Spring 2015 University of Nebraska Foundation Funding
Request for Applications

ARD Innovation Fund for Wheat/Cereal Crops
Wheat/Cereal Scholarship & Fellowship Support Fund

Alan & Irene Williams Endowment Fund
Kenneth J. Good Trust Fund

Channing B. and Katherine W. Baker Fund

Applications must be routed* in NUgrant by 11:59 PM Central Time on April 13, 2015.
*Approved by all Project Directors and their Unit Administrators.

DESCRIPTION: The Agricultural Research Division / Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station is inviting faculty members to submit research applications for funding beginning July 1st, 2015. This integrated Request for Applications (RFA) incorporates four distinct programs. Each program is funded using funds from the NU Foundation, consistent with the specific wishes of the donor(s).

RFA: Wheat, Wheat Products and Other Small Grain Research is funded from both the ARD Innovation Fund for Wheat/Cereal Crops and the Wheat/Cereal Scholarship & Fellowship Support Fund. Topic areas funded by this program will include broad issues important to the genetics, breeding, agronomics, plant pathology, safety, entomology, economics, and utilization of wheat. This program will fund up to three projects at $50,000/year for two years ($100,000 total costs per application). Project budgets must allocate funding for graduate student stipends (0.33 FTE minimum, but not more than $48,000 per year including tuition/benefits). In addition, research projects are expected to supplement ARD funding with a one-year graduate research assistantship (minimum 0.33 FTE) funded by the Department/Unit/external grant at any time during the 3-year funding period.

Applications for basic infrastructure support (equipment or services) related to wheat research will be considered at any funding level, but will require some (internal or external) cost-share from product sales, grants, services, or other income. Applications for equipment or service infrastructure should be designed such that they support wheat-related research.

RFA: Water and Land Conservation Research is funded from both the Alan & Irene Williams Endowment Fund and the Kenneth J. Good Trust Fund. Topic areas funded via this program may address any broad area of research associated with water and land conservation/natural resource protection. This program will fund up to three projects, each at $30,000 total costs over two years.

RFA: GRA Support for Soil Conservation is provided by the Channing B. and Katherine W. Baker Fund. Full research applications are expected, and funding from this program is only available to support a partial GRA (MS or PhD). Budgets must indicate alternative sources of funding that will allow the proposed soil conservation research to be completed. Applicants must complete the standard budget form for the GRA and describe the outside match to document other funding in the budget justification section. If suitable applications are received, this program will fund a single (partial) GRA at $16,000 per year for three years ($48,000 total costs over three years).

RFA: GRA Support for Breeding and Genetics of Food and Feed Grains is provided by the Channing B. and Katherine W. Baker Fund. Full research applications are expected, and funding from this program is only available to support a partial GRA (MS or PhD). Budgets must indicate alternative sources of funding that will allow the proposed breeding and genetics of food and feed grains research to be completed. Applicants must complete the standard budget form for the GRA and describe the outside match to document other funding in the budget justification section. If suitable applications are received, this program will fund a single (partial) GRA at $16,000 per year for three years ($48,000 total costs over three years).
Spring 2015 University of Nebraska Foundation Funding
Request for Applications

INTENT: This NU Foundation supported RFA is designed to promote multi-investigator agricultural sciences and natural resources research important to Nebraska and its agricultural systems, while simultaneously positioning investigators to be competitive on a national basis. Faculty are encouraged to propose projects that leverage the intellectual and physical resources available throughout UNL. These grant resources are intended to grow and further stimulate active and productive research programs. As such, no salary savings can be generated as part of this program. Successful applications must clearly indicate how the proposed research activity addresses areas of importance to Nebraska and how the proposed research, or aspects of it, will enhance competitiveness of the research team for extramural funding including how the proposed research aligns with priorities of extramural funding programs. Applications from only one investigator will be returned without review.

ELIGIBILITY: The lead Principal Investigator (PI)/Project Director (PD) must have a tenure-track appointment with ARD; those with an adjunct appointment are also eligible if they have been previously grant-active and such grants or applications have been recorded as IANR research grants (PCS code - Research) via UNL’s NUgrant System. Co-PIs/Co-PDs and collaborators can be affiliated with any University of Nebraska campus or be employed outside the University of Nebraska system; they need not be in a tenure-track position at UNL. Collaborators outside the University of Nebraska system cannot receive subawards, but may receive funds invoiced to the project.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION FORMAT: Applications for these awards will be accepted ONLY via NUgrant (http://nugrant.unl.edu). Paper or emailed applications will not be accepted. If you are a first-time user of NUgrant, log-in using your Blackboard username and password. To start your application, after login, click “[add new]” next to the “Internal Competitions” link. The three programs are titled “ARD Wheat”, “ARD Water & Land Conservation”, and “ARD GRA support”.

Information required as part of the electronic NUgrant application:
1. Abstract / Non-Technical Summary (NUgrant online form) Describe the situation that creates a need for this project as well as the purpose or rationale for the project. Also include general statements describing the methods to be used, the expected outcomes/impacts, and the anticipated benefits. Provide information at a level that a scientist that is not a specialist in your field will understand.

2. Project Description: Attach one PDF that includes the project description, literature citations, roles and responsibilities, and timeline (see below). Include sufficient detail to convince reviewers of the project's scientific merit (or the infrastructure need identified to support wheat research), consistent with the requirements of the program area and written in language understandable to scientifically trained non-specialists. The project description should also include information to demonstrate to reviewers that the proposed work is important/relevant to Nebraska and its agricultural systems and at least some aspect of the work will contribute to an external funding application.

Type size must be 11 points or larger, margins at least 1 inch on all four sides, and line spacing should not exceed 6 lines of text within a vertical space of 1 inch. The file must be in PDF format.

The project description must include the following:
a. Goals/Objectives/Methods/Expected Outputs/Literature Citations (five page limit)
   • Provide background/rationale for project, including its significance and how the project addresses the priorities of this specific RFA.
   • List the long-term goals and short-term objectives of the project.
   • Describe the relevance and importance of the work to Nebraska’s citizens and businesses (including farmers/ranchers).
   • Describe project methodology (including data analysis, interpretation, and dissemination). Include a plan for data management, storage, and sharing data in the future.
   • Describe the expected scientific outputs and/or expected outcomes.
   • Describe what these funds will accomplish that cannot be achieved through other means.
   • Literature citations.
Spring 2015 University of Nebraska Foundation Funding
Request for Applications

b. Roles and Responsibilities of the PI/PD and other investigators on this project, including amount of
time committed to this project. (one page limit—add this page after the literature citations)

c. Timeline for completing the proposed studies and submitting an extramural application for funding
(one page limit—add this page after roles and responsibilities)

• Describe how this research, at least in part, will enhance competitiveness for external
funding. Clearly identify an external program, funding agency, and timeline for submitting an
application. It is not necessary that the entire project’s scope address an area for which
competitive grants are available; it is, however, necessary that some element(s) can
contribute towards increased competitiveness for extramural research funding.

3. Principal Investigator (PI)/Other Investigators/Key Personnel: Include a 2-page CV or biographical
sketch for the PI/PD and other investigators (e.g., faculty) involved in the project. Please attach these
files in PDF format. If other project key personnel (e.g., non-faculty) are involved in this project, use the
NUgrant online form to provide this information and describe their role on this project.

4. Current & Pending Support (NUgrant online form): List of all funded and pending internal and external
grants of all faculty involved in the project. This form is available in NUgrant and this information is
automatically provided for applications that have been routed through NUgrant. Co-PIs/Co-PDs or
collaborators that are not employed at UNL are not required to provide this information.

5. Project Budget and Budget Justification (NUgrant online forms): Provide a budget and justification for
the amount requested. Applications for GRA support for soil conservation or breeding and genetics of
food and feed grains require additional funds to co-support student assistantships. A detailed description
(source, amount, duration) of these additional funds must be provided in the budget justification. Salaries
for technicians, postdoctoral fellows or undergraduate students and stipends for graduate research
assistants (GRA) are allowable expenses. Tuition remission is an allowable expense. Information
regarding current rates for employee/student benefits is available at:
http://research.unl.edu/sp1/fringerates.shtml. Funds from this program must not be used for construction,
renovation, administrative assistance, international travel (including lodging or meals in a foreign
country), summer salary for faculty, or release time for teaching. Subawards outside the UNL system are
not allowed; however, collaborators at other institutions may invoice expenses to this project.

Other Guidelines: If funding is to be used for a full or partial GRA, the PI/PD will be given up to six months
beyond the award notification date to identify a suitable graduate student for the project. If a student has not
been identified by that time, ARD will reevaluate the status of the research application for funding.

Members of the faculty-elected ARD Advisory Council and/or other designated faculty, as required, will
review and rank all applications. The ARD Dean and Associate Deans make all final funding decisions.
Award announcements will be made on or around June 30, 2015.

Evaluation Criteria: If all submission and format rules are met, applications will be evaluated on:

• Scientific merit, relevance and feasibility consistent with the program RFA. (40 points);
• Potential for impact on PI/Co-PI’s overall research efforts & extramural funding opportunities (30 points)
• Potential for impact on Nebraska and quality of dissemination plan (20 points)
• Budget appropriate to proposed activities and/or purchases (10 points)

Questions may be directed to Deb Hamernik (DHamernik2@unl.edu) in the ARD office (402-472-2045).

Failure to follow submission instructions or application format rules will result in the application being returned
without review. Applicants are strongly encouraged to clarify any questions they have, and to seek a third-party
review of their application materials prior to submission.