

FY 2023
Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program
Request for Applications

Application Deadline: 11:59 pm CST on May 20, 2022

<https://ard.unl.edu/hatch-multistate-funding>

DESCRIPTION: The Agricultural Research Division (ARD) / Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station (NEAES) invites faculty to submit applications for the FFY23 Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program. Approximately 25 percent of the Hatch Act funds provided to the NEAES are set aside to support multistate research activities. We encourage faculty to participate in Multistate (regional) Research Committee(s) and Projects that benefit Nebraska and its citizens. Multistate projects involve a team of investigators associated with several State Agricultural Experiment Stations working together to solve complex scientific problems of regional or national interest.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be a registered participant of a Multistate Research Committee that started a new, NIFA approved, 5-year project cycle not earlier than October 1, 2020 (3-years of remaining activity) or be a registered participant of a Multistate Research Committee that is scheduled to start a new, NIFA approved, 5-year cycle on October 1, 2022. Applications for projects that started on October 1, 2020 and October 1, 2021 should be for the remaining project period (3 and 4 years, respectively) starting October 1, 2022.

NIFA approved Multistate Research Committee start and end dates are listed in the National Information Management and Support System (www.NIMSS.org). To join a Multistate Research Committee and register in the NIMSS, applicants need to fill in an Appendix-E form that is found at <https://ard.unl.edu/hatch-multistate-funding>. Please contact Jen McMahon (jmcmahon10@unl.edu) in ARD for information on joining a Multistate Committee.

Please note: This funding opportunity is separate from Multistate travel funds administered by the ARD office to support reasonable travel expenses for one ARD-affiliated UNL investigator to the NIFA approved annual meeting of a Multistate Research Project, National Research Support Project, Coordinating Committee, Education/Extension and Research Activity, Development Committee, or Advisory Committee (Dept. Head Meetings). Faculty must be official members of the Committee (preferably the UNL representative) to be eligible for Multistate Travel funding. Please contact Jen McMahon (jmcmahon10@unl.edu) in ARD for information on joining a Multistate Committee.

ARD Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program: Programmatic funding intended to enhance contributions to Multistate Research Projects (NC, NE, S, or W -xxx) or National Research Support Projects (NRSP -xx) will be made available on a competitive basis. ***This Programmatic funding is not available for AC (Advisory Committees), CC (Coordinating Committees), DC (Development Committees), or ERA (Education/Extension & Research Activities).*** National Multistate Research Committees are governed by a five-year plan of work approved by the region and the USDA NIFA. To compete for these funds, ARD faculty must submit an application by Friday May 20, 2022. ARD faculty may request up to \$50,000/ year for up to 5-years for new projects starting October 1, 2022 with no funding awarded for projects that started prior to October 1, 2020. A list of previously awarded projects is available at: <https://ard.unl.edu/hatch-multistate-funding>.

The ARD Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program provides an opportunity for an individual ARD faculty, or a team of ARD faculty, to request funds to make significant contribution to the research area(s) being investigated by the national Multistate Research Committee **and** is designed to enable significant impact and productivity regardless of other available funding to ARD faculty. In recent years,

applications from interdisciplinary research teams have been more successful for Hatch Multistate funding than applications from individual investigators. Priority will be given to projects addressing current and emerging issues that are vital to agricultural, natural resources, family/community, or nutritional interests in Nebraska. Projects supported by the Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program are likely to be in research areas for which additional investment would enable investigators to leverage these funds to obtain significant extramural funding.

ELIGIBILITY: The Project Director (PD) must have a tenure or tenure-track appointment with ARD; those with adjunct appointments or those in non-tenure track positions with Research Professor, Professor of Practice, or Extension Educator (assistant, associate or full) titles are also eligible, if they are the lead PD on a current external research grant (with a PCS code of Research in NUgrant and routed via IANR in NUgrant). The PD must be a member of a national Multistate Research Committee prior to submission of an application for funding from this program. Co-PDs and collaborators can be affiliated with any University of Nebraska campus or be employed outside the University of Nebraska system. Collaborators employed outside the University of Nebraska system, however, may invoice expenses to this project. ARD will not accept invoices for expenses from outside the United States.

At any point in time:

- *an individual may serve as PD on **only one funded project** from the ARD Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program. An individual may serve as a Co-PD, collaborator, or team member on other funded projects from this program.*
- *only one application per national multistate committee will be accepted for review. If multiple ARD faculty are members of the same national multistate committee, they must collaborate to submit only one application for the ARD Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program.*

DEADLINES AND EXPECTATIONS:

Any ARD faculty member who wants to receive funding to enhance their research in a national Multistate Research Committee *must* submit an application.

- Applications for the Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program are due to the ARD office by Friday May 20, 2022.
- Applications for Multistate Research Committees should be for the remaining project periods as follows:
 - Projects that started on October 1, 2020 – 3 years
 - Projects that started on October 1, 2021 – 4 years
 - Projects starting on October 1, 2022 – 5 years

The maximum allocation (if awarded) for the Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program will be up to \$50,000 per application per year. **Applications will not be considered for national Multistate Research Committees that started prior to October 1, 2020.**

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION FORMAT: Applications will be accepted ONLY via NUramp (<https://nuramp.nebraska.edu>). First-time users of NUramp should log-in using their my.UNL username and password. To start an application, after login, click “[add new]” next to the “Internal Competitions” link.

Information required as part of the online NUramp application:

1. **Project Director/Principal Investigator and CV/Biosketch** (NUramp online form): Two-page CV must be in the PDF file format.
2. **Other Investigators** (NUramp online form): List all other Co-Investigators. Two-page CV for each

investigator must be in the PDF file format.

3. **Key Personnel:** List all other essential project participants.
4. **Project Title, Start/End Dates, Support, Field, and Compliance/Export Control** (NUramp online form): *Project title must include the five-year national Multistate Research Committee number.* Start and end dates must match those of the national committee (e.g., October 1, XXXX – September 30, XXXX).
5. **Abstract / Non-Technical Summary** (NUramp online form; 250-word limit): Describe the situation that creates a need for this project as well as the purpose or rationale for the project. Include general statements describing the methods to be used, the expected outcomes/impacts, and the anticipated benefits. Provide information at a level that most citizens (legislative and other public audiences) can understand. The project **must** describe research to be conducted at UNL and how this research relates to the goals and objectives of the national Multistate Research Committee.
6. **Project Description** (attached as a PDF file): Include sufficient detail to convince reviewers of the project's scientific merit 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. The Project Description is limited to 10 pages and must include the following sections (e.g., sections a-h within 10 pages):
 - a. **Statement of Issues and Justification:**
 - Provide rationale/significance for the project and why the work needs to be done.
 - Describe the relevance and importance of the work to citizens, businesses, farmers/ranchers in Nebraska.
 - b. **Related Current & Previous Work:**
 - A summary of findings from a REEIS search (formerly CRIS) is required (<https://reeis.usda.gov>). The REEIS search summary should identify work being conducted to meet objectives similar to yours. If the REEIS search provides limited results, describe findings from elsewhere (including your own preliminary studies) that are supportive of the feasibility for the research.
 - This section should help to define the problem under study and explain how the proposed work will supplement and extend previous work.
 - A classical in-depth literature review should NOT be included within the project outline.
 - c. **Goals/Objectives/Expected Outputs:**
 - List (verbatim) the overall goals and specific objectives of the national Multistate Research Committee.
 - List the Nebraska-specific objectives and describe how the work at Nebraska will contribute to the goals and objectives of the national Multistate Research Committee.
 - d. **Methods of the Nebraska project:**
 - Describe the methods to be used, with emphasis on the general scientific methods and any unique aspects or significant departures from usual methods.
 - Include a description of how the results will be analyzed, evaluated, and interpreted.
 - Describe potential problems/pitfalls and alternative plans/solutions.
 - Identify specific research that ARD/NEAES funds will target and clearly describe:

Additional Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program Criteria:

- The source and programmatic objectives of all current research funding that relates to the Multistate Research Committee.
- Plans for leveraging Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program Funding into significant

external funding for the project, including timeline for submitting external applications; name of the funding source; program priorities; conversations with program officers; etc.

- e. Target Audience:
- Provide a description of the target audience(s) that will be the focus of the project.
 - Target audiences include individuals, groups, market segments, or communities that will be served by the project.
 - Where appropriate, also identify population groups such as racial and ethnic minorities and those who are socially, economically, or educationally disadvantaged.
- f. Products:
- Identify the standard products/outputs that are expected to be achieved during the life of this project. Products include: major publications (peer-reviewed publications, books, conference proceedings, etc.), patents, licenses, software, curriculum, plant variety protection (PVP), etc.
- g. Expected Outcomes:
- Describe what will be different (change in knowledge, actions, and/or conditions) if this project is successful.
- h. Measurement of Progress and Results:
- Milestones are timeline-linked accomplishments that need to be completed before subsequent activities can begin or can be completed.
 - Include a timeline for completion of the proposed studies, by objective.
- i. Previous Impact -- one additional page is allowed to describe previous impact of ARD funding for the PD {and Co-PD(s), if applicable} (excluding start-up packages). Include the one page of Previous Impact immediately after the Project Description in one PDF.
- Faculty {PD and Co-PD(s)} with previous Hatch Multistate Research or other ARD funding (excluding start-up packages) **must** include a description of how ARD funds have been leveraged to generate external funding for research. Applicants seeking funding for a second, five-year Hatch Multistate Research project are expected to have leveraged their previous Hatch Multistate Research funding into significant extramural funding (from federal agencies, foundations, or the private sector) for their research program. Applicants that have not leveraged previous ARD funding or Hatch Multistate Research funding will not likely receive funding from this program.
 - A brief description of outputs (publications, grants, trainees, etc.) and impacts (changes in knowledge, actions, and/or conditions) generated by previous efforts and how these outputs and impacts have benefited Nebraska and the region must also be included.
 - Those faculty that have not had previous Hatch Multistate Research or other ARD funding do not need to complete this section.
- j. Literature Citations: Literature citations (references) are NOT included in the 10-page project description and may be included on one additional page. Include the one page of literature citations immediately after the Project Description or the Previous Impact section (if applicable) in one PDF.

