

State and National
CIG Programs
Review

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Conservation
Innovation Grants
Program
Coordinator for
Arkansas NRCS

2020
CONSERVATION
INNOVATION
GRANTS
(CIG)



CIG is authorized under of the 2018 Farm Bill, as part of EQIP

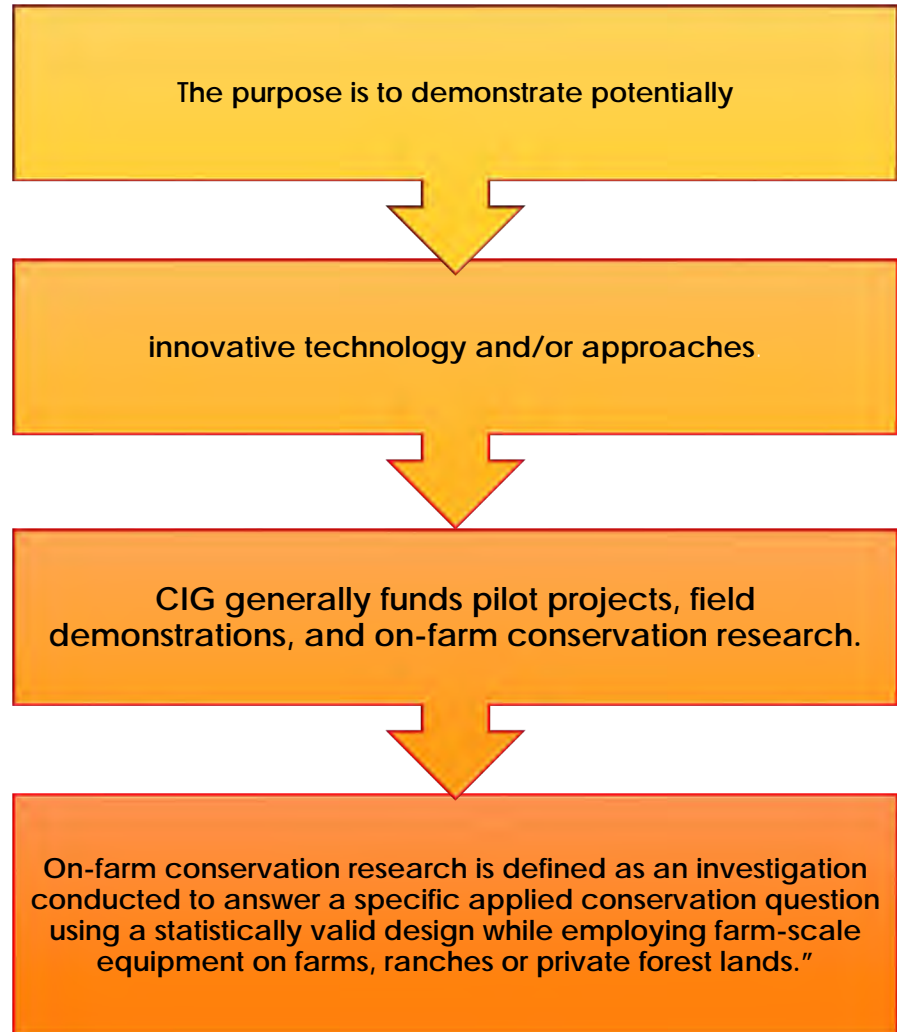
It is a voluntary, competitive grant program

The purpose is to:

stimulate the *development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies* and

leverage Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

CIG
PROGRAM
M
OVERVIEW
W



ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- **Applicant Eligibility**

Under CIG, EQIP funds are used to award

competitive grants to:

- Non-Federal Entities (NFE) and individuals who are invited to apply with the sole exceptions of **federal agencies**

CIG PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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- To be eligible for CIG, projects must involve landowners who meet the EQIP eligibility requirements.
- Applicants must provide non-Federal funding (matching funds) for at least 50 percent of the project cost (1:1 ratio)
- CIG funds are awarded through a State Level competition for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years.
- Qualified applications are evaluated by a technical peer review panel against criteria identified in the funding notice.

CIG PROGRAM OVERVIEW⁶

State CIG vs. National CIG

- Deadlines
- Project funding cap
- Project geographic boundaries
- Priority areas of concerns
- Administration

STATE CIG⁷

- Notice of Funding Opportunities (NFO)
 - ✓ USDA-NRCS-AR-CIG-19-GEN0010102
 - ✓ deadline for applications submitted:
June 30, 2020, 5 pm.
- Availability of funds are published annually on the AR NRCS website
: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ar/newsroom/releases>
- Funding amounts up to \$150,000
- Priority Areas (3) are announced within the NFO
- Arkansas CIG's are administered in AR
- State Contact for AR CIG: Lori Barker, CIG Program Manager

GRANTS.GOV SITE TO LOCATE 2020 AR CIG APF

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- <https://www.grants.gov>
 - Type in Opportunity Number box :
 - USDA-NRCS-AR-CIG-NOF001009
 - Hit Search
 - The CIG will opened, then hit
- [USDA-NRCS-AR-CIG-NOF001009-](#)
the CIG pulls up to search the CIG for APF info



[Search Tips](#) | [Export Detailed Data](#) | [Save Search »](#)

SORT BY: **DATE RANGE:**

1 - 1 OF 1 MATCHING RESULTS:

Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Agency	Opportunity Status	Posted Date ↓	Close Date
USDA-NRCS-AR-CIG-NOF001009	NRCS' Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2020 – Arkansas	USDA-NRCS	Posted	04/30/2020	06/30/2020

STATE CIG DEADLINES

- Deadline to submit applications through grants.gov and emailed to AR-Programs@usda.gov **June 30, 2020, by 5 pm CT**
- Applicant reviews for eligibility and completeness begin July 1st
- NRCS anticipates announcing CIG selections through a USDA press release no later than **September 1, 2020**. Applicants should plan their projects based on a project start date of **October 1st, 2020**.

MATCHING FUNDS

- Federal Funds pay up to 50% of total project cost
- Applicant (grantee) is responsible for 50% of total project cost
- Applicant must match the USDA funds awarded dollar-for-dollar from **non-Federal sources** with cash and in-kind contributions
- Applicants 50% match consist of the following:
 - Hard cash and documented from accounts
 - In-Kind sources and contributions
 - ALL match must be committed with letter from group committing match to include amount, type of commitment, and signed by authorized person agreeing to match– SEE NFO

PRIORITY AREAS

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- Proposal must contain at least one of the priorities to be eligible (see section I. D. State Component of NFO)
 - Nutrient and Sediment reduction in Impaired Watersheds
 - Irrigation
 - Soil Health

NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION IN IMPAIRED WATERSHEDS

- Demonstrate effectiveness of “high potential” conservation practices (such as drainage management, wetlands designed for nutrient reduction, conservation buffers, cropping systems including cover crops, manure management, in-field nutrient management) in reducing nutrient leaching and runoff and document benefits in small watersheds;

IRRIGATION

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- Evaluate alternative cropping systems and water management schemes to reduce water use and develop educational materials for producers to obtain a comfort level with these ideas so that they may adopt those cropping systems or water management schemes;
- Demonstrate innovative irrigation water management techniques documenting water quality improvements associated with irrigation systems in Arkansas;
- Drone use with IWM uniformity and crop monitoring.
- In field trials for alternative crops that uses in field weather stations that can integrate Evapotranspiration data and soil moisture sensors. These trails should be able to evaluate real crop water use during alternative crop growth stages. Develop brochures to help producers incorporate both method of IWM into to their farm practices.
- Development of an Evapotranspiration network to be used for alternative crops in order to better plan and manage irrigation events. Develop instructional documents for producers to incorporate evapotranspiration base scheduling into their Irrigation Water Management plans based on crop type. Example networks are mesonet used in Oklahoma.
- Irrigation Water Management project for alternative crops to provide more instructional documents to producers on how to use IWM devices to trigger irrigation for alternative crops. The documentation should indicate the number of devices needed, measurement depths, and how to use the device reading to know when to irrigate; base on crop and IWM device type.

SOIL HEALTH

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- Demonstrate and quantify the impacts of cover crops, crop rotations, tillage and/or soil amendments on soil chemical, physical, and/or biological properties and their relationships with nutrient cycling, soil water availability, and plant growth in areas that have been land leveled in Arkansas;
- Quantifying Green House Emissions Assessment from Rice Production in Arkansas.
- Transfer and demonstration of row rice technology can improve soil health, reduce irrigation, and allow rice production to use no-till methods. Demonstration of the use of soil health practices (i.e. cover crop, nutrient management, irrigation water management) in a row rice cropping system, including cost-benefit information and yields.

CIG NFO APPLICATION REQUIRED ITEMS

- **A. Proposal Cover Sheet:** Submit Standard Form 424 Application for Federal Assistance
- B. Executive Summary: One page max**
 - The applicant entity name
 - The duration of the project months
 - The amount of federal funding requested
 - The amount of non-federal cost-share/match funding committed
 - Project title
 - Geographic location of project
 - Brief description of project (see other information from NFO)
 - The State priority that is being addressed by the project. List at least one priority from section 1.D CIG Priorities FY2019
 - Technical and administrative contact for the project , NRCS will use this for primary contact information.

