CALS Funding Opportunities 2-20-17

ISU Council on International Programs, Due April 7

The ISU Council on International Programs has issued its 2018 call for proposals for projects that focus on student global experience. Grants of up to $6,000 will fund individual and group projects led by ISU faculty and staff to help expand the number of students who gain an international perspective through study abroad. The grants can be used to develop new programs or to expand existing programs. Proposals are due April 7. Contact Penni Bryant (pabryant@iastate.edu). More

FFAR Pollinator Health Fund, Due April 17

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research is requesting proposals for the Pollinator Health Fund. The fund will support research and technology development with impacts on pollinators in agricultural landscape and real-world applications to beekeeping, land management and farming practices. Focus areas include understanding multiple interacting stressors, developing best management practices, technology transfer and outreach and education. Pre-proposals are due April 17. A 1:1 match from non-federal funds is required. More

Limited Submission: Keck Foundation Research Programs, Due May 16

The Office of Vice President for Research is accepting pre-proposals for the W.M. Keck Research Programs: Medical Science and Engineering. This program supports pioneering discoveries in science, engineering and medical research. Awards are open to tenure track faculty in any department or discipline. Proposals should be novel in their approach, question a prevailing paradigm, or have the potential to break open new territory or field. Senior and early career investigators are encouraged to apply. Grants of approximately $1 million will be awarded. More

NIH NIAID Concept List Signals Potential Funding Opportunities

The National Institutes of Health National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease has released its quarterly list of approved concepts. These concepts represent early planning stages for program announcements, requests for applications or solicitations for advisory council input. While not all concepts become initiatives, they highlight NIAID’s research interests and are good topics for investigator-initiated applications. The January 2017 list includes Bioinformatics Tools to Make Data FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). More

USDA AMS Seeks Local Food Grant Reviewers

USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service is seeking reviewers to evaluate grant applications for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program. Each reviewer is expected to contribute 35 to 45 hours and will serve on a three-member team. Apply to become a reviewer by March 20. More
Funding Information, Opportunities and Deadline Reminders
Dates listed are application deadlines. Contact: Roxanne Clemens, rclems@iastate.edu
Additional information is posted at CALS Pre-Award Resources.

Mar. 7: Research Data Alliance 2017-2018 Call for Fellows; $10,000 for up to 18 months, eligibility limited to graduate students, postdocs and early career researchers with no more than three years beyond receipt of degree. More

Mar. 13 (pre-proposal): NFWF Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund; $250,000 for two years, 1:1 match required. More

Apr. 1: USAID El Salvador Regional Coastal Biodiversity Project; $17 million for five years. More

Apr. 5: NCR SARE Professional Development Program; $75,000 for up to 36 months. More

Apr. 12: DOD DARPA RadioBio; electromagnetic signaling in biosystems. More

Apr. 13: NCR SARE Graduate Student Grant Program; $12,000 for up to 36 months. More
Open for Pre-Proposals through April 17, 2017

Overview

Pollinators are a crucial component of productive natural and agricultural ecosystems. Worldwide, insect pollination contributes over $200 billion to crop production. Populations of managed and wild pollinators, however, are in decline. While research has identified several stressors that are contributing to pollinator decline, how those stressors interact with each other is an active area of research. Furthermore, beekeepers, growers and land managers need information and technology to help them modify their practices to mitigate stressors and boost pollinator health.

The Pollinator Health Fund (http://foundationfar.org/pollinator-health-fund/) focuses on research and technology development with direct impacts on pollinators in agricultural landscapes and applications to beekeeping, land management, and farming practices. Partnerships with businesses and non-profit organizations are encouraged to ground projects in the social and economic realities of beekeeping, farming, and ranching.
GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Pollinator Health Fund grants will be awarded to projects that significantly advance pollinator health in the United States. The portfolio of successful proposals will address pollinator issues across the country's geographic regions and diverse cropping systems, including pollinator-dependent commodities as well as pollinator-independent commodities with impacts on pollinator health. The Fund will devote considerable resources to high-intensity agricultural areas that present major opportunities for improvement of pollinator health.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Applicants to the Pollinator Health Fund must address at least one of the following four program priorities, and that connection must be explicit in the application along with metrics to measure success of the research program

1. Understanding Multiple Interacting Stressors: No single factor is responsible for pollinator health. Pests, pathogens, land use, agrochemicals, nutrition, interspecific interactions and climate change are just a few of the factors affecting pollinator health. The character of each of these factors and how they interact will be influenced by the biotic and abiotic environment that pollinators experience. Studies that inform management for pollinator health must take into account interacting stressors. The focal stressors for a given project should vary according to their relative importance in a region, cropping system, operation size, etc.

