



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

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BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,  
AND ENVIRONMENT



FOOD PRODUCTION  
AND SUSTAINABILITY



YOUTH, FAMILY,  
AND COMMUNITY



FOOD SAFETY  
AND NUTRITION



INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMS



# A Year of Transformation and Challenges

# USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

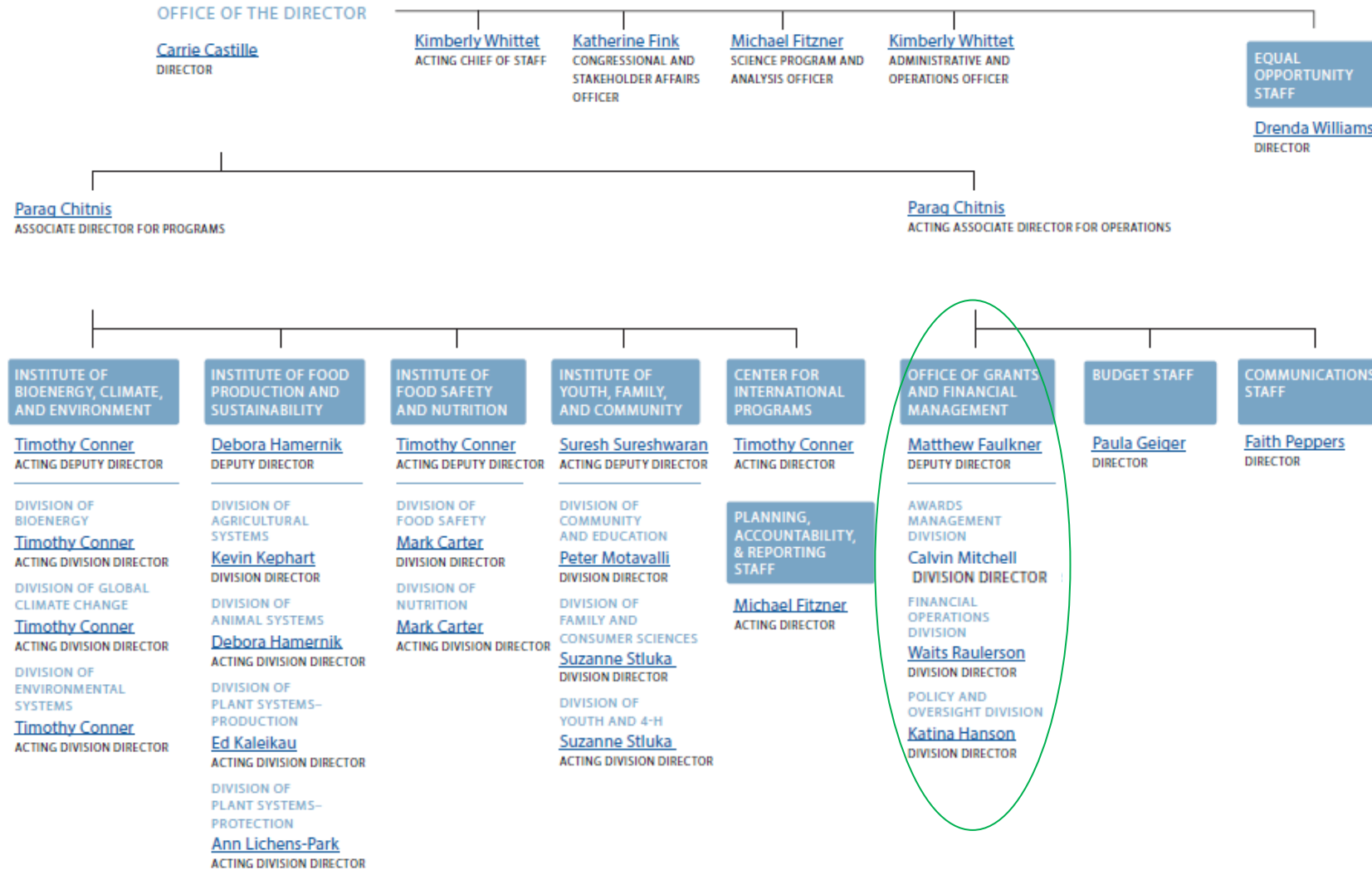
## One Agency, Two Locations

- NIFA Operations located at 805 Pennsylvania Ave, Kansas City, MO
- Small Washington, DC staff located at the USDA Whitten Building



