Competitive Grant Program
2015-2017

Application and Instructions

Agricultural Research Foundation
1600 SW Western Blvd., Suite 320
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Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 737-3228

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Competitive Grant Program  
2015-2017

**Dates to Remember**

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Overview of the Competitive Grants Program

The Competitive Grants Program of the Agricultural Research Foundation (ARF/Foundation) is designed to encourage and fund research studies at OSU that will enhance Oregon’s agricultural productivity; the quality of its produce and products; and wise management and use of its natural resources—air, water, watershed, forest, fisheries, and wildlife. Our goal is to make catalytic grants that help young scientists launch their research, and help established scientists embark on new research directions or approaches.

The funds available to support the Competitive Grants Program are discretionary funds generated by the Foundation’s investments. The level of funding available for the program each year is determined by the Board of Directors. The Board’s decision is based on that year’s return on the Foundation’s investments minus the other costs of conducting Foundation business. Funding its Competitive Grants Program at the highest level possible is the ARF Board’s top priority.

In 2014 the ARF Competitive Grants program awarded funds for 34 proposals, out of the 80 proposals that were submitted. Many unfunded proposals were highly ranked and considered to be worthy of funding by the panel.

Grant award decisions are based on the review and recommendations of a 14-member Grant Committee. Panelists are members of the ARF Board of Directors who have volunteered to serve as grant reviewers. The Grant Committee’s collective scores determine which proposals are funded within the limits of the budget.

Proposal Instructions/Criteria
2015-2017

The Agricultural Research Foundation is inviting research proposals from Oregon State University faculty members with the rank of Assistant Professor or above. Newer OSU faculty members, five years or less, are encouraged to apply.

1. Proposal(s) should focus on research important to Oregon’s diverse agriculture and natural resources. Research may be basic or applied. Preference will be given to proposals that may eventually lead to practical products or practices.

2. Joint projects of an interdisciplinary nature are welcome. Each interdisciplinary proposal must spell out the cooperative intent, and the complementary proposals should be submitted together. Each of two or more complementary projects is eligible for full funding.

3. The maximum award will be $12,500. The project should be completed within two years. Progress reports are due 1/31/2016. Final reports are due 1/31/2017.

4. Proposal deadline is 5:00 p.m. November 14, 2014. Late proposals will not be accepted. Awards will be announced by January 31, 2015. Funding will begin February 1, 2015.
5. Follow the **UPDATED** proposal format. Attachment A is your cover sheet and signature page. Attachment B is the criteria for your 4 page proposal. **Proposals exceeding four pages will automatically be eliminated.** Attachment C is your Budget Page. The review panel is composed of agricultural producers and processors; fishery and wildlife managers and practitioners; and emeritus OSU faculty members. Please write your proposal clearly in non-technical language, and **cite no more than 3 key references.**

6. **Before** submitting a proposal to the Agricultural Research Foundation, you must obtain required signatures using Attachment A. Faculty outside the College of Agricultural Sciences (Forestry, Science, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering, etc.) must obtain an appropriate college-level signature from their unit. OSU Sponsored Program approval is **NOT** required.

7. **From the Agricultural Research Foundation’s website:**
   [http://agresearchfoundation.oregonstate.edu](http://agresearchfoundation.oregonstate.edu) **download attachments A, B, and C listed under Competitive Grant Program** – “Download Proposal Guidelines.”

8. Submit one (1) hard copy and (1) electronic copy (Word or Pdf) of your original proposal to:

   Agricultural Research Foundation  
   1600 SW Western Blvd., Suite 320  
   Oregon State University  
   Corvallis, OR 97333  
   arf@oregonstate.edu

**Proposal Guidance**

**Some comments of possible help in preparing your proposal:**

1. The charge of the ARF is to aid in **research.** Projects for education or training are important, but funds should be sought elsewhere. Of course, conveying the results of the proposed research to potential users is a crucial part of any research project. Requesting funds for defraying costs of such activities is acceptable.

