

Extension Risk Management Education Program Definitions

For the purpose of the NIFA ERME Competitive Grants Program, the following definitions are applicable:

Advisory Council means a group from the broad spectrum of stakeholders appointed by the Director that provides input to ERME Center staff concerning the risk issues facing agricultural producers in their geographical areas; determines, using available stakeholder input, what, if any, priorities should be incorporated for their region's next grant offering; assists the ERME Center staff in establishing ERME Center priorities and special projects necessary to meet the priority risk issues within their region; and evaluates through a merit review process the applications, to determine which projects receive funding.

Agricultural Risk Management means selecting tools and approaches that reduce the adverse financial effects of the uncertainties of weather, yields, prices, credit, government policies, global markets and other factors including human resources and legal issues that can cause wide swings in farm income or threaten economic viability. Extension Risk Management uses the conceptual framework of managing the five areas of agricultural risk: production; marketing; financial; legal; and human.

Authorized Center Officer means the Center Director or any employee of the Center who has the authority to issue or modify grant instruments on behalf of the Center Director.

Authorized organizational representative means the president, director, chief executive officer, or other designated official of the applicant organization, who has the authority to commit the resources of the organization.

Beginning farmer or rancher means a person who has not operated a farm or ranch; or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years.

Budget period means the interval of time (up to a maximum of 18 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

Center Director means the Director of the regional Extension Risk Management Education Center and any other officer or employee of the Center to whom the authority involved is delegated.

Collaboration/partnering means a joint effort among two or more institutions, organizations and/or other entities with the capacity to conduct projects intended and designed to accomplish the purpose of the program.

Department or USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Education activity means classroom or workshop instruction, practicum experience directly related to farming or ranching, and other related matters such as curriculum development, instructional materials, and innovative teaching methodologies.

Extension activity means an act or process that delivers science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.

Grant means the award by the Center Director of funds to an eligible organization or individual to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project that is intended and designed to accomplish the purpose of the program as identified in these guidelines.

Grantee means the organization designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to which a grant is awarded.

Limited-resource farmer or rancher is one who has: 1) direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$173,600 (for FY2016) in each of the previous two years (to adjust for inflation using the "Prices Paid by Farmer Index" compiled by **NASS**); and 2) a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years.

Merit review means an evaluation whereby the quality and relevance of a proposed project to program goals are assessed.

Project Director/Co-Directors means the individual(s) designated in the grant application who is(are) responsible for the direction and management of the project.

Producer means individuals, families, or other entities in the U.S. engaged in the business of agricultural production and marketing before the farm gate.

Project means the particular activity within the scope of the program supported by a grant award.

Project period means the period, as stated in the award document, during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.

Qualified Public and Private Entities means public, not-for-profit, or private groups, organizations, or institutions that have established and demonstrated capacity to manage a cost reimbursement federally funded project and conduct projects that accomplish the purposes of the program as designated in the Extension Risk Management Education Program RFA.

Regions refers to (1) the Northeast Region consisting of the 12 northeast States and the District of Columbia (ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, and WV) ; (2) the Southern Region consisting of 13 States plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (VA, NC, SC, KY, TN, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, AR, and OK); the North Central Region consisting of 12 States (OH, MI, IN, IL, MO, KS, IA, WI, MN, NE, SD, and ND); and the Western Region consisting of 13

States and the American Territories in the Pacific (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, ID, NV, UT, AZ, MT, WY, CO, and NM).

Risk Management Result means expected measurable accomplishments that can be used to document the extent of producer risk management change brought about by a project.

Socially-disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and veteran farmers and ranchers.

Special Emphasis Audiences are those farmers and ranchers identified in the 2008 Farm Bill for particular attention. Section 12026 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amends the ERME Program by placing a special emphasis on risk management strategies, education, and outreach specifically directed to:

- A. Beginning farmers or ranchers;
- B. Legal-immigrant farmers or ranchers that are attempting to become established producers in the United States;
- C. Socially-disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;
- D. Farmers or ranchers who
 - a. are preparing to retire; and,
 - b. are using transition strategies to help new farmers or ranchers get started; and
- E. New or established farmers or ranchers that are converting production and marketing systems to pursue new markets.

Third party in-kind contributions means non-cash contributions of property or services provided by non-Federal third parties, including real property, equipment, supplies and benefiting and specifically identifiable to a funded project or program. Cost share or match is not required for Extension Risk Management Education grant programs and should not be listed or noted as such in the grant application budget or budget narrative.