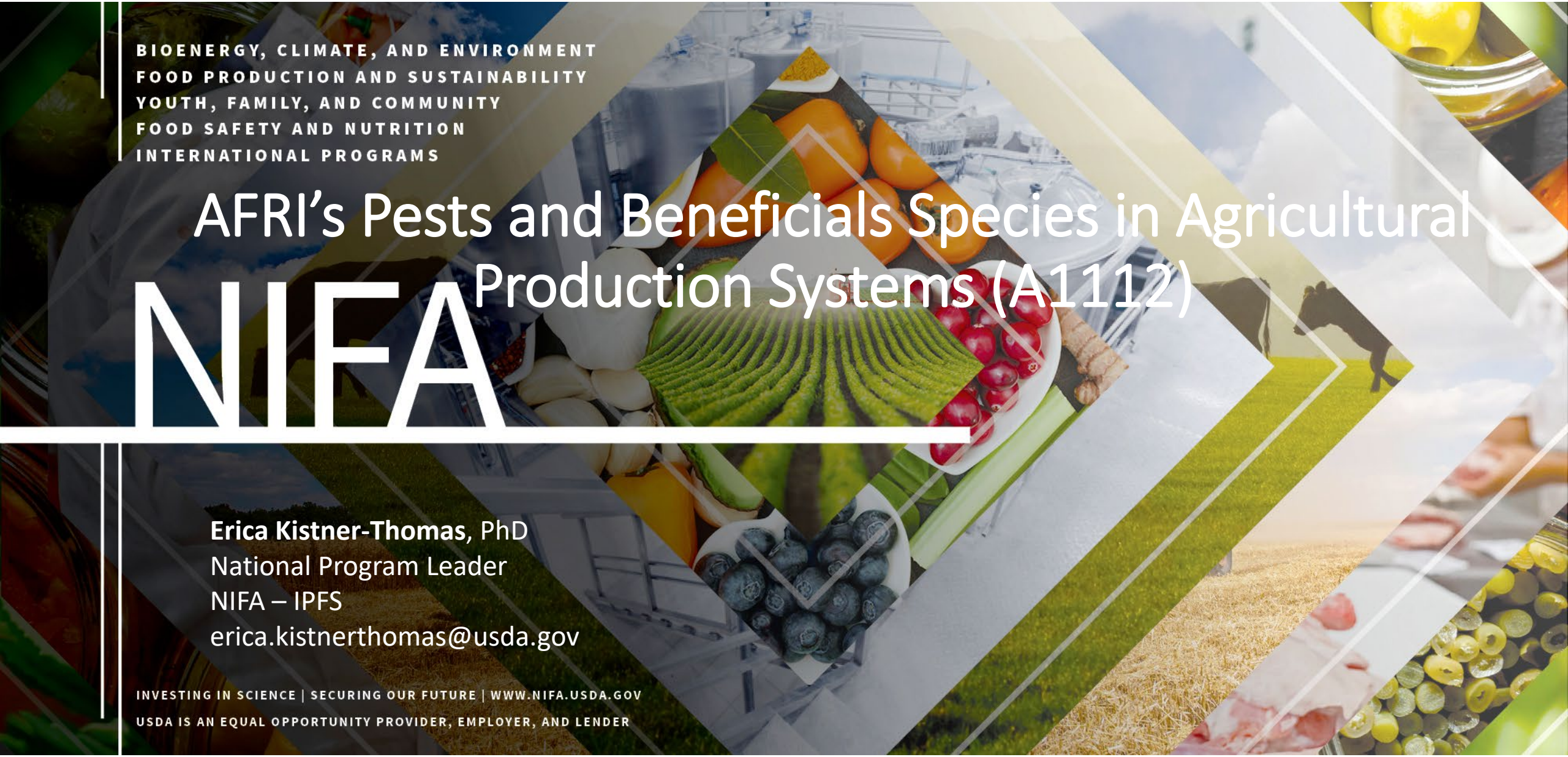
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT
FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY
YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY
FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

