Michigan Wheat Program 2017-18 Request for Proposals

The Michigan Wheat Program (MWP) Board of Directors is requesting research proposals be submitted for funding to assist growers in keeping wheat a profitable and high-quality crop.

Background:
The Michigan Wheat Program is the wheat check-off program in the state, voted in by the state’s wheat farmers in July 2011 and again in January 2016. Assessment collection for the program began May 1, 2012. Strategic planning was held in December 2012 which outlined the importance of research.

Research Focus:
Michigan wheat farmers need answers to both the yield and quality issues they face. Research projects are being sought that will address the many aspects of production that can help optimize yields including rotation, cover crops, nutrients, inputs, pests and disease.

Delivering the highest quality product to the market is a key goal of the MWP. Research programs that will assist growers in delivering high-quality wheat will be considered for support.

Marketing of Michigan’s wheat crop is also vital to growers. Projects analyzing past, current and future markets, their maturity, as well as the flow of wheat to markets and new market opportunities will be considered.

Innovation is very important to Michigan’s wheat farmers and they are looking for projects that illustrate out of the box thinking and ideas that could prove to provide new markets for them, increase yields or provide new production techniques.

Other requests that will further the wheat industry and provide additional options for farmers will be considered. Any project that has a funding match will be viewed favorably, as will collaborative projects with multi-researchers, multi-partners and multi-commodities.

In all cases, research that can produce measurable results, as well as leveraging wheat farmer dollars will be viewed most favorably.

Submission Timeline:
Proposals for research must be submitted no later than COB on Monday, August 7, 2017 prior to the August 15 & 16 board meeting, so board members and staff have the chance to review proposals prior to their presentation to the board by the lead project researcher. Once proposals are received and reviewed, researchers will be scheduled to present their proposal to the full board during their 2-day research meeting. However, not all proposals will progress to the presentation phase. Researchers will be given 10 minutes to present their proposal and 5 minutes for questions. The Michigan Wheat Program board of directors is paperless, so both the presentation to the board and the written proposal will be shared via dropbox, so please submit an electronic copy of the proposal.

Format:
Please submit your proposal with a cover page outlining the names of investigators, research entity/institution, project title, number of years of proposed project, which year of the project this request is for, total budget request, and other project partners. Please outline the project in the next 4 to 5 pages. Include your hypothesis, methods of research, collaborators, previous work done on this project including anything already patented, the details of how the project results can be used, how project results will be shared and how this project will/could affect farmers in economic terms and how it will/could affect either yield, quality or market opportunity. If this project could fall along the lines of resulting IP, provide a quick overview of the freedom to operate for this
Format continued:
technology. Also please complete and submit the budget page and make sure you include any pending or
secured leveraged funding as it may make a difference in funding. If you are a researcher at Michigan State
University, you must fill out a submittal form prior to submitting your proposal to the MWP.

Funding & Reporting:
After projects are funded, researchers will be notified. Research agreements will be drafted and sent to the
researcher for their signature and routing. After the research agreement is signed, the first 25% of the funding
will be released. An optional, interim report may be submitted and after its acceptance an additional payment of
25% will be released. At the conclusion of the project a final written report, a report synopsis, graphs & charts,
a final budget accounting matching the categories of the original budget, and a final presentation to the board
are required. After these have all been completed and accepted, the final payment of up to 50% will be released.
Projects will be reimbursed for their actual expenses. Projects are funded one year at a time, even for multi-year
projects.

Timeline:
Proposals are due via email to executive director Jody Pollok-Newsom at jody@miwheat.org by 5 p.m. on
Monday, August 7, 2017. Proposals will be reviewed and researchers may be asked to present their proposal to
the board. Funding decisions will be made after the presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 15 & 16
and after the board has time to do any needed additional investigation. The project start date is the day the
MWP board approves funding of the project, regardless of when the paperwork is completed. Researchers will
be notified as soon as possible about funding decisions.

Budget:
Please note that no overhead expenses are paid by the Michigan Wheat Program, as it is a non-profit, farmer-
funded organization. Please provide a budget on the budget form for the project and if it is a multi-year project,
please provide a budget for each year of the project. If an additional budget page is necessary, please feel free to
add another page to show projected costs for future years of the project. List any additional funding you have
secured or that is pending for this project. Please state if other funds are incumbent upon securing funds from
MWP.

Questions:
Contact Jody Pollok-Newsom, Michigan Wheat Program Executive Director via phone at 517-625-9432 or via
email at jody@miwheat.org.