Report to NERA/NEED

POW Panel of Experts

June 16-18, 2015

Lisa Townson (UNH) and Cameron Faustman (UConn)

Panel membership

- Regional Ag Experiment Station Director representatives
- Regional Extension Director representatives
- 1890 Extension and Ag Experiment Station representatives
- NIFA National Program Leaders

Charge

- Deliver a set of recommendations to Director Sonny Ramaswamy:
  - Expectations of how the system will function be functional in the way it collects and reports key data to stakeholders and NIFA staff
  - Priorities for changes that need to take place
  - Assumption that the slate is clean and we could suggest starting from scratch
  - Begin our work from a clear understanding of what was required by law, what is necessary to know and what is nice to know (goal of removing anything that was simply "nice to know).

Regional Rep Concerns

- Eliminate redundancy in reporting
- Current systems are "clunky" and not highly functional
- Reduce the amount of time required to submit reports
- Eliminate asking for extraneous data
- Lack of understanding on how data is used currently (black hole syndrome)
- Little if any feedback on what we currently report

NPL Concerns

- Need to streamline review process for state reports
- Feeling that program leaders cannot "disapprove" reports
- Lack of granularity (particularly in Extension data)
- Would like to see clearer connection between Research and Extension
- Need to follow the law

Required vs Need to Know

Required as per AREERA

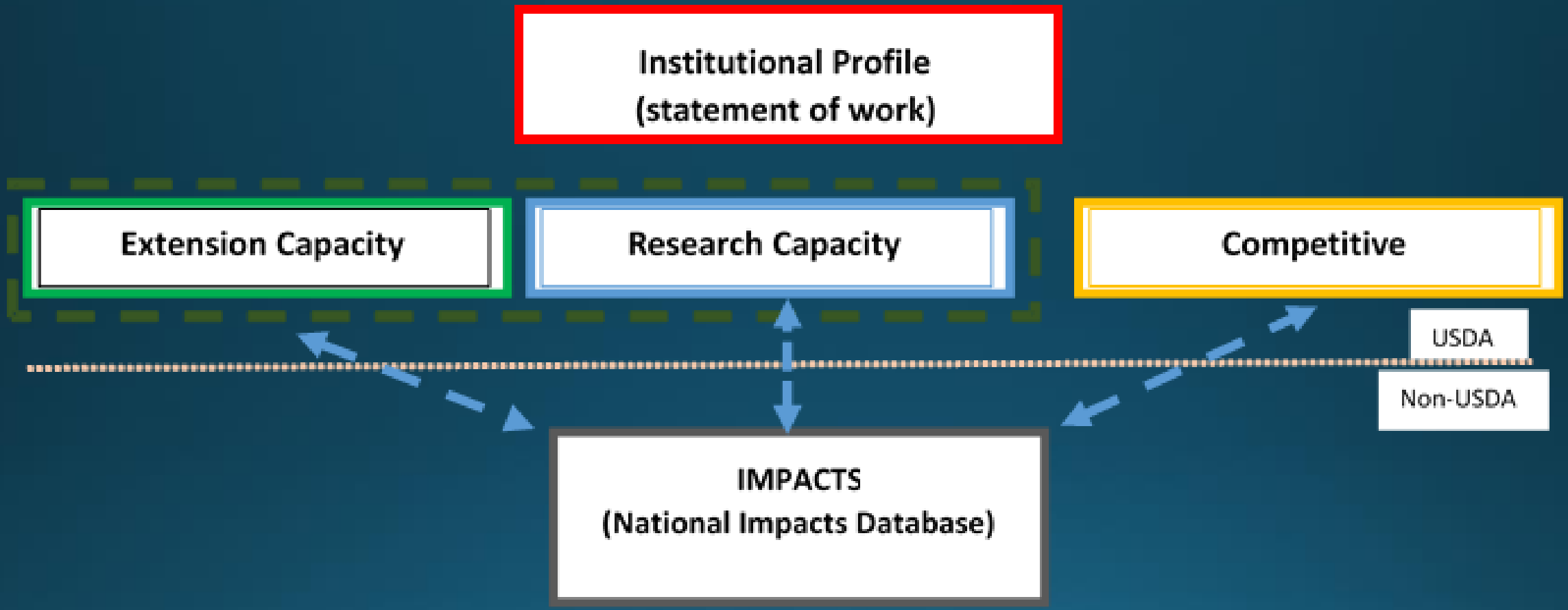
- Multistate Extension, and Integrated Research & Extension
  - 25% of Hatch and 25% of Smith-Lever (or 2x 1997 baseline for integrated research and extension
- Stakeholder Input
- Merit Review