AFRI's Pests and Beneficials Species in Agricultural Production Systems (A1112)

NIFA

Erica Kistner-Thomas, PhD
National Program Leader
NIFA – IPFS
erica.kistnerthomas@usda.gov

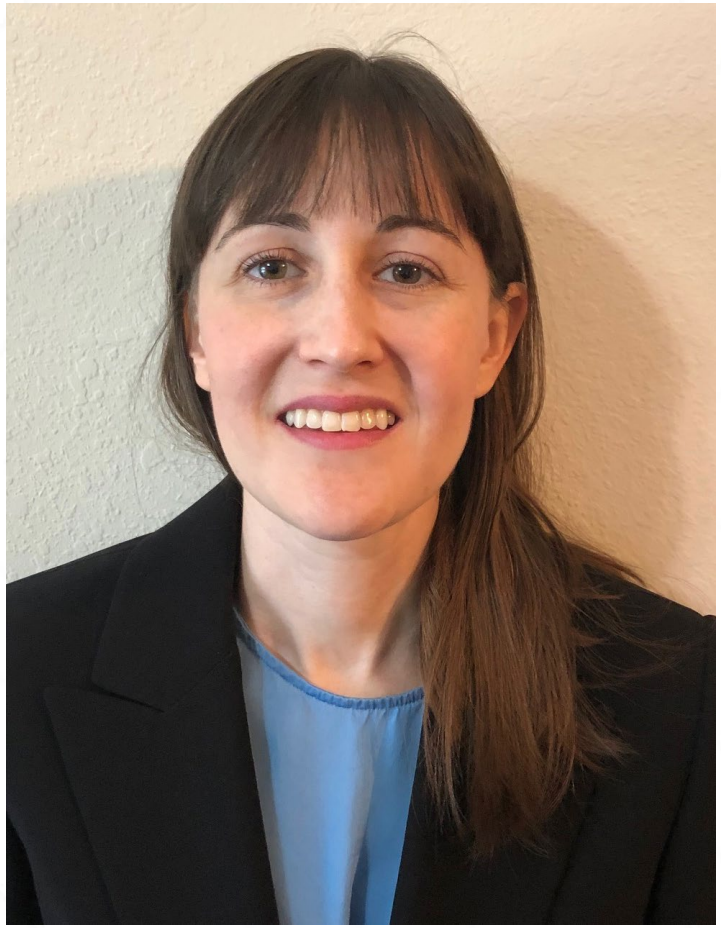
INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV

Non-Discrimination Statement

https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement

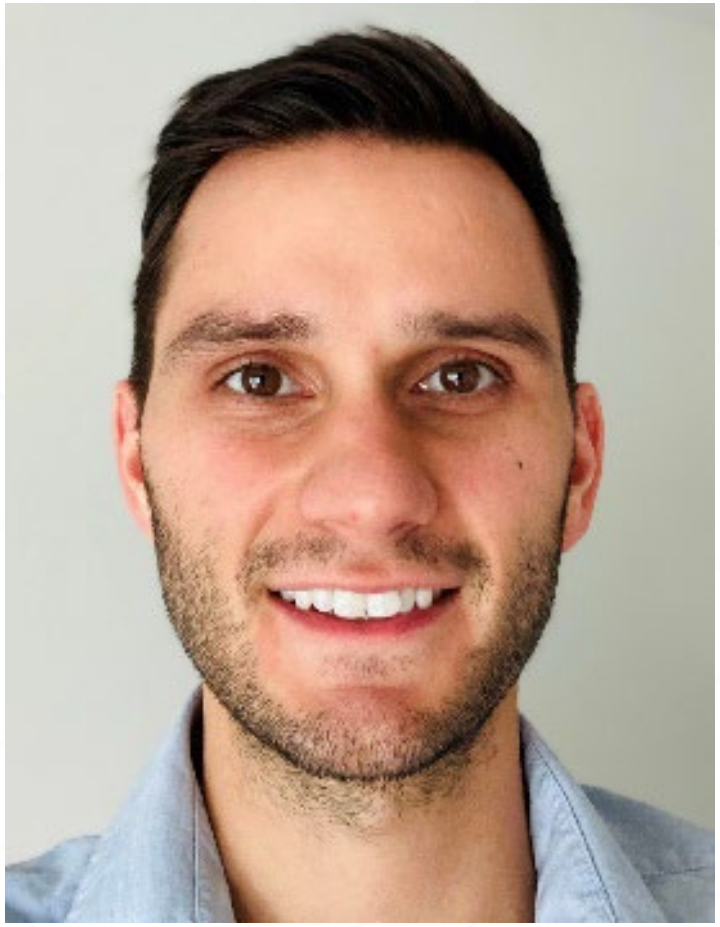
- In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs, are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.
- Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.
- To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

The Current Pests and Beneficials Team



Dr. Erica Kistner-Thomas
National Program Leader

Dr. Christopher Philips
National Program Leader



Logan Appenfeller
Program Specialist

AFRI's Foundational and Applied Science Program: Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems

Program Area Priority Code: A1112

Proposed Budget Requests: Not to exceed $750,000 per project (2-5 years)

Project Types: Research-only and Integrated Projects (Research and Extension)

Grant Types: Standard, Conference, and FASE (Strengthening Standard, New Investigator, Strengthening Conference, Seed, Equipment, and Sabbatical)

Application Deadline: August 25, 2022 (5:00pm EST)

Contacts: Erica Kistner-Thomas erica.kistnerthomas@usda.gov

Christopher Philips christopher.philips@usda.gov

Logan Appenfeller logan.appenfeller@usda.gov

AFRI: Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems
(Plant Health and Production & Plant Products Program Area)

Goals:

- Advance knowledge of invasive or established plant pests and associated beneficial species
- Development of innovative biologically-based strategies to manage pests

Subject Matter: Weeds, insects, plant pathogens, slugs, nematodes

History:

- Pests and Beneficial Species programming began 2017
- To date, funded 109 projects including 16 science weed projects
- Total funding 2017-2021: $44 million
- FY20: 114 applications, Funded 16 projects at $6.8 million
- FY21: 116 applications, Funded 17 projects at $7.5 million

A1112 Applications must address one or more of the following:

- Biotic and abiotic factors affecting the abundance or spread of agriculturally-important plant pests, disease vectors, or beneficial species relevant to pest management;
- Behavioral attributes of pests and beneficial species, including intra- or interspecies interactions and/or communication systems relevant to pest management;
- Factors that contribute to invasiveness including (but not limited to) studies using population genetics/genomic approaches or models to predict, prevent or manage outbreaks, or to pinpoint geographic distribution or origin;
- Movement or dispersal dynamics of pests or beneficial organisms;
- Mechanisms of pest resistance to pesticides or toxins in genetically-modified plants and development of strategies to mitigate resistance and/or crop failure;
- Use of indigenous traditional ecological knowledge in pest and disease control ; or
- Conference applications that bring together experts in weed biology, plant genomics, herbicide resistance, and data science to better understand how genomic information could lead to novel solutions to manage weeds

AFRI New Investigator (NI) SEED Grants

- NI is defined as < 5 years postgraduate career-track experience
  - Has not yet received a large competitive federal research grant as the lead PD
  - Postdoc or Graduate fellowships, Co-PD status on any grant award, or being the lead PD on a conference grant award do not count against NI status
- Seed grant funds preliminary data collection needed to submit a full AFRI grant
- Ranked separately from Standard Research Grants (Note: NI seed applications compete with seed grant applications from strengthening institutions)