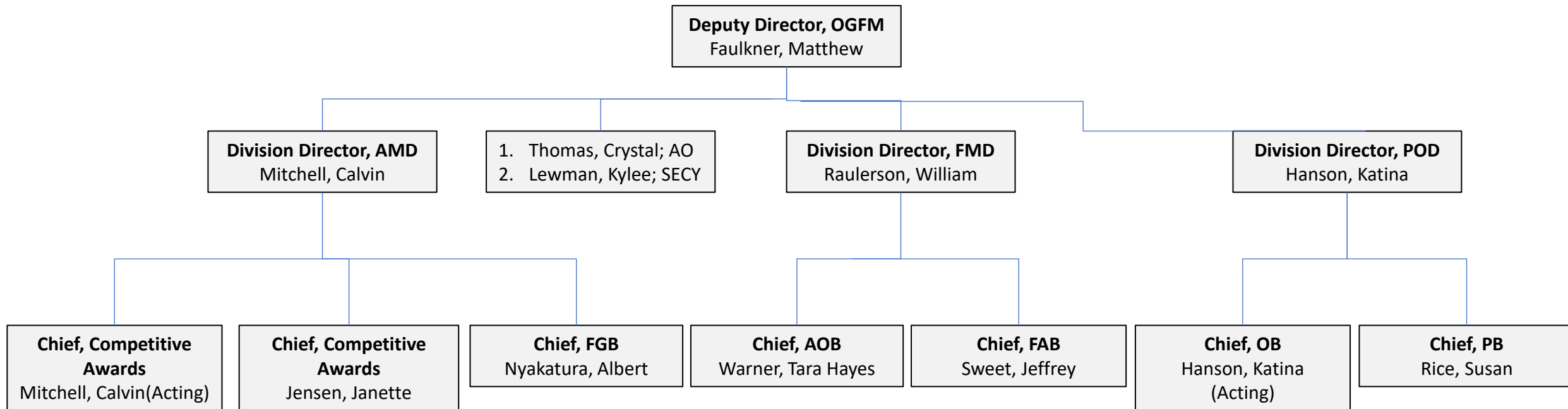


## The Organization of USDA'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE — 01.04.2021





# Office of Grants and Financial Management



## Awards Management Division Functions

**Manages all elements of the grant life cycle for NIFA's \$1.7 billion per year Federal financial assistance awards by**

- Ensuring that NIFA develops enhanced business practices for management and processing of grants and agreements across the agency
- Staying abreast of programmatic, statutory and regulatory requirements
- Determining financial stability and management capability of prospective grantees
- Understanding requirements of NIFA programs
- Researching laws and appropriation language to ensure stewardship of Federal financial assistance
- Developing and maintaining effective relationships with client institutions
- Performing site and/or desk reviews
- Coaching stakeholders on NIFA grant policies procedures

# Financial Management Division Functions

## Accounting Operations Branch

- Record all obligations, deobligations, and other accounting transactions related to NIFA's Federal Assistance programs, including IAAs
- Authorize all associated payments
- Provide analysis and internal/external customer support for those functions

## Financial Analysis Branch

- Record all cash transactions related to NIFA's Federal Assistance programs
- Monitor the agency's cash position and trial balance for all Treasury Appropriation/Fund Symbols
- Performs OCFO mandated reporting on the agency's unliquidated obligations, close out of expired awards, and improper payments

# Policy and Oversight Division Functions

**Develops and evaluates efficacy of Department-wide and NIFA policies for the administration of NIFA's over \$1.7 billion per year of Federal Assistance awards**

## **Policy Branch**

- Request for Applications (RFA)
- Regulations, Analysis and Directives
- Business Process and Customer System Interactions

## **Oversight Branch**

- Compliance
- Internal Controls
- Audits Coordination
- Indirect Costs

# NIFA Meeting the Challenge

- Efficient and effective teams teleworking
- All 2020 one-year competitive grants awarded
- All 2020 Capacity grants awarded
- Responded to the new needs of our customers resulting from COVID-19
- Implemented OMB flexibilities in response to COVID-19







# Meeting the Challenge

- Consistent with federal government agencies across the United States in the face of the new and unique challenges in confronting the COVID-19 epidemic, USDA NIFA continues to prioritize the health and safety of the research community.
- We understand the continued effects of this challenge on USDA NIFA-funded research and facilities, and we are committed to providing the greatest flexibilities to support the health and safety of applicants, grantees and employees.
- USDA NIFA continues to update guidance and our online resources, including frequently asked questions, to keep staff and partners informed. The latest information is available on our website at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/coronavirus>



## Other OGFM Updates

- Filled ~70 percent of our vacancies
- Under Continuing Resolution, Q1 funding for FY2021 Capacity grants awarded
- Projected RFA publication schedule on NIFA's website at <https://nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar>
- Terms and Conditions updated in November to align with 2 CFR 200
- Policy Guide updates for 2 CFR 200 alignment to OMB for clearance; additional Policy Guide updates with partner input anticipated later this year
- Reminder: ASAP access for drawdowns will be suspended the last 4 working days of each month



# Office of Grants and Financial Management Resources

Recipients can contact us at

[Awards@USDA.gov](mailto:Awards@USDA.gov) (competitive grants),

[CapacityGrantQuestions@USDA.gov](mailto:CapacityGrantQuestions@USDA.gov) (capacity grants),

[ASAPCustomerService@USDA.gov](mailto:ASAPCustomerService@USDA.gov) (ASAP help), and

[IndirectCostInquiries@USDA.gov](mailto:IndirectCostInquiries@USDA.gov) (indirect costs).

## Office of Grants and Financial Management

- Senior Staff
  - OGFM – Matthew Faulkner, Deputy Director, [Matthew.Faulkner@usda.gov](mailto:Matthew.Faulkner@usda.gov)
  - Awards Management Division – Calvin Mitchell, Director, [Calvin.Mitchell@usda.gov](mailto:Calvin.Mitchell@usda.gov)
  - Financial Management Division – William (Waits) Raulerson, Director, [William.Raulerson@usda.gov](mailto:William.Raulerson@usda.gov)
  - Policy & Oversight Division – Katina Hanson, Director, [Katina.Hanson@usda.gov](mailto:Katina.Hanson@usda.gov)

## Other Agency-Wide Resources

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/coronavirus>
  - **NIFA Press Releases and Announcements:**
    - [NIFA Frequently Asked Questions](#)
    - [NIFA Email Newsletter Update](#)
  - **USDA Messages**
  - **USDA Resources**
  - **External Resources**



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# Transformed to serve you better

# New NIFA