CIG NFO APPLICATION REQUIRED ITEMS¹⁶

- **C. Project Description:** (12 pages maximum, single-spaced, single-sided, 12 point font)
 - Project background
 - Project objectives
 - Project methods
 - Location and size of project area (include a map if possible)
 - Producer participation
 - Project action plan and timeline
 - Project management
 - Project deliverables/products
 - Benefits or results expected and transferability
 - Project evaluation

- **D. Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts**

- **E. Budget Information:**
 - Submit a completed Standard Form 424A (SF-424A)
Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs.
 - Detailed budget description
 - Budget narrative

- **F. Indirect Cost**

PROPOSAL INFORMATION REQUIRED ¹⁸

- **G.** Matching Information
- **H.** Declaration of Previous CIG Projects Involvement.
- **I. Certifications:** Complete Standard Form 424B (SF-424B) Assurances-Non-Construction Programs. –*see next slides*
- **J. DUNS Number:**

For information about how to obtain a DUNS number, go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> or call **1-866-705-5711**. Please note that the registration may take up to 14 business days to complete.
- **K. SAMS number**
<https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>

- Forms completed and signed by the **applicant/recipient**:
 - Application for Federal Assistance **SF-424** and
 - Non-construction
 - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs (**SF-424A**)
 - Assurances - Non-construction Programs (**SF-424B**)
 - Certificate Regarding Lobbying
 - SF-LLL
 - Representations Regarding Felony Conviction And Tax Delinquent Status For Corporate Applicants (**AD-3030**)
 - Assurance Regarding Felony Conviction Or Tax Delinquent Status For Corporate Applicants (**AD-3031**)

View Burden Statement

OMB Number: 4040-0004
Expiration Date: 10/31/2019

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application		* 2. Type of Application: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision		* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>
* 3. Date Received: <input type="text"/>		4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>		
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>		5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>		
State Use Only:				
6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>		7. State Application Identifier: <input type="text"/>		
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:				
* a. Legal Name: <input type="text"/>				
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text"/>		* c. Organizational DUNS: <input type="text"/>		
d. Address:				
* Street1: <input type="text"/>				
Street2: <input type="text"/>				
* City: <input type="text"/>				
County/Parish: <input type="text"/>				
* State: <input type="text"/>				
Province: <input type="text"/>				
* Country: <input type="text" value="USA: UNITED STATES"/>				
* Zip / Postal Code: <input type="text"/>				
e. Organizational Unit:				
Department Name: <input type="text"/>		Division Name: <input type="text"/>		
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:				
Prefix: <input type="text"/>		* First Name: <input type="text"/>		
Middle Name: <input type="text"/>				
* Last Name: <input type="text"/>				
Suffix: <input type="text"/>				
Title: <input type="text"/>				
Organizational Affiliation: <input type="text"/>				
* Telephone Number: <input type="text"/>		Fax Number: <input type="text"/>		
* Email: <input type="text"/>				

[View Burden Statement](#)

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 01/31/2019

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. [Redacted]	[Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]
2. [Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
3. [Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
4. [Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
5. Totals		\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]

View Burden Statement

OMB Number: 4040-0007
Expiration Date: 01/31/2019**ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

Previous Edition Usable

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Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-87)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

3 LEVELS OF REVIEW FOR PROPOSALS

- Proposals must be submitted by deadline:
June 30, 5:00 pm CT
- Proposals meet eligibility criteria
- Proposal are evaluated by merit criteria from Technical Peer group and ranked; possible 100pts

REVIEW FOR PROPOSAL ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibility Information in Section III
 - Applicants must be a Non-Federal entity (NFE) and individuals are eligible, Federal agencies are not eligible
 - Proposal must involve EQIP eligible producers
 - EQIP Payment Limitation and Duplicate Payments
 - Cost sharing and matching requirements
 - Technical assistance for CIG project and NRCS's involvement being limited (see section 111.E. for more information
 - Must have SAMS and DUNS number- Sams.gov

REVIEW FOR COMPLETENESS OF PROPOSAL

- The following must be in proposal or the proposal will not be considered for funding, see Section 1V, B, 1-12,
 - Content and format guidelines followed
 - Cost Sharing and Matching documentation
 - Proposal must contain at least one Priority Concern from Section I, D, State Component

CRITERIA FOR NFO APPLICATION EVALUATION

*Peer review use following merit system with
100 pts possible*

- Purpose, Approach, and Goals (25)
- Innovative Technology or Approach (25)
- Project Management (20)
- Benefits & Transferability (30)