2. A good proposal will emphasize how the proposed research is intended to aid in agriculture or natural resources, either in the near future (applied) or by leading to developments further in the future (basic). Simply satisfying your curiosity or compiling data for a refereed paper will not impress the reviewers. Tell us specifically what significant contribution your research could make.

3. We do not fund acquisition or construction of facilities (bricks and mortar). Requests for equipment needed to carry out the proposed research are legitimate. The proposal must describe this need and specify how the equipment will be used in this research, not just to better equip your laboratory.
4. Proposals received always cover a wide range of scientific disciplines. Expecting every reviewer to be informed on every subject is unrealistic. For this reason, avoid as much scientific jargon as possible, and explain your proposal in layman’s language. A proposal that reviewers cannot readily understand is unlikely to be funded. Write your proposal as you might explain the project to your next-door neighbor over a cup of coffee.

5. Research that is original and innovative tends to be favored. If appropriate, describe to what extent your proposed study fits this description.

6. Future funding is difficult to predict, but tell us how the results of your research might help lead to future grant funding from other sources.

7. Please keep in mind that funds to finance this research are limited. We are able to fund no more that one third to one half of the requests. We regret that each year dozens of well prepared and appropriate proposals cannot be funded simply because the funds available are limited.

8. The following list of questions that reviewers consider is provided here to help you plan and prepare your proposal.

   **Rating Criteria**

   **Criteria used by proposal review panelists:**

   - Is this project **relevant** to Oregon’s agriculture and/or natural resources?
   - Are the research plan and goals clearly stated and **understandable**?
   - Does the proposed research address a **significant** problem or potential?
   - Will the results of this study be **useful**? Might they make a **difference**?
   - To what extent is the proposed research **original, innovative, or new**?
   - Will benefits of this research be **economic? environmental? scientific? social?**
   - Will the results be **communicated** to appropriate audiences?
   - Is this project or a closely related project **already receiving adequate funding** from other sources?
   - Might results from this research lead to **future grant funding** from other sources?
Attachment A

Instructions for Proposal Submission

All pages, Cover/Signature page, Proposal and Budget Page must be formatted:

- 1 inch margins on all sides

- Page numbers in the top right hand corner ONLY
  - First Page – Cover/Signature Page
  - Center Pages – Proposal Body … not to exceed 4 pages
  - Last Page – Budget Page

- Hard copy must be single sided.

- Submit your electronic Word or Pdf to arf@oregonstate.edu

- Submit your hard copy to:
  Ag Research Foundation
  c/o Charlene Wilkinson
  1600 SW Western Blvd, Suite 320
  Corvallis OR 97333

Both the hard and electronic copies of the proposal are due AT the Agricultural Research Foundation office by close of business on November 14, 2014.
Attachment A

Cover / Signature Page

RESEARCH PROPOSAL TO THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
FOR THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

TITLE: ________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Principle Investigator: ________________________________________________

Academic Rank: ______________________________________________________

Years at OSU: _______________________________________________________

Phone Number: ______________________________________________________

E-Mail Address: ______________________________________________________

Cooperator (s) (if any):

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Principal Investigator(s)                      Date: ______________________
Use separate line for each additional P.I.

APPROVED BY:

_________________________________________________________________

Principal Investigator’s Unit Supervisor(s)
(Date: ______________________
(Department Head, Superintendent, or County Chair)

_________________________________________________________________

Principal Investigator’s Academic College
(Date: ______________________
Attachment B

Proposal Body

Not to exceed 4 pages

Proposal: Justification for the research

Objectives: listed clearly and concisely

Procedures: describe research plans in concise non-technical language (like talking to your neighbor over coffee)

Impact: describe the impact if the research is successful

References cited: 3 key references

Duration of study: Not to exceed 2 years
Attachment C

BUDGET

Salary:

Faculty
Graduate Student
Other Students
Other Labor (specify type)
OPE for all categories

Travel:

Domestic (in state)
Domestic (out of state)
Foreign (explain) (Foreign travel may be allowed if it will significantly and
directly contribute to the research being proposed.)

Services:

Supplies:

Equipment:

No indirect costs or overhead allowed