Need to Know

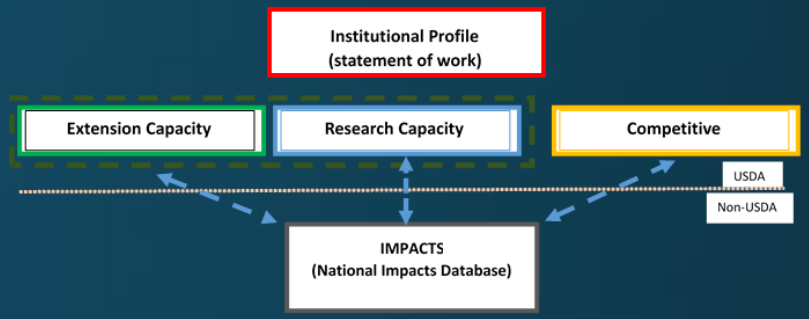
- Programming
  - Questions from Congress, other federal agencies, "What is USDA supporting in the area of xyz?" or "What is state x doing in the area of xzy?"
  - Currently USDA feels that this is accomplished for their needs through Planned Programs and Executive Summary.

Panel - Draft Recommendations

- Eliminate entirely the current Plan of Work and Accomplishment Report system
- Develop new modules in the REEPort system that satisfy the law and ensure appropriate data is stored in a manner that can be searched and extracted.
- Connect impact statements collected via landgrantimpacts.org to programs and impacts in REEPort.
- *See separate draft document*

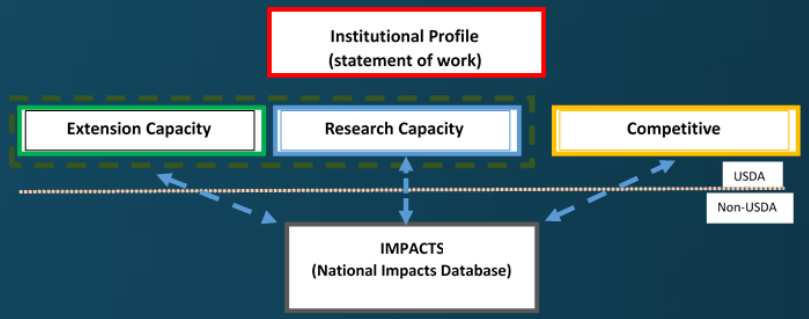

Institutional Profile
(statement of work)
Extension Capacity
Research Capacity
Competitive
USDA
Non-USDA
IMPACTS
(National Impacts Database)

Institutional Profile



- BRIEF Programmatic Overview
- BRIEF Annual Programmatic Summary (highpoints for the year)
- AREERA mandated elements that don't necessarily change drastically from year-to-year
  - Stakeholder input
  - Multistate and Integrated Efforts
  - Merit and Scientific Review
- List of "Planned Programs"
- Propose a subcommittee to further develop

Capacity Components



Extension Capacity

- List of "Planned Programs" fed from Institutional Profile
- Likely to include outcome measures, participant information and activities
- Text boxes for limited text on IMPACT
- Propose a subcommittee of Extension representatives and program leader to further develop

Research Capacity

- Very few changes to the current REEPort system
- Improved software functionality

Land Grant Impacts

- Continues to be voluntary
- Fields will be added to link to Accession numbers in REEPort so they are searchable
- Permanent links to an impact can also be pasted into the text box in REEPort so reviewers can easily find the corresponding impact statement

Other Recommendations

- A permanent accountability and reporting track (akin to the fiscal track) be implemented at NERAOC, and NIFA planning and reporting staff attend annually for training and input
- Strengthen the State Liaison program so that NPLs can more effectively build and maintain relationships (clarify review criteria and communicate what key data is needed)