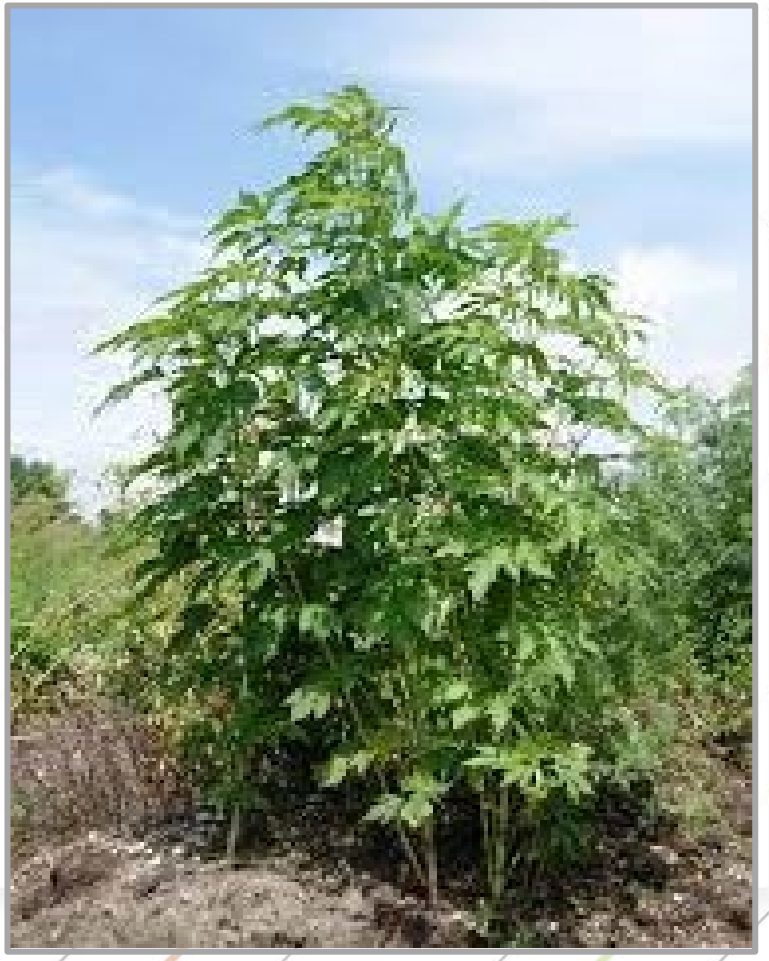
Conference Grant Guidelines for A1112

- A Letter of Intent must be sent to National Program Leaders (me and Chris Philips) at least 195 days before the conference start date
  - $25,000 awards are standard practice
  - $50,000 budget requests should be discussed with NPLs beforehand
- Submit Full application on Grants.gov at least 150 days before conference start date
  - NOTIFY NPLs that you have submitted your conference grant via email!
- Conferences are peer reviewed by at least 3 ad-hoc reviewers
- Fund ~2-3 per year

INTERNATIONAL WEED GENOMICS CONSORTIUM

GENETIC AND PHENOTYPIC VARIABILITY IN GIANT RAGWEED: INFLUENCE ON REGIONAL VARIATION IN INVASIVENESS AND THE ORIGIN OF PEST CROP POPULATIONS (2021-67013-33575)

- Giant ragweed is a severe native weed of row crops in the Midwest, Invasive in Europe and Asia
- Multiple populations are now resistant to glyphosate
- Ohio State researchers aim to uncover mechanisms driving ragweed invasions pathways as well the adaptive capacity of this widespread weed
- To date, 130,000 seeds collected from 31 distinct populations and 440 maternal plants to be used in common garden experiments in OH and NE



Helpful Resources

- AFRI New Investigator FAQ: https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/FASE-New-Investigator-FAQ-07282020.p
- AFRI FASE and EPSCor Program Overview: https://nifa.usda.gov/afri-fase-epscor-program
- Volunteer to be a NIFA Panel Reviewer: https://prs.nifa.usda.gov/prs/volunteerPrep.do
- Sign up for our NIFA Update Newsletter: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANIFA/subscriber/new?qsp=USDANIFA_2
- Follow us on Social Media: YouTube, LinkedIn, Tweeter

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Consult the RFA and Contact

Dr. Erica Kistner-Thomas
National Program Leader
Erica.KistnerThomas@usda.gov

Dr. Christopher Philips
National Program Leader
christopher.philips@usda.gov

Logan Appenfeller
Program Specialist
Logan.Appenfeller@usda.gov