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

7. **Project Budget and Justification** (NUramp online forms): The budget section should be prepared to cover the annual and total amount requested for the entire project period (3, 4 or 5 years). Annual budget requests **must not** exceed \$50,000 /year. Download the OSP Budget Template available at: <https://research.unl.edu/sponsoredprograms/forms-templates/>, enter budget information for the project, save the file as a PDF to your computer, and upload the PDF into your NUramp application. Seek assistance from your grant specialist regarding allowable expenditures of Hatch funds (e.g., Hatch funds cannot be used to pay student tuition). Funds from this program must not be used for construction; renovation; administrative assistance; international travel, lodging or meals in a foreign country; summer salary for faculty; or release time for teaching. A complete list of unallowable expenditures is available at: <https://uofnelincoln.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UNL-IANRAgResearch-Office/Ee3EzvhGdkJNsT2JdBEU4McBil0aWo0yGS-q8W0xfHzlg?e=tV8U4z> .Requests to purchase equipment (>\$5,000) may **not** be approved. Sub-awards outside the UNL system are not allowed; however, collaborators at other institutions may invoice expenses to this project. ARD will not accept invoices for expenses from outside the United States.

The Budget Justification section must include a general description of costs (salaries, operating, travel, publications, etc.) for *each year* of the project as well as a justification for these annual expenses. Salary and benefits of support staff is an allowable cost and can be requested in the budget and should reflect the percent FTE the employee will dedicate to the proposed project.

Departments/Units of PDs will be responsible for expenditures beyond the approved budget. Requests to carry forward funding will generally not be considered. Any funds remaining after the end of the project will be transferred back to the ARD/NEAES office.

REVIEW PROCESS: The ARD Deans will conduct an initial review of applications. Applications may be triaged by the NEAES Director and Associate Directors. ARD reserves the right to use external reviews for applications submitted to this program. Names of external reviewers may be solicited from faculty. External reviewers will be asked to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement. Upon receipt of external reviews, the NEAES Director and Associate Directors will make funding decisions. The NEAES Director and Associate Directors are federally authorized to approve participation in national Multistate Research Committees and to make funding allocation decisions on Hatch Multistate Research Projects. This Request for Applications is the selected method to inform the NEAES Director's decisions.

Evaluation Criteria:

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

- Scientific merit, relevance to Nebraska, and alignment with the goals/objectives of the national multistate committee (40 points);
- Potential for extramural funding (30 points);
- Potential for impact on PD/Co-PD's overall research efforts, including the applicant's relative need for this funding (20 points); and
- Budget appropriate to proposed activities (10 points).

If awarded, the Lead PD will be required to enter the project outline into the USDA REEport database. Instructions for this process will be sent by e-mail after an award notification has been sent. Regardless of the funding decision on applications submitted to the Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program, the USDA NIFA must approve the national, five-year Multistate Research Committee and the NEAES-approved application for the Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program before funding is released by the NEAES.

The NEAES will NOT release funds, if:

- a) Your application for the Hatch Multistate Enhancement Program is not approved under this competition;
- b) The USDA NIFA does not approve the new, national, five-year Multistate Research Committee;
- b) Your application, although approved by NEAES, is not approved by the USDA NIFA; or
- c) The USDA NIFA does not provide sufficient Hatch funding to the NEAES for multistate research activities.

The format of this RFA is designed to minimize the additional work by ARD faculty to initiate and seek approval of Hatch Multistate Research Projects from the USDA NIFA. Applicants that are not successful for this funding will be strongly encouraged to submit their project to the USDA NIFA as a 5-year Hatch (regular) project.

**Applications that do not follow submission instructions or format rules
will be returned without review.**

**Applicants are strongly encouraged to ask one or more colleagues to review their
application prior to submission and to clarify questions with
Héctor L. Santiago (hsantiago@unl.edu).**