

Agriculture Producer Research Grant Program

Grant Criteria and Information

Agriculture Producer Research Grant Program (APRGP) grants are funded not to exceed 3 years. The applicant can be an Educational Institution or Qualified Entity (see definitions in Chapter 20 Rules). A Research Advisor (see definition in Chapter 20 Rules) may assist in the contract management, development, research/field trials and outreach/dissemination of information for the project.

Each APRGP grant proposal may request up to \$20,000. The proposal must include participation from an educational institution, qualified entities or producers cooperating with a qualified research advisor (All partners must sign a Partnership Agreement Form).

A technical review panel consisting of two individuals representing the livestock industry, two individuals representing crop production and an individual representing agricultural research will conduct a criteria-based review of all proposals and provide recommendations of approval to the Director of the WDA.

Project Criteria

Project Summary (1-page max)

Summarize what your project is about and what you plan to do. Include such things as how it is distinctive and creative. Why is it important? What problems, opportunities or situations are being addressed? Include the context in which the problem/opportunity exists and the current impact it is having. Include a paragraph or two describing the type of agricultural operation affected by the problem or situation.

Relevance, Benefits and Impacts to Agriculture (3-page max)

Explain how your project will help sustain and potentially improve agriculture production in the state. Include a description of issue(s) affecting the agriculture production system and how the proposed project will help mitigate the problem/situation or provide solutions. Proposal's should explain how the project will generate knowledge to develop applicable agriculture practices that enhance the natural resource base, economic viability of agriculture operations, and/or the quality of life for production agriculture in Wyoming.

Also describe the potential benefits and impacts of your project and its findings on other producers (local, state and regional) or agriculture in general. For example, how does it affect the overall farm/ranch productivity levels, operational profits, soil or water quality or quantity, rural communities, society as a whole?

Where possible, use specific estimates of benefits – such as dollars saved per acre or animal, tons of soil protected from erosion, pounds of chemical or feed reduced, number of livestock, markets expanded, jobs created.

Goals & Objectives (3-pages max)

Provide detailed and achievable goals and objectives for the project. Goals are major things you plan to accomplish. The objectives should be written in support of the goals, these should identify how the goals can be accomplished.

Also provide a timeline for accomplishing each goal & objective.

Related Research – Literature Review (2-page max)

The literature review is included into this program to ensure that we are not redoing existing studies arbitrarily. It will be up to the applicant to do a thorough literature review and provide enough justification to the WDA and Application Review Team to determine if the project is an appropriate project for grant funding.

The literature review should furnish an overview relating the present state of knowledge to the proposed goals and objectives. It does not need to be an exhaustive exercise of reviewing existing research but an adequate review is required to allow the WDA staff and Application Review Team to verify the validity of the project.

Experimental Procedures (3-page max)

The experimental procedures should provide sufficient detail so others can understand the methods and procedures used to complete the project. In addition, the experimental procedures need to support the Goals and Objectives of the project.

Experimental procedures should be well described and utilize adequate methods that will generate meaningful results.

Outreach Plan (2-page max)

The Outreach Plan is extremely important to the success of this program. After the project is complete, a requirement of the program is to provide the findings of the project to other agriculture producers throughout the state. This program is designed to study practical research to be applied on the ground for others to use. Without the outreach the intent of the program will be unsuccessful, and is why an Outreach Plan is required.

The Outreach Plan needs to provide specific information on how the agriculture community will receive this information produced from the project. Examples tools that can be used in outreach include: field days, workshops or conferences, producer-to-producer networking events, educational brochures, fact sheets, journal articles, public presentations, radio or television reports, news releases, websites, social media etc.

Roles (2-page max)

Detail the specific roles of the applicant, project partners, the research advisor and/or educational institution involved in the project.

All project partners, applicant and Research Advisor must sign the application to verify that all are committed partners to the goals and objectives and completion of the project.

Provide a resume or other write-up of the applicant and/or Research Advisor's qualifications (required).

Budget (3-page max)

Grant recipients must provide a concise budget, with proper justification, that is appropriate to the proposed project. The grant request may not exceed \$20,000. Projects with a minimum cash and/or in-kind match of 20% will receive a preference if all other application requirements are completed.

Report

Annual Progress Report: Under the contract requirement, grantees must provide annual progress reports and a final report to the WDA. A template of the annual progress report is provided on the WDA website, but must provide sufficient information on the progress of the project, areas of completion, budget expenditures and any preliminary findings.

Final Project Report: The Final Report is the key to the program along with the public outreach. The Final Report should summarize the findings and benefits to agriculture production, and can be used as a tool in the public outreach requirements of the program. The Final Report upon the completion of the project must include project narratives and research details, detailed process used, clear findings, description of goals & objectives met or not, budget detail, detailed benefits to agriculture production, and a summary of outcomes/findings. The Final Report must provide sufficient detail in the project so other agriculture producers can understand the issues and findings and make an informed decision on the applicability of the project.

The WDA will determine the adequacy of the Final Report and may require additional information as needed.

Final Report will be stored on the WDA website for public viewing.