

PENNSYLVANIA VEGETABLE MARKETING AND RESEARCH PROGRAM
PENNSYLVANIA VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
Request for Research Grant Proposals for 2016

issued September 28, 2015

General Information

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is soliciting proposals for research grants for 2016.

The Vegetable Marketing and Research Board requests that researchers submit brief pre-proposals for their consideration this fall. Final selection of projects to be funded will be made early in 2016. Details follow on the third page. Pre-proposals are due NOVEMBER 2, 2015.

Research Priorities

Special priority will be given to projects involving the state's three major processing crops, namely snap beans, tomatoes, and sweet corn. However, proposals involving fresh-market crops and greenhouse vegetable crops are also solicited. In the spring of 2014, a survey of Pennsylvania growers was conducted to help determine their research needs. Growers identified the following areas as either areas of problems/concern or areas needing research:

Snap Beans

- annual broadleaf weed control
- perennial weed control (e.g. Canada thistle, quackgrass, horsenettle)

Tomatoes

- bacterial canker, spot and speck control
- early blight and Septoria leaf spot control
- late blight control

Sweet Corn

- corn earworm control
- worm control in general
- replacement herbicides for atrazine
- labeling of field corn herbicides for sweet corn

Cucurbits

- no-till production in general
- weed control in no-till pumpkins
- powdery mildew control
- downy mildew control
- *Phytophthora* blight control
- cucumber beetle control

Organic/Sustainable

- nutrient management
- evaluation of OMRI-approved disease, insect and weed control products
- effects of cover crops on weed control

The complete results of this survey are detailed in a separate document, also attached.

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In addition, the Program is scheduling **a grower conference call** to allow researchers and growers to discuss potential research issues. **Researchers are invited and urged to participate in this call on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 8:00 P.M.** To participate in the call, researchers should call 1-877-643-6951 at the appointed time. When prompted, enter the following passcode 55835024#. (Call 717-694-3596 if you have problems connecting.) The conference call will be limited to an hour. Researchers who are unable to participate in the call may contact William Troxell to obtain notes from the sessions.

Pre-Proposals

Researchers are requested to submit a **brief one paragraph (third-page at the most) description** of their proposed research projects for the Board's review. The pre-proposal should also contain a rough estimate of the amount of funds to be requested.

Pre-proposals must be submitted by **November 2, 2015**, either:
by electronic mail (preferred method) - a notice of receipt will be sent when the pre-proposal is received)
to: **pvmrp@embarqmail.com**
OR by regular mail to:

Penna. Vegetable Marketing and Research Program
c/o William Troxell, Executive Secretary
815 Middle Road
Richfield, PA 17086-9205

The Board will consider these pre-proposals as well as the results from the Program's annual survey of growers research needs at an open meeting on **November 18, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 202 in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Building at 2301 North Cameron Street in Harrisburg.** **Researchers are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.** At this meeting the Board will choose those pre-proposals it wants developed into full proposals for the final selection process. This process will also allow the Board to request researchers to modify a pre-proposal so that it more closely meets the industry's needs. The Board may also request proposals on topics not included in the pre-proposals.

After this meeting, a list of selected pre-proposals and proposal requests will be developed and circulated to researchers. Any questions should be directed to William Troxell at 717-694-3596 or **pvmrp@embarqmail.com**.

Final Proposals

Selected pre-proposals and proposals specifically requested by the Board will naturally be favored in the final selection process. However, other proposals will still potentially be considered. Moreover, competing proposals to a selected pre-proposal will be considered.

Please submit 22 copies of each final proposal by January 20, 2016 to:

Penna. Vegetable Marketing and Research Program
c/o William Troxell, Executive Secretary
815 Middle Road
Richfield, PA 17086-9205

Electronic mail versions of final proposals are strongly discouraged to eliminate copying by the Program.

The Vegetable Marketing and Research Program Board is expected to review the proposals during the week of February 1, 2016.

If a proposal is accepted but only approved for partial funded, the party submitting the proposal will be given the opportunity to amend it. If a proposal is accepted and fully funded, the Board may authorize the release of the funds without the execution of a formal Research Grant Contract or it may require the execution of a full Contract. The Program and Association grants are not to be used to cover indirect or overhead expenses.

The period funded will normally be April 1, 2016 to November 30, 2016. If the nature of a project requires a different funding period, please note this in the proposal. Due to cash flow constraints, the funding may be provided in two installments – half in April, 2016, and half in August, 2016.

Any questions should be directed to William Troxell at 717-694-3596 or at pvmrp@embarqmail.com

Final Proposal Format

Proposals should contain the following sections and provide a comprehensive overview of the project in concise form (**two to three pages**).

Title:	Give the title of the project.
Personnel:	List <u>briefly</u> the name(s) and qualifications of the principal researchers.
Introduction:	Describe briefly the need this project will address, including any background information.
Objectives:	State concisely the purpose of the project, the desired results and potential benefit to growers.
Work Statement:	Explain in detail the actual method(s), procedure(s), location(s), technique(s), and all other pertinent details relative to the implementation of this project.
Budget:	List the following: Hourly Wages Supplies Travel Miscellaneous Total
Duration of Project:	Give the expected duration of the project.
Signatures:	Provide the signature(s) of the principal investigator(s).

Inspection

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association shall have the option to conduct an "on-site" review of any project by an authorized representative after granting 20 days notice in advance of any intended inspection.

Presentation of Results

Final reports shall be prepared so that growers can readily understand how the project was conducted and how the results impact them in their farming operations. All reports should be three to four pages in length, including any relevant charts or graphs, single spaced with one-inch margins on all sides.

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Reports should NOT have a separate title page – the title should be incorporated on the first page of the report. The Program reserves the right to edit the reports. Reports will be posted on the Program's website at www.paveggies.org and distributed to growers in hardcopy format for those who do not have internet access.

The final report must be submitted by December 7, 2016
by electronic mail (preferred method –either Microsoft Word documents or pdf files - a notice of receipt will be sent when the report is received) to:

pvmrp@embarqmail.com

OR

by regular mail to:

Penna. Vegetable Marketing and Research Program
c/o William Troxell, Executive Secretary
815 Middle Road
Richfield, PA 17086-9205

A detailed explanation of expenditures shall accompany the presentation of results on a separate page.

Researchers interested in attending the November meeting are asked to contact William Troxell at 717-694-3596 or pvmrp@embarqmail.com to indicate their interest.