

March 13, 2026

TO: Unit Administrators

FROM: Derek McLean, Dean and Director
Agricultural Research Division



Thomas Burkey, Interim Dean

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources



SUBJECT: **Graduate Student Fellowships**

You are invited to nominate your unit's **outstanding graduate students** for the 2026-2027 Graduate Fellowship Awards. Students may **not** be nominated for these awards if they will be concurrently receiving a Cooper Sharpless or William Curtis Fellowship.

All applications are to be received by ARD or CASNR offices (depending on the Fellowship) by Friday, May 1st, 2026, 5:00 PM CST.

Please Note: The CASNR Graduate Fellowship Committee will review the nominations and recommend recipients for the Milton E. Mohr, Al Moseman, and Farmer's National Teaching Fellowships. The Agricultural Research Division Advisory Council will provide review for the research fellowships and awards.

We look forward to receiving several highly qualified nominations for all of these distinguished fellowships and awards.

CASNR TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS

Milton E. Mohr, Farmers National Fellowships, and Al Moseman Fellowship

The purpose of these two fellowships is to enhance the educational experience of our graduate students, giving attention to teaching as well as other competencies.

The teaching fellowships will provide a minimum \$2,000 award to either an M.S. or Ph.D. student. Guidelines for teaching fellowships as follows are applicable to both the Milton E. Mohr (\$3,000) and Farmers National (\$2,000) Fellowships:

- Full-time graduate students enrolled in areas of production, which include, but are not limited to the following degree programs:
 - **Milton E. Mohr Fellowship:**
 - Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering
 - Agronomy and Horticulture
 - Animal Science
 - Food Science and Technology
 - Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
 - **Farmers National Fellowship** candidates shall be pursuing one of the following majors / areas / specializations:
 - Master of Business Administration with specialization in Agribusiness,
 - Agricultural Economics in the Department of Agricultural Economics.
 - Agronomy

Note: Preference shall be given to candidates who have expressed a desire to pursue a career in the area of farm management or commodity marketing following graduation
 - **Al Moseman International Studies Fellowship** for students with interests in international agriculture as it relates to world food development.
 - The Moseman Fellowship will be awarded to a graduate student in the amount of \$1,200.
 - Any IANR major is eligible, but preference will be given to Agronomy students who are working in plant breeding or genetics.
 - Students must be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents to be eligible for this award.
 - This fellowship is awarded during one academic year.
- Only students with documented previous teaching excellence or those with generally high scholastic merit and documented teaching interest should be nominated. Preference will be given to Ph.D. graduate assistants, although exceptional M.S. students may also be considered.
- Students currently **on either research or teaching assistantships are eligible (minimum .33 FTE).**

- A student is limited to one CASNR Fellowship (Milton E. Mohr/Farmers National/Al Moseman) per degree (e.g. 1/M.S. and 1/Ph.D.).
- Students must be **nominated** by their advisor or Departmental Graduate Committee Chair.
- Unit administrators must forward a **ranked list of no more than 4 nominations** for the CASNR Fellowships, approved by both the Chair of the Departmental Graduate Committee and the Unit Administrator. Rankings will be considered as informational to the selection committee. All nominees from a unit will be considered by the selection committee, independent of unit ranking.
- The stipends will be distributed on an academic-year basis and are to be an **additional stipend over and above the regular assistantship** rate for the student's academic unit or department/school. This is not to be used in lieu of other dollars which the department/school would otherwise allocate to the recipient's assistantship.

All CASNR nominations **must include**:

- A 2-page vitae that includes relevant teaching experience applicable to the award
- An advising or formal transcript of all graduate UNL coursework
- One (1) supporting letter documenting the candidate's previous teaching experience or teaching interest.

The application forms for these teaching fellowships are located at: <https://casnr.unl.edu/casnr-fellowships/>

If you have questions, please contact your advisor or Melissa Sailors at melissa.sailors@unl.edu.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

There is a **single common application form** ([located here](#)) for all research fellowships and awards. Nominated students must have completed at a minimum one semester at UNL at the time of the nomination. All nominations *must include*:

- One (1) nomination/reference letter.
- An advising or formal transcript of all graduate UNL coursework. (Students with less than two semesters at UNL should include a transcript showing the last two years of their most recent academic enrollments.) To see how to obtain a copy of your transcript, please visit the [FAQ](#) on our website.
- A one (1) page description of their research work or plan (12-point font, 1-inch margins). This description MUST include relevant information that demonstrates eligibility for particular award(s).
- A two (2) page vitae that, as applicable, includes relevant experiences and/or community service applicable to the award type.

