2016 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.

Elwood Kirkpatrick Dairy Research Fund

As part of the M-AAA grant program, the Michigan Milk Producer's Association (MMPA) through the Elwood Kirkpatrick Dairy Research Fund is providing up to $50,000 in additional support for research and extension activities relevant to dairy industry priorities. Meritorious dairy proposals selected for funding through M-AAA will be reviewed by the MMPA and selected to receive additional funding in recognition of Elwood Kirkpatrick's many contributions to the dairy industry. A budget addendum describing use of additional funds will be requested after award decisions are made.

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:

- May 1, 2015   Call for proposals
- September 1, 2015   Proposals due
- November 25, 2015   Notification of awards
- January 1, 2016   Project funds available
- December 31, 2016   Termination date for 2016 funding

All funds awarded are to be spent by termination date. Requests for a single extension of remaining funding for up to 12 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. 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, with particular emphasis on projects consistent with stated annual priorities of Michigan Animal Agriculture Commodity groups (Appendix 1). All proposals must deliver tangible results within defined time frame.

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:
Funding duration for projects in above categories is limited to one year with maximum budget of $50,000 (Applied Research), $30,000 (Extension) and $25,000 (Seed Funding).

Proposal Evaluation Criteria:
A panel manager will be designated by the M-AAA to facilitate the review process. 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 2015 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.

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

2016 Proposal Guidelines

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.

Proposal Components*:
Note items 2-8 cannot exceed three pages in length.

1) Cover sheet
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)

*Researchers should submit their proposals electronically, through the MSU e-transmittal system. A transmittal is required for each proposal.

2016 Industry Priorities (Appendix 1)

As MSU faculty and staff work to develop the latest scientific information that will enhance agriculture, the M-AAA urges you to engage and be diligent in advocacy efforts. This will not only enhance collaborative relationships with our agricultural industry, but also lead to better informed and educated consumers.   Many of the technologies and management practices commonplace on farms throughout Michigan, the U.S. and the world were developed at land grant universities, including MSU. Together we share a responsibility to promote and educate the public about the modern, science based production and management tools used in today's complex and very advanced animal and food production systems.

Michigan Allied Poultry Industry
Layers:
- Nutrition for layer hens after 60 weeks in a single cycle.
- Nutrition for pullets with an emphasis on calcium use in the first 17 weeks.
- Diseases (avian influenza and focal duodenal necrosis): Causes, treatment and prevention

Turkeys:
- Better breast skin coverage without breast blisters.

Michigan Cattleman's Association
- Bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication
- Beef production system efficiency
- Water conservation and manure management

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD)
- MI animal reportable diseases
- Biosecurity
- Animal welfare

Michigan Farm Bureau
- Antibiotic resistance: Development of new animal health protection tools and expanded role of vaccines in disease protection
- Work force development and education: Training for job and careers in animal agriculture
- Effective tools and preparedness to deal with current and emerging diseases

Michigan Horse Industry
- Development and promotion of education programs for 4-H leaders and for workforce development including conceptual and hands-on training at MSU campus, community colleges and online (e.g. My Horse University).
- MI horse industry impact evaluation (e.g. economics, tourism, trail use)
- Potential solutions for growing populations of unwanted horses (e.g. slaughter) and accompanying economic, policy and welfare issues

Michigan Meat Association
- Workforce development including MSU's Meat Tech program and training/resources for existing employees (e.g. knife use, industry background, animal anatomy and carcass breakdown)
- Specialized retail meat processing (smoking, curing and reduced oxygen packaging) variance requirements and processes (e.g. jerky compliance guideline; methods to prevent raw and cooked product cross contamination)
- Extended shelf life research (e.g. methods, ingredients, parameters and effect on product quality)

Michigan Milk Producers
- Bovine tuberculosis (TB)
- Assistance with the dairy industry's sustainability's efforts including research on both feed and reproductive efficiency as relate to sustainability.
- Workforce development

Michigan Pork Producers
- Emerging diseases (e.g. porcine epidemic diarrhea virus) and implications for a secure pork supply
- Consumer acceptance of production practices (research on alternative housing methods, castration/pain mitigation and animal care and handling) and strategies for enhancement of consumer image of swine industry
- Environmental Issues (manure management, air quality, water availability)

Michigan Sheep Breeders Association
- Understanding the nutritional, genetic, and reproductive management factors that determine out of season breeding success in sheep.
- Improving whole farm forage utilization and forage budgeting in both grazing systems and for machine harvested forage.
- Teaching producers strategic nutritional management.