgements of support are included in all publications, in accordance with § 550.28 of this part.

(9) Assure that inventions are appropriately reported in accordance with § 550.54 of this part; and

(10) Upon request, provide the REE Agency with a project plan for use for external peer review.

### § 550.33 Administrative supervision.

REE employees are prohibited from engaging in matters related to cooperator employer/employee relations such as personnel, performance and time management issues. The cooperator is solely responsible for the administrative supervision of its employees.

### § 550.34 Research misconduct.

(a) The Cooperator bears the primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct and for the inquiry, investigation and adjudication of research misconduct alleged to have occurred in association with their own institution.

(b) The Cooperator shall:

(1) maintain procedures for responding to allegations or instances of research misconduct that has the following components:

(i) Objectivity;

(ii) Due process;

(iii) Whistle blower protection;

(iv) Confidentiality;

(v) Timely resolution;

(2) Promptly conduct an inquiry into any allegation of research misconduct;

(3) Conduct an investigation if an inquiry determines that the allegation or apparent instance of research misconduct has substance;

(4) Provide appropriate separation of responsibilities between those responsible for inquiry and investigation, and those responsible for adjudication;

(5) Advise REE Agency of outcome at end of inquiries and investigations into allegations or instances of research misconduct; and

(6) Upon request, provide the REE Agency, upon request, hard copy (or website address) of their policies and

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procedures related to research misconduct.

(c) Research misconduct or allegations of research misconduct shall be reported to the USDA Research Integrity Officer (RIO) and/or to the USDA, Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline.

(1) The USDA RIO can be reached at: USDA Research Integrity Officer, 214-W Whitten Building, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: 202-720-5923, Email: [researchintegrity@usda.gov](mailto:researchintegrity@usda.gov).

(2) The USDA OIG Hotline can be reached on: 1-800-424-9121.

## § 550.35 Rules of the workplace.

Cooperator employees, while engaged in work at the REE Agency's facilities, will abide by the Agency's standard operating procedures regarding the maintenance of laboratory notebooks, dissemination of information, equipment operation standards, hours of work, conduct, and other incidental matters stated in the rules and regulations of the Agency.

### EQUIPMENT/PROPERTY STANDARDS

## § 550.36 Purpose of equipment/property standards.

Sections 550.37 through 550.42 of this part set forth uniform standards governing management and disposition of property furnished by the Federal Government or acquired by the Cooperator with funds provided by the Federal Government. The Cooperator may use its own property management standards and procedures provided it observes other applicable provisions of this Part.

## § 550.37 Title to equipment.

(a) As authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3318(d), title to expendable and nonexpendable equipment, supplies, and other tangible personal property purchased with Federal funding in connection with a non assistance cooperative agreement shall vest in the Cooperator from date of acquisition unless otherwise stated in the cooperative agreement.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule the REE Agency may, at its discretion, retain title to equipment described in paragraph (a) of this section that is or may be purchased

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with Federal funds when the REE agency determines that it is in the best interest of the Federal Government.

## § 550.38 Equipment.

(a) The Cooperator shall not use equipment acquired with Federal funds to provide services to non-Federal outside organizations for a fee that is less than private companies charge for equivalent services, unless specifically authorized by Federal statute, for as long as the Federal Government retains an interest in the equipment.

(b) The Cooperator shall use the equipment in the project or program for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by Federal funds and shall not encumber the property without approval of the REE Agency. When no longer needed for the original project or program, the Cooperator shall use the equipment in connection with its other federally-sponsored activities, in the following order of priority:

(1) Activities sponsored by the REE Agency which funded the original project, then

(2) Activities sponsored by other Federal awarding agencies.

(c) During the time that equipment is used on the project or program for which it was acquired, the Cooperator shall make it available for use on other projects or programs if such other use will not interfere with the work on the project or program for which the equipment was originally acquired as may be determined by the REE Agency. First preference for such other use shall be given to other projects or programs sponsored by the REE Agency that financed the equipment; second preference shall be given to projects or programs sponsored by other Federal awarding agencies. If equipment is owned by the Federal Government, use on other activities not sponsored by the Federal Government shall be permissible if authorized by the REE Agency. User charges shall be treated as program income.

(d) When acquiring replacement equipment, unless otherwise directed by the REE Agency, the Cooperator shall use the equipment to be replaced as trade-in or sell the equipment and