2. Best Management Practices and Their Application: Best management practices guide beekeepers, growers and land managers on how to improve the health of pollinators. These practices can range from integrated pest management regimens to seed mixes that provide forage for managed and native pollinators. While there are many sets of best management practices available for pollinators, very few have been scientifically vetted through applied research studies to ascertain which practices are best, under what circumstances, and with what expectation of pollinator/colony survival and productivity. Insights from experience can inform experimental management practices, but developing a mechanistic understanding through science will allow users to tune these management practices to a variety of agricultural systems and operations. Studies to develop best management practices should be interdisciplinary, accounting for the biological, social and economic dimensions of efforts to improve pollinator health and engage private partners to test practices in real world situations. For habitat restoration best practices, ties to private, local, state and federal conservation incentive programs are strongly encouraged, as well as assessment of multiple benefits from restoration practices.

3. Technology Transfer: The technology that could improve the health of managed and native pollinators ranges from improved agricultural machinery to novel pest control strategies to selectively bred lines of parasite-resistant bees. Promising preliminary work has been done in the public and private sector. This priority area seeks to fund two lines of inquiry: the promising technological advances that are ready to
move from the preliminary research to the at-scale field testing phase, as well as a limited number of high-risk projects that have minimal preliminary data but potential for grand impacts on pollinator health. Projects should involve industry partners with an interest in taking developed technologies to market and social and economic analyses of adoption potential for the new technology.

4. **Outreach and Education:** Everyone from home gardeners to commercial farmers have the opportunity to improve pollinator health through individual actions. Activities like planting pollinator gardens in urban areas, training future pollinator taxonomists, and coordinating land management activities with beekeeping schedules can have an impact on pollinator health. This priority area seeks to promote innovative outreach and education projects that reach new demographics and communities to raise awareness around pollinator health and encourage the adoption of activities that promote pollinator health. Programs should assess efficacy of education and outreach methods to allow for recommendations for improvement.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY**

- Public and private institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit organizations

**HOW TO APPLY**

Log on to Proposal Central (https://proposalcentral.altum.com/). Under “Grant Opportunities,” select “Filter by Grant Maker,” select “Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research” and click “Apply Now” next to “Pollinator Health Fund Pre-Proposal.” For questions regarding the pre-proposal, see the appropriate contact list below.
PREPARE TO APPLY: DOWNLOAD POLLINATOR HEALTH FUND PRE-PROPOSAL TEMPLATE (HTTP://FOUNDATIONFAR.ORG /WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2017/02/FFAR-POLLINATOR-HEALTH-FUND-PREPROPOSALTEMPLATE.PDF)

Please note: All pre-proposals MUST be submitted through Proposal Central.

IMPORTANT DATES

Posted Date: February 15, 2017

Closing Date: April 17, 2017

Full Proposals Invited: June 15, 2017

Full Proposals Due: August 18, 2017

Anticipated Applicant Notification by: November 1, 2017

Additional Information


CONTACTS
Program Questions: Tawny Mata (tmata@foundationfar.org) | Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, Scientific Programs Consultant

Matching Fund Questions: Shonda Andrews (sandrews@foundationfar.org) | Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, Development Associate

Technical Preproposal Application System Questions: Stefanie Chernyakov (sandrews@foundationfar.org) | Proposal Central

Total Anticipated Funding Available in 2017: $4,000,000.00

Grant Size: Individual funding requests should not be less than $100,000 or exceed $1,500,000.

Grant Terms: 1-5 years

Matching Requirement:
A 1:1 match from non-Federal sources is required at time of award. Matching may be no more than 50% in-kind. Applicants will be strongly encouraged to submit letters of financial support at time of full proposal submission. Proposed budgets in full proposals should encompass the total cost of the project including match.

DOWNLOAD POLLINATOR HEALTH FUND REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS (HTTP://FOUNDATIONFAR.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2017/02/FFAR-POLLINATOR-HEALTH-FUND-REQUEST-FOR-PRE-PROPOSALS.PDF)

SPREAD THE WORD:
Monarch butterflies are found throughout the United States, though a majority of the population migrates up to 3,000 miles to Mexico for the winter months. Over the past 20 years, the North American monarch population has plunged from 1 billion to less than 60 million, due mostly to loss of critical habitat. These beautiful, black-and-orange insects depend not only on nectar-producing plants throughout their range, but also milkweed — the
only food source for monarch caterpillars.

In 2015, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) established the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund to protect, conserve and increase habitat for these iconic insects and other pollinators. Created with an initial $1.2 million commitment from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the fund will pool additional funding from other private and public donors and matching resources from grantees.

The Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund focuses on three priority conservation needs to restore the monarch butterfly to a more robust and healthy population:

- Habitat restoration to plant native milkweed for caterpillars and nectar plants for adults in both large, contiguous areas as well as in smaller patches, especially in edge habitat along the butterfly’s migration route.
- Increasing organizational capacity and coordination among organizations, states, and regions engaged in monarch conservation and monitoring, science coordination, milkweed seed blend production and distribution, and monarch programming to ensure efficiency and the use and sharing of best practices.
- Native seed production and distribution to increase production and availability of seeds and plants essential to habitat restoration.

