

APPENDIX H

MULTISTATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE EVALUATION FORM

Each Multistate Research Committee member will receive this evaluation form as an e-mail attachment (or via other electronic means) with the project proposal and comments from the peer reviewers, if available.

Current or Previous Multistate Research Project Number: _____

I. Statement of Issue(s) and Justification

1. Does the proposal convincingly address the extent of the problem and the importance to agriculture, rural life, consumers and science? Does the proposal explain what the consequences are if the research is not done?
2. Does the proposal adequately explain why this research should be conducted by multiple institutions and other entities (e.g., ARS/USDA) through a regional collaborative effort?
3. Does the proposal indicate how the proposed research addresses national and/or regional priorities?
4. Does the proposal describe the probable impacts from successfully completing the work?

II. Related Current and Previous Work

1. Does the proposal adequately explain how this research relates to previous work in this area and how the proposed work will supplement and extend knowledge in this area? Was a CRIS search conducted? Although a classical, in-depth literature review is not required, does the proposal cite appropriate literature?
2. If the proposal is for a replacement project, are the accomplishments achieved under the previous project adequately reviewed with identification of those areas needing further investigation?
3. Does this proposal duplicate research being conducted through other multistate projects? Did the Development Committee specifically address potential duplication and, if potential duplication exists, did the committee specifically address how duplication will be avoided?

III. Objectives

1. Are the research objectives clear and appropriate for the desired outcomes?

2. Does the proposal clearly indicate the level of participation of each institution and other participating entities (e.g., ARS/USDA, Cooperative Extension, private industry, etc.) for each objective?

IV. Methods (Procedures)

1. Is a procedure or approach outlined for each objective stated in the proposal?
2. Is collaboration and/or interdependence such as the use of common protocols, central data collection or analysis, sharing of equipment, common use of research samples or data, or other evidence of direct collaboration described in the proposal?
3. Are research responsibilities of all the participants clearly stated?
4. Is there a plan for how the research findings will be tied together in a collaborative manner on a regional basis?

V. Measurement of Progress and Results

1. Outputs: Does the proposal describe expected outputs from the research?
2. Outcomes and Impacts: Does the proposal describe the significance of the results, showing in what ways the end user will benefit? Does the proposal adequately explain the potential benefits and impact of the proposed research?
3. Milestones: Does the proposal include statements related to milestones; that is, time-linked accomplishments that must be completed before subsequent activities can begin or can be completed?

VI. Participation (Resources) Report

1. Does the proposal include a complete “Projected Participation Report” as prescribed in Appendix E of the Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities?
2. Is multidisiplinarity clearly demonstrated in the report?

VII. Outreach Plan

1. Does the proposal describe how results of the project are to be made available in an accessible manner to the intended users of the information (e.g., refereed publications, workshops, producer field days, etc.)?
2. If the proposed project is to become an integrated (multifunctional) activity involving participants from Cooperative Extension, is the nature of their involvement adequately described?

VIII. Organization

1. If the organization of the technical committee is to be different from that prescribed in the Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities, does the proposal include an adequate

description of the planned organizational structure of the technical committee?

IX. Scientific Quality

1. Does the proposal show evidence of high scientific quality?
2. If copies of peer reviews have been provided, has the Development Committee adequately addressed the concerns and comments provided by the peer reviewers?

X. Format

1. Is the proposal formatted as prescribed in Appendix A of the Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities?

XI. Summary

Please indicate the primary changes you believe should be made before final approval by the Multistate Research Committee.

Recommendation:

_____ Accept without revision

_____ Accept with minor revision

_____ Accept with major revision

_____ Reject

Signature

Chair, Multistate Research Committee and Date