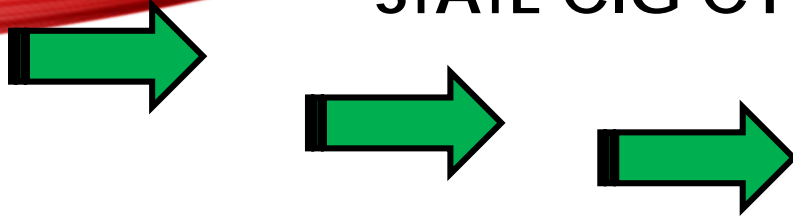
AFTER THE REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

- Applications with technically based recommendations from peer review will be forwarded to ASTC for Programs and with consultation of technical specialist.
- ASTC(P) will forward all eligible applications to State Conservationist where final award selection is made.

I GOT THE GRANT, NOW WHAT...

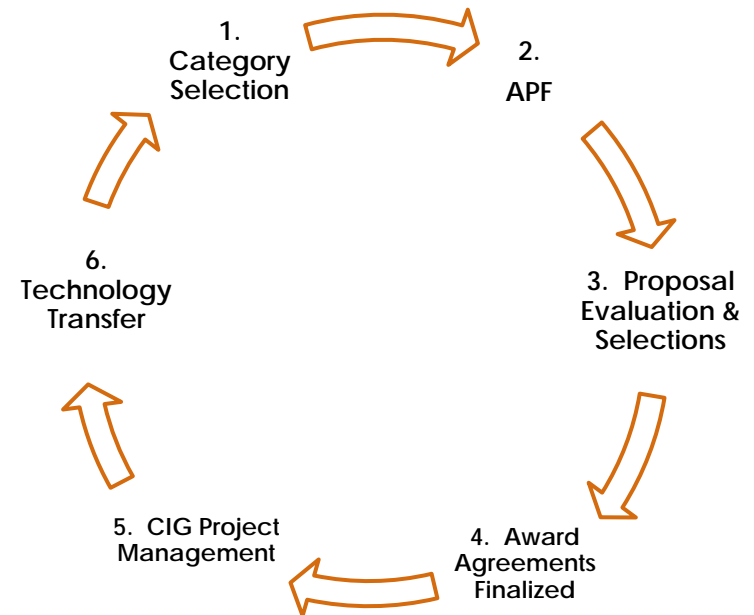
- *Your now approved for a 2019 CIG Arkansas GRANT..... what is next?*
- ✓ Building of your Agreement between the applicant (you) and NRCS.
- ✓ We work close to build an agreement that will mirror the project purpose and goals to achieve the result you intended when applying and we envisioned when we read the proposal.
- ✓ NOW is the time to make sure the budget, the task, and milestones for projects task to be completed are just as both parties agree too.
- ✓ ANNOUNCEMENT- we announce your project to the public (late Sept)
- ✓ You are assigned a Technical NRCS person to provide NRCS guidance and review your semi annual and final reports.
- ✓ **READY, SET, GO,LETS get started!!!!**

STATE CIG CYCLE – PROJECT MANAGEMENT



KEEPING PROJECT MOVING ALONG

- Performance Management
 - Semi-Annual Reports
 - Final Reports
 - Compliance Evaluations
- Financial Management
 - Federal Finance Reports -SF 425 Quarterly
 - Payments – SF 270 (Reimbursements/Advances)
 - Accruals - Quarterly



FINISHING UP STRONG ³⁰

- Last year of project: what do you need to focus on?

- ✓ Completing the final report
- ✓ Preparing all facts sheets, documents for transferability to agencies
- ✓ and landowners

Outreach of successful project of the benefits that it will provide in better

management, innovative practices, or more outreach



NATIONAL CIG DEADLINES

CIG Classic

Proposal Deadline : June 29th, 2020

On Farm Trials : Extend to May 29, 2020

Final tips to be successful

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- You must READ and follow ALL instructions in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO)!! From the first page to the last.
- You must submit ALL documents asked for in NFO
- USE THE CHECKLIST PROVIDED
- You must submit it on time or before date, exactly how it is asked for: submitted to grants.gov and email to address provided.
- BUT when in doubt- CALL me!!!
- 870-523-8986 ext 3016

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Lori Barker**

NRCS Program Staff


Resource Conservationist

CIG Coordinator

Ph: 870-523-8986- ext 3016

Newport FSC

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"To be effective, our research and programs need to be focused on finding solutions and providing state-of-the-art technologies to improve management decisions on farm and on forest lands."

-Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue

