

## It Is Only about the Science

All too often faculty members of agricultural colleges miss obtaining grant funding, and the trend of low funding will proceed into the distant future. During this same time, annual review numbers will only "meet expectations" if funding is obtained, and the larger the grant the higher the annual review score. Reasons for this have been discussed in this journal previously, as have suggestions to make scientific progress (even) during the low funding periods. In order to make present faculty members whom lost grants and presently possess only small levels of grant funds, sold on the idea that progress is still possible, administrators at all levels must re-think how science might be conducted. Indeed, instead of the "individual investigator" grant being important, administrators need to re-align their thoughts towards "team" grant proposals being submitted, funded and projects conducted.

Team research efforts involve plenty of problems. However, they (also) may provide more effective solutions to basic and applied research problems. Moreover, team efforts make everyone in the team stronger [not weaker]. So, should one possess only a small amount of research funding, but provides an important element in a larger mechanistic problem/solution, it will soon be apparent just how efficient progress can be made.

Team efforts, whether in research (or in any effort), require a new understanding (by administrators) that 1) an individual scientist can develop as strong a reputation as any member of the team, 2) that individuals conducting team research efforts are capable of juggling numerous tasks at one time, and 3) that outcomes/impacts are more numerous. We are living during a time whereby few areas of research in the animal sciences are being fully funded. Albeit hard, the remainder of us still needs to make some sort of scientific progress. Creating a team effort allows such to occur, re-energizes tired efforts and provides tangible outcomes that are more solid than that obtained by struggling individuals. Alternatively, individuals involved in the team effort must be assured that their efforts are only about the science. By thinking of the science, and making progress (even in small steps) team members will (actually) make more progress.

### Submitted by:

M.V Dodson  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA 99164