



2019 Wisconsin Fertilizer Research Program 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, the agricultural chemicals industry, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 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 Statutes [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.

The program typically funds 3-5 proposals that range from \$10,000-45,000 annually. Proposals requesting over \$50,000 annually are unlikely to be funded.

Research Criteria – Please read carefully

Research 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. **of particular interest is nitrate loss to groundwater in sandy soils**

Proposals that do not clearly address a problem in these areas will not be considered for funding.

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 if:

- There is demonstrated support from industry, commodity or another stakeholder group
- The research has wide applicability to the Wisconsin crop producing and fertilizer industry



Proposal Evaluation Process

Proposals are initially evaluated and scored by external reviewers. Principal Investigators are required to present proposed research at the WI Fertilizer Research council meeting in early January 2020. This meeting is held at the Soil Science Department Building on the UW-Madison campus. Funding decisions are made by the WFRC at this meeting. Presentations can be made in person or via teleconference or videoconference.

Eligibility and Funding Details

Only Principal Investigators from the UW System are eligible to apply.

Proposal funding will begin in April is provided on a calendar year basis (April 1-March 31) with potential for annual renewal for up to two additional years. **Funds awarded in response to this call will be available April 1, 2020.** A one-two month delay may occur when transferring funds to campuses other than UW-Madison.

Award continuation is given on an annual basis **pending evidence of progress and availability of funds.** Funding priority is given to successful continuing projects.

Indirect costs are not allowed.

There is no cost-sharing requirement.

Application Process

All necessary proposal documents can be downloaded from <http://www.frc.soils.wisc.edu>

New Research Proposals: UW-Madison applicants: Submit proposals to CALS via WISPER by **September 20, 2019.**

*Non UW-Madison applicants: After your proposal has met the requirements of your school or college, submit a PDF version to the Program Coordinator by **September 20, 2019.**

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.

Demonstrated support, if available, should be documented in the proposal submission.

Using the URL at top of page, please review the online document "*Award Terms and Policies*".

Continuing Research Proposals: Submit the progress report and modified scope of work (if necessary) to the FRC coordinator by **January 10, 2020.** Funds may be withheld for continuing projects if reporting requirements are not met.

WFRP

Wisconsin Fertilizer Research Program

Timetable

September 20	New research proposals due to WFRC coordinator
Sept. – Dec.	Proposal review process
January 10, 2020	Continuing research applications due to WFRC Coordinator
January 22-28	New and continuing proposals presented to the WFRC (exact date TBD)
February	Applicants notified of award status
April 1, 2020	Funds available for awarded projects

Award Requirements:

- Researchers shall credit the Wisconsin Fertilizer Research Program when presenting ongoing or final results from projects funded in whole or part by the Wisconsin Fertilizer Research Fund.
- A final report is due within three months of WFRC support termination. Failure to timely submit final reports will adversely impact future funding potential.



CONTACT & SUBMISSION INFORMATION

WFRC Program Coordinator:

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING NEW RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Please follow these instructions when preparing your new proposal. Electronic versions of all necessary forms can be found online at <http://www.frc.soils.wisc.edu/>

1) Title Page: Please use the **2020 New Project Title Page (download from above URL)**.

2) Narrative: Include the title of your project on the first page of your narrative. **Please do not include your name or any co-investigators names in the narrative of your project, for review purposes.**

- 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. **Project Timeline** – please list project milestones with dates for entire project duration.
- g. **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**). Completely outline and itemize the proposed budget for each year of the project. In the supplies and materials category, please list anticipated fertilizer usage in terms of units needed, but not costs.