NFWF is currently working with funders and outside experts to develop a targeted strategy to support the recovery of monarchs while providing benefits to a broader group of pollinators. In 2016, NFWF will solicit proposals that seek to produce the required conservation outcomes. Funding for habitat restoration; organizational capacity building; and native seed production and distribution will support on-the-ground conservation projects around the country with a focus on the central United States. It is anticipated that this round of selected projects will commence this fall and early winter.

Since 2015, 23 projects have been supported through the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund. A total of $3.8 million in NFWF funds has leveraged an additional $6.7 million in matching contributions for this program. Support for this program has been provided by USFWS, Monsanto, the Bureau of Land Management,
the U.S. Forest Service, and USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2/8/2017
Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund 2017 Request for Proposals

8/23/2016
NFWF Announces $3 Million from Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund

3/10/2016
Learn how we are working with our partners to help the monarch butterfly!

3/1/2016
2016 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund Request for Proposals

3/1/2016
Webinar for 2016 Applicants on April 5, 2016, 2 PM EST

DUE DATES

3/13/2017
Pre-Proposal Deadline

5/9/2017
Full Proposal Deadline
Professional Development Grant Program

About the Professional Development Grant Program

The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) Professional Development Grant Program supports state professional development programs and competitive grants for training agricultural professionals.

Professional Development Program (PDP) competitive grants emphasize training agricultural educators in extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, private, and not-for-profit sectors, using farmers as educators and addressing emerging issues in the farm community. Generally:

- Professional Development Program awards range from $30,000 to $75,000
- Projects may last up to 36 months
- About 5-10 projects are funded each year
- A sample call is available throughout the year, but you should always consult the current call for proposals when applying
- The portfolio of research grants is reviewed and awarded on an annual timeline

Applicants are educators who often represent, but are not limited to, Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and non-profit groups.

PDP competitive grants are awarded for state and multi-state PDP projects that emphasize cross-agency training, using farmers as educators and addressing emerging issues in the farm community.

Funding decisions are made by NCR-SARE's regional Administrative Council, after receiving feedback from a review committee. The Administrative Council is a collection of farmers, ranchers, university representatives, nonprofit representatives, Extension and NRCS people, other government employees, and agribusiness representatives. This group sets research priorities and recommends projects for funding.

Before writing a grant proposal, determine a clear project goal and explore previous research. It often helps to contact NCR-SARE, local agriculture groups, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or Extension educators to share ideas and invite participation. Use this website or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.

Useful Information for the Professional Development Grant Program

- NCR-SARE Professional Development Program fact sheet
- Previously funded Professional Development Program projects on the National SARE database of projects
- Reporting Information for the Professional Development Grant Program
- The Professional Development Program grant-making timeline
- SARE Calendar of Events

Other Resources

- Educational and Training Opportunities in Sustainable Ag -- Compiled by the National Agriculture Library
- SARE National Continuing Education Program in Sustainable Agriculture: Sustainable Agriculture: Basic Principles and Concept Overview (Course 1)

Personal Contact
Graduate Student Grant Program

About the Graduate Student Grant Program

The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) Graduate Student Grant Program supports projects by graduate students that address sustainable agriculture issues and are part of the student's degree program. NCR-SARE instituted the Graduate Student Grant Program in 2002 for officially registered graduate students (Masters and Ph.D.) enrolled at accredited colleges or universities. Projects must benefit agriculture in the North Central Region.

NCR-SARE's Graduate Student Grant Program is a competitive grant program to fund graduate student projects that address sustainable agriculture issues. A candidate may only receive one NCR-SARE Graduate Student award during her or his graduate student career. Generally:

- Graduate Student Grant awards can be up to $12,000.
- Projects may last up to 36 months.
- At least 15 projects are funded each year.
- A sample call for proposals is available throughout the year, but you should always consult the current call for proposals when applying. [2014 Grad CFP PDF](#)
- The portfolio of graduate student grant proposals are reviewed and awarded on an annual timeline.

Funding decisions are made by NCR-SARE's regional Administrative Council, after receiving feedback from a review committee. The Administrative Council is a collection of farmers, ranchers, university representatives, nonprofit representatives, Extension and NRCS people, other government employees, and agribusiness representatives. This group sets research priorities and recommends projects for funding.

Funded proposals have contributed to farmer or rancher profitability, environmental quality, and the enhancement of the quality of life of farmers or ranchers, rural communities, and society as a whole. NCR-SARE strongly encourages students to involve farmers and ranchers in their Graduate Student Grant Program projects.

NCR-SARE can provide grant applications, reports from other projects, lists of funded projects, or other sustainable agriculture information. To receive more information about the NCR-SARE Graduate Student Grant Program proposal process and timeline, contact the NCR-SARE office.

Graduate Student Call and Projects Recommended for Funding

Click [here](#) to view previous calls and projects recommended for funding.

Graduate Student General Fact Sheet

Click [here](#) to read and download a general fact sheet about the Graduate Student Grant Program.

Personal Contact

A unique aspect of NCR-SARE is our personal contact with graduate students involved in the program. Beth Nelson is our Graduate Student Program Coordinator. Feel free to contact Beth.

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