2015 Request for Proposals

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Fertilizer Research Program is funded by a tonnage assessment on fertilizer and soil amendments sold in the state and administered by the Wisconsin Fertilizer Research Council (WFRC). The seven-member WFRC is comprised of representatives from farming, industry, and environmental specialties.

The WFRC mission is:

To fund research and other designated activities to provide a scientific basis for and promote the philosophy that the fertilizer industry supports economically and environmentally sound recommendations, practices and technologies on fertilizer material usage by the end user.

As directed by State Statute [Sec. 94.64 (8m)], the program funds applied soil fertility, soil management, or plant nutrition research as these topics relate to the usage of fertilizers or their impacts on surface or groundwater in Wisconsin.

RESEARCH CRITERIA

Proposals must address one or more of the following topics:

• Soil management
• Soil fertility
• Plant nutrition
• Surface or groundwater problems possibly related to fertilizer usage

Proposals that do not clearly address one of these areas will not be considered for funding.

Individual proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

• Topic originality
• Topic relevance
• Goal feasibility
• Research methodology
• Outreach plan

Proposals will have an increased chance of funding with:

• demonstrated support from industry, commodity or other stakeholder group.
• potential for widespread interest in and impact to the Wisconsin agricultural community.

ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING DETAILS

Only researchers from the UW System are eligible to apply.

Proposal funding is provided on a fiscal year basis (July 1-June 30) with potential for annual renewal for up to two additional years. Funds awarded in response to this call will be available July 1, 2015. A one to two month delay may occur when transferring funds to campuses other than UW-Madison. Pre-spending authority is granted for UW-Madison researchers, in which case spending may begin on April 1 on the year of the award. Award continuation is given on an annual basis pending evidence of progress and availability of funds. Funding priority is given to successful continuing projects.
APPLICATION PROCESS

New Research Proposals:

UW-Madison applicants: Submit proposals to CALS via WISPER by **September 15, 2014**.

Non UW-Madison applicants: After your proposal has met the requirements of your school or college, submit 16 paper copies to the Program Coordinator by **September 22, 2014**.

Proposals not fitting the format or requirements will be returned if ample time remains to make revisions. If you are unsure whether your research topic fits the mission of the program, please contact the Program Coordinator. There is no limit to the number of new proposals submitted or funded per individual researcher.

Continuing Project Proposals:

Submit a progress report, modified scope of work if necessary, and detailed annual budget to CALS Research Division, 240 Agricultural Hall, by **December 8, 2014**.

Funds may be withheld for continuing projects if reporting requirements are not met.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING NEW RESEARCH PROPOSALS

All necessary forms can be found online at [http://www.soils.wisc.edu/frc/pi.php](http://www.soils.wisc.edu/frc/pi.php)

1) Title Page: Please use the **2015 New Project Title Page**

2) Narrative: Include the title of your project on the first page of your narrative. For review purposes, please do not include your name or any co-investigators names in the narrative of your project.
   a. Justification – clearly state the **relevance** of the project, and describe the need for the research.
   b. Significance to Industry – describe how the research could impact Wisconsin agriculture, and provide reason(s) why the **fertilizer** tonnage fee should support it.
   c. Summary of Previous Work – briefly review the results of relevant literature or unpublished findings as they relate to your research methods and the stated problem.
   d. Hypothesis and Objectives – state overall research hypothesis and specific objectives. What do you hope to accomplish? Objectives should be stated in such a way as to be verifiable upon completion of the project.
   e. Approach – describe your research plan and methods, including standard techniques, special equipment, computer models, etc., to be used. Include a description of analytical and statistical methods, and the kinds of results you expect to generate.
   f. Outreach Plan – identify potential users of the information to be developed in the project and/or explain how this information is applicable to the problem or opportunity being addressed. Describe how the information will be disseminated to users.

3) Budget: Complete the **Budget Request** page as part of your proposal (download from the URL noted above). Itemize the proposed budget for the first year. Estimate the total second-year and third-year budget if applicable. It is not necessary to show in-kind support. Additional proposal support is requested for informational purposes only and is not required to be monetary. If such support is included, documentation or letters of support must be provided and may be submitted in conjunction with the supplied budget form.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS
Proposals are evaluated and scored by external academic and industry reviewers, ranked by a UW-CALS and UW-ARS faculty committee, and presented at the WI Fertilizer Research council meeting on January 21, 2015. This meeting is held at the Soil Science Department Building on the UW-Madison campus. Final funding decisions are made by the FRC at a subsequent closed meeting.

**AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

- Researchers shall credit the WFRP when presenting ongoing or final results from projects funded in whole or part by the Fertilizer Research Fund.
- Principal Investigators (or delegate) must present new research proposals and continuing project reports to the Fertilizer Research Council on January 21, 2015 on the UW-Madison campus.
- An annual progress report must be supplied by December 8 each year of funding.
- A final report is due within six months of FRC support termination.

**TIMETABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Request for new proposals distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td><strong>UW-Madison applicants</strong> – full proposal due to CALS Research Division via WISPER.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Non-UW-Madison applicant proposal due to FRC coordinator.</td>
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<td>September 22 – December</td>
<td>Proposal review process (external/peer and internal/administrative reviews).</td>
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<td>December 8</td>
<td><strong>Continuing project applicants</strong> – continuing progress report, scope of work, and detailed budget due to CALS Research Division, 240 Agricultural Hall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21, 2015</td>
<td>PI's present new proposals and reports to the FRC.</td>
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<td>February, 2015</td>
<td>FRC decides award recipients and PI's are notified of award status.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1, 2015</td>
<td>Funds available for awarded projects.</td>
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CONTACT & SUBMISSION INFORMATION

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