Students applying for a research fellowship or award have the option to be considered for more than one fellowship/award. No student will receive more than **one** fellowship/award within a single year. In most cases a student will only be competitive for one of these fellowships/awards; students and units should carefully select which program to target.

Fellowship stipends will be distributed on an academic-year basis and split evenly over each semester during which a student has an active academic program. Awarded funds are to be supplemental and not to be used in lieu of other dollars which the department/school would otherwise allocate to the recipient's assistantship.

Please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the [ARD website](#) for more information.

ARD Fellowship and Award Descriptions

Gene Deutscher Fellowship in Beef Cattle Reproductive Physiology Fund

The Gene Deutscher Fellowship Fund shall be used to award one (1) \$2,000 fellowship to a regularly enrolled graduate student (M.S. or Ph.D.) in the Department of Animal Science.

A student meeting the following criteria shall be eligible for this fellowship:

- a) Candidate shall be pursuing a graduate degree program in the Department of Animal Science
- b) Candidate shall be participating in the research being done at the West Central Research and Extension Center or the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory; however, at no time will this fellowship be used as compensation for research work.

Hardin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship

This fellowship is made possible through an endowment in the University of Nebraska Foundation honoring Dr. Clifford Hardin. The income earned by the fund is to **support research in plant physiology with particular emphasis on genetic mechanisms influencing plant responses to stress conditions**. We are able to present up to **two** fellowships to exceptional students this year. The recipients will receive a \$3,000 supplement to their graduate assistantship (payable in equal installments during the academic year) plus \$2,000 for program enhancement which could include (but is not limited to) travel as approved by the graduate student's unit administrator. Any graduate student doing research in the general area of plant physiology will be eligible for nomination.

Life Sciences Fellowship

The Life Sciences Graduate Fellowship is made possible through an endowment to the University of Nebraska Foundation in recognition of outstanding performance as a Graduate student. This Fellowship is a \$5,000 award to no more than two (2) regularly enrolled graduate students in a Life Sciences program.

There is no work or service requirement associated with the fellowship payment. Graduate students receiving stipend fellowships must be full-time students, either registered for a minimum of nine credit-hours or granted full-time status each semester during the period in which they receive the fellowship. Failure to meet the registration requirements may result in forfeiture of the fellowship.

Margrave Agricultural Fellowship Fund

The Margrave Agricultural Fellowship Fund shall be used to award no more than two (2) \$5,000 fellowships to full-time graduate students. This fellowship is renewable, but students must be nominated annually. Students meeting the following criteria shall be eligible for this fellowship:

- a) First preference shall be given to candidates who are permanent residents of, or graduates of a high school located in Nemaha, Pawnee or Richardson County, Nebraska.
- b) Second preference shall be given to candidates enrolled in the Department of Animal Science, with a course of study emphasizing beef cattle research.

Skala Fellowship

The John and Louise Skala Fellowship is available to recruit and recognize exceptional graduate students engaged in research in areas relating to new industrial uses of agricultural products. These funds are to be used to supplement existing assistantships (GRA or GTA) with awards of \$3,000 for M.S. and \$5,000 for Ph.D. students. Please note that the recipient must have been accepted into either an M.S. or Ph.D. program and have been offered a graduate assistantship. Fellowships constitute an award based on academic and scholastic achievement or promise, cannot be associated with any service requirement, and will be awarded only to students doing research in the area of industrial uses of agricultural commodities.

A subcommittee of the ARD Advisory Committee plus the Director of IAPC will review the Skala Fellowship nominations. This fellowship is renewable, but students must be nominated annually.

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award & Shear-Miles Fellowship

You are invited to nominate your unit's most outstanding graduate students for a 2026–2027 Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award or Shear-Miles Fellowship. Only students on **Graduate Research Assistantships** are eligible for consideration; students paid from fellowship funds are not eligible. Students are eligible to receive the Widaman or Shear-Miles Award once during their academic program at the University of Nebraska. Preference will be given to Ph.D. graduate research assistants, although exceptional M.S. students may also be considered; only students with high scholastic merit and research potential should be nominated. The \$2,000 stipend will be distributed on an academic year basis and is to be an additional stipend over and above the regular assistantship rate for the student's department. This is not to be used in lieu of other dollars which the academic unit or department/school would otherwise allocate to the recipient's assistantship.

For the Widaman Award, nominees may be either beginning graduate students or students in progress, but all nominees must have identified a thesis topic that would clearly be considered "**basic research in agriculture**" as stipulated in the Widaman Trust agreement. The Shear-Miles Fellowship is presented to students conducting either basic or applied research.

If you have questions, please contact your advisor or Agricultural Research Division at ardgrants@unl.edu.