2018 Request for Proposals

Introduction

The Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture (M-AAA) announces a request for proposals for funding for research and extension programs to enhance Michigan Animal Agriculture. The M-AAA is a partnership between the Michigan animal agriculture industries, the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension focused on advancement of the Michigan animal agriculture economy.

All proposals must address critical needs relevant to Michigan’s Animal Agriculture Industries and are requested in the following funding categories: 1) Applied Research, 2) Extension and 3) Seed Grants.

Eligibility

Principal Investigators must be employed by Michigan State University. There are no restrictions on employment status of other team members.

Previous Year Proposals

Researchers who submitted proposals in the previous funding cycle, but were not selected for funding are eligible to resubmit, but the revised proposal must include a brief response to reviewer concerns and description of corresponding changes to the proposal.

Proposals that were funded in last year’s funding cycle are not eligible for renewal.

Timeline:

- June 2017 Call for proposals
- September 18, 2017 Proposals due
- November 30, 2017 Notification of awards
- January 1, 2018 Project funds available
- December 31, 2018 Termination date for one year projects
- December 31, 2019 Termination date for two year projects

All funds awarded are to be spent by termination date. Requests for a single no-cost extension of remaining funding for up to 3 months must provide significant justification for delay in progress on funded Applied Research or Extension projects. Extensions are not automatic, and will be evaluated on a case by case basis by the Associate Director of MSU AgBioResearch or a designate. Any funds remaining upon final project termination date will be returned to M-AAA. Seed Grants are not eligible for extension beyond initial termination date.

Industry priorities:

All proposals must clearly note how proposed activities will benefit Michigan Animal Agriculture and Michigan’s economy, with particular emphasis on projects consistent with stated annual priorities of Michigan Animal Agriculture Commodity groups. http://www.canr.msu.edu/research/animal-agriculture/industry_priorities
All proposals must deliver tangible results within defined time frame.

http://web2.msue.msu.edu/AgBioResearchGrants/
Funding Categories:

All proposals must articulate the following to be considered for funding:

Applied research:
- Relevance to animal agriculture industry priorities
- Technical merit and feasibility
- Means by which proposed activities will enhance commodity specific or overall animal agriculture industry
- Long term benefits to MI animal agriculture
- Plans for dissemination of information to relevant commodity groups

Extension:
- Relevance to animal agriculture industry priorities
- Technical merit and feasibility
- Current/future need for proposed activities
- How proposed programming will enhance commodity specific or overall animal agriculture industries

Seed funding:
- Relevance of research area to animal agriculture
- Technical merit and feasibility
- How proposed activities will advance development of highly competitive extramural grant proposal
- Timeline, target funding agency and program for future extramural proposal submission.

Funding Scope and Guidelines:

- Applied research projects can be proposed for a one- or two-year duration with maximum budget of $75,000 per year or $150,000 total (two-year project).
- Extension projects can be proposed with a maximum budget of $30,000.
- Seed grant projects can be proposed with a maximum budget of $25,000 and are limited to one-year duration.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria:

All proposals will be reviewed by a single panel of experts composed of MSU faculty and commodity group representatives. Every effort will be made to identify experts to review proposals who are not also seeking funding via the 2018 program. Inclusion as a project team member on submitted proposal will automatically exclude individual from review of proposals submitted for consideration in the same funding category. Upon completion of review process, proposals will be ranked within category based on above scoring criteria for final funding determination by the M-AAA. A lay summary of the project will be required at funding notification and reporting guidelines described. Strict adherence to reporting guidelines throughout and after project termination is required to promote accessibility of project goals and impacts to stakeholders and promote long term sustainability of program funding. (see next page)
Evaluation criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation criteria</th>
<th>Applied Research</th>
<th>Extension</th>
<th>Seed Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevance to animal agriculture industry(s) and annual priorities, potential long term impact</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical merit and feasibility; investigator qualifications</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanisms to deliver research information generated to relevant commodity groups</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leverage of external and other funding sources; extent of partnering with Michigan animal agriculture industries</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plans for future extramural funding and importance of seed funding to future success</td>
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<td>20</td>
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**Formatting guidelines:**

All proposals should be single spaced using Arial 11 font, 0.5 inch margins and double spacing between paragraphs and must adhere to guidelines for proposal length outlined below. Proposals that fail to adhere to guidelines will be immediately returned without review. All proposals should be submitted as a single pdf document containing components listed below. Note, letters of support are not necessary. Industry support of proposals will be represented by in-kind contributions and matching funds.

**2018 Proposal Guidelines**

**Proposal Components:**

Note items 2-8 cannot exceed three pages in length.

1) Cover page (must be first page of whole proposal)

2) Problem statement and relevance to industry priorities

3) Objectives

4) Approach and feasibility

5) Anticipated results and impact

6) Industry partnering (include cost share) and scope

7) Timeline

8) Brief response to reviewer concerns and explanation of changes to proposal (revised proposals only)

9) Budget (see attached budget form)

10) Literature cited

11) Team qualifications (one page vitae for each project member outlining qualifications to complete proposed research or extension activity)
Submission Guidelines

*Researchers should submit their proposals electronically, through the MSU’s EBS system. An e-Doc is required for each proposal and for submission into the M-AAA database.

2018 New Submission Process:

1) Go to ebs.msu.edu using your MSU NetId and password.

2) Click on Research Administration, then “Create Proposal”. Once submitted you will receive an app#. You will need this number for the next step.

3) Go to http://web2.msue.msu.edu/AgBioResearchGrants/.

4) Under Competitive Grants Program (login required) click on Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture.

5) This will take you to ABR Competitive Grant System-Login, click on “MSU NetID Login” button and login with your MSU NetID and password. (This needs to be executed by the lead P.I.)

6) On left green bar click on “Proposal Information Sheet View/Submit” Fill in the fields. All mandatory fields have a red asterisk. Click SUBMIT once completed. This will assign you an AA18-XXX number.

7) Next click on “Proposal View/Approve”. Click on the assigned number AA18-XXX. Scroll down and you will see the section where you are able to upload your proposal and letters of support. These must be in PDF format. Click submit or the system will not accept your upload.

8) You should receive a system generated response acknowledging your submission.

9) Any questions or issues please call Jackie Lindsey at 517-884-3862 or email JLindsey@msu.edu.