DESCRIPTION: The Agricultural Research Division (ARD) / Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station (NEAES) invites faculty to participate in Multistate (regional) Research Projects that benefit Nebraska and its citizens. [Multistate projects are similar to Hatch-regular projects, but involve a team of investigators associated with several State Agricultural Experiment Stations working together to solve complex scientific problems of regional or national interest.]

**Travel/Meeting Participation Funding:** The NAEAES will generally support reasonable travel expenses for one ARD-affiliated UNL investigator to the annual meeting of any 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 (Listed in Appendix E) and the “Official” [voting] representative; we will consider allocating funds for multiple investigators or those without ARD appointments depending upon their participation level and available resources. Once an annual meeting is officially announced, PIs should follow the standard travel authorization procedures.

**Project Renewals and Programmatic Funding:** Most Multistate Projects (NC, NE, S, or W-xxx) are governed by a five-year plan of work approved by the region and USDA. Certain other projects-types (500-Series, etc.) may have shorter time-frames. New master-project outlines, within the North Central Region, are due to the regional office for review by mid-December with a potential start-date the following October (other regions have slightly different review schedules, but most projects start and end with the federal fiscal year). If ARD investigators wish to receive programmatic funds during the approved project funding cycle (usually 5-years) *in addition to travel funding*, they must submit a “Funded Participant Proposal” by January 31st of the year in which the new project may be approved (applicants may resubmit, or submit for the first time, a new or revised proposal during the first year of a new multistate project). There are two funding programs to which PIs may apply:

- Supplemental Hatch-Multistate Funding Program
- Enhanced Hatch-Multistate Research Funding Program

The **Supplemental Funding Program** is designed to complement other funding available to the PI. If the Funded Participant Proposal is approved for supplemental funding, each ARD approved PI will receive up to a $10,000/year allocation to partially support their research activities associated with the approved multistate effort. Multiple PIs on a single multistate project can submit one proposal and work together as a team to accomplish the relevant goals outlined in the master proposal (each receiving up to $10,000/yr). Alternatively and especially in cases where PIs are working on different objectives and different areas of science, we will accept individual (or small group) proposals for the same multistate project. Annual reports are required; the funds provided are intended to supplement other sources of funding that the PI (or groups of PIs) has obtained to support their overall research program in areas linked to the multistate effort. If a PI or group of PIs does not have additional sources of support for the programmatic area associated with a given multistate project, Supplemental Funding is unlikely to be granted; those PIs should apply for Enhanced Research Funding.

The **Enhanced Research Funding Program** provides an opportunity for a single PI or a team of PIs to request additional funds to facilitate making a more significant impact on the research area(s) being investigated by the multistate group. PIs may request any amount, up to $100,000/year per multistate project. Projects most likely to receive funding from this program would be those very strongly linked to Nebraska citizen’s vital agricultural, natural resource, family, or nutritional interests. Funded projects from this sub-program are likely to either be:

- In research areas for which there are few other federal, foundation or Industry research funds available; or
- In research areas for which additional investment would enable investigators to leverage these funds to obtain significant extramural funding.

Given the nature and purpose of Hatch funding, all things being equal, the NAEAES is more likely to fund areas of science vital to Nebraska for which there are not significant other available funding opportunities.

If you have questions about the submission process, please contact staff in the Agricultural Research Division Office (402-472-2045) or Deb Hamernik (dhamernik2@unl.edu).
INTENT: Funds received from either program must enable significant research productivity and impact. Supplemental Funds are designed to complement existing external or self-generated funding and provide relatively flexible resources that facilitate overall programmatic impact. Supplemental Funds are NOT designed to serve as the sole support for any program. Enhanced Funding is designed to enable significant impact and productivity regardless of other available funding sources.

ELIGIBILITY: The Project Director (PD) must have a tenured or tenure-track appointment with ARD; those with adjunct appointments or those with Research Professor or Professor of Practice (assistant, associate or full) titles are also eligible if they have been previously grant active and such grants or proposals have been recorded with a PCS code of Research and routed via IANR within UNL’s NUgrant system. Given the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station’s statewide mission, in rare cases NEAES may consider funding a University of Nebraska (system) PI that does not receive direct salary support from the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Co-PDs and collaborators can be affiliated with any University of Nebraska campus, or be employed outside the University of Nebraska system. Funding for collaborators employed outside the University of Nebraska system, however, will be limited to invoiceable services.

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 you can log-in using you're my.UNL username and password. To start your application, after login, click “[add new]” next to the “Internal Competitions” link.

Deadlines and Expectations:

• Travel/participant funding: PIs must be official members of the Multistate Committee and should follow the standard travel authorization procedures. Contact the NEAES Office for account numbers and authorization well before the scheduled annual meeting.
• Any faculty member anticipating participation in a new multistate project must submit either a Supplemental Research Funding proposal or an Enhanced Research Funding Proposal if they wish to receive programmatic funds during the approved project funding cycle. These applications are due by January 31st of the year the master project is scheduled to start (e.g., Jan. 31, 2015 due date for projects starting Oct. 1st 2015). Regardless of previous funding allocations, the maximum allocation (if awarded) will be $10,000 per PI per year for those receiving Supplemental Funding. Up to $100,000 (per proposal per year) is available for those applying for Enhanced Research Funding. PIs that choose to seek Enhanced Research Funding will be automatically considered for Supplemental Funding if their proposal is unsuccessful in the Enhanced Funding Program. Application should be for the full (usually 5-year) period of the master project. Revised or new applications for projects that started on October 1, 2014 should be for the remaining project period starting October 1, 2015 (usually 4-years). Applications will not be considered for projects that started prior to October 1, 2014.

Information required as part of the electronic NUgrant application:

1. Principal Investigator (project director) and CV/Biosketch (NUgrant online form). Two-page CV should be in the PDF file format.
2. Other Investigators (NUgrant online form). List all other Co-Investigators. Two-page CV should 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 (NUgrant online form). Project title should include the multistate (master) project number. Start and End dates should match those of the master project (typically October 1, XXXX – September 30, XXXX ). An “other support” entry is essential if Supplemental Funding is being requested or if those seeking Enhanced Funding wish to be eligible for Supplemental Funding if their Enhanced application is not funded.
5. 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 most citizens (legislative and other public audiences) can understand.
6. **5-page proposal** (attached as a PDF file) that includes 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 proposal should also include information to demonstrate to reviewers that the proposed work is important/relevant to Nebraska. The proposal must include the following elements:

   a. **Introduction - Goals/Objectives/Expected Outputs**
      - Provide background/rationale for project, including its significance.
      - List the master-project’s overall longer-term goals and shorter-term objectives; list your specific contribution to those objectives.

   b. **Proposed Plan - Objectives and Methods**
      - Describe project goals and objectives
      - Describe the methodology proposed to achieve the project goals
      - Describe expected outcomes.
      - Describe the relevance and importance of the work to Nebraska (citizens/businesses/farmers).
      - Identify how your project will leverage the expertise of and/or data from other multistate project members.
      - Identify specific research that NEAES funds will target and clearly state:

   For **Supplemental Research Funding**:
      - The source and programmatic objectives of all related existing funding for which NEAES funding will help supplement. Each PI must have some source of related funding to be eligible. Those with the capacity for self-generation of research dollars (farm sales) should estimate current and 2-years of prior useable income.

   For **Enhanced Research Funding**:
      - The relative availability of external funding (those seeking enhancement funds based on lack of funding availability should highlight that fact; those seeking funding base on the potential to leverage our funding for significant external funding should be very specific regarding funding source and program).
      - [If funding is not awarded at any level for this program, PIs are automatically considered for Supplemental Funding…] and to be competitive under that program each PI must have existing resources. Therefore, all applications should include the source and programmatic objectives of all related existing funding for which our funding will help supplement (if Enhanced funding is not awarded). Those with the capacity for self-generation of research dollars (farm sales) should estimate current and 2-years of prior useable income.]

   c. **Previous Impact**
      - PIs with previous Hatch-multistate allocations should outline outputs (publications) and impact (change in situation, knowledge and/or behavior) their previous efforts have had on Nebraska and the region.
      - Those not having received funding allocations need not complete this section.

   d. **Anticipated Impact**
      - Describe what will be different (change in situation, behavior and/or knowledge) if this project is successful.

References are included in the 5-page project description limit. Type size must be 10 points or larger. Margins must be 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 the PDF file format.

7. **Project Budget and Justification** (NUgrant online forms): Budget and justification sections should be prepared to cover the total amount requested for the entire project period. Seek assistance from your grant specialist regarding allowable expenditures of Hatch funds (for example, Hatch funding can’t be used to pay for tuition remission).
Additional Notes:

Failure to follow submission instructions or application format rules will result in the proposal 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.

Proposals will initially be reviewed within the ARD office. Decisions are made on Supplemental Funding Program proposals without external review. Applications received for the Enhanced Funding Program are triaged by the ARD Deans; PIs will be notified by late spring if their applications are still under consideration. External reviewer names will be solicited from PIs for these applications, and PIs will also be asked if they would like their application reviewed under a Non-Disclosure Agreement. Upon receipt of external scientific reviews, the NEAES Director and Associate Directors will make funding decisions. The Directors are federally authorized to approve participation in and to make funding allocation decisions on Hatch-multistate projects. This proposal mechanism (RFA) is our selected method to inform the Director’s decisions.

If awarded, the Lead PI 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 our funding decision, in order to actually receive support the master multistate project must receive USDA approval and the funded multistate contributing projects (this application) MUST ALSO BE approved by USDA before funding is released. If any of the following does not occur, you will not receive funding: a) your application is not approved under this competition, b) your application, although approved by NEAES, is not approved by USDA, c) USDA does not provide sufficient capacity funding for multistate research. The format of this RFA is designed to minimize the additional work to initiate and seek approval from USDA.

This is a complex program. We strongly urge you clarify any questions you have by calling (402-472-2045) or emailing the ARD office.