

2022-2023 MULTI-REGIONAL SOYBEAN CHECKOFF REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Please note time-sensitive material. Distribute to appropriate Faculty and Staff as soon as possible.
Important Dates:

- RFP sent to Researchers: September 1, 2023.
- Proposals due: By end of business on October 20, 2023.
- Proposal Review and Funding Decisions: January 1, 2024.
- FY 2024 funding cycle: January 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024.

Regional soybean research collaborative programs, including the Atlantic Soybean Council, Mid-South Soybean Board, North Central Soybean Research Program, and Southern Soybean Research Program, have come together to improve the connection and collaboration across regions and nationally with the United Soybean Board. Using soybean check-off funds, these groups are seeking collaborative multi-state and multi-disciplinary soybean research project requests for funding to begin on January 1, 2023. Funded projects may include both applied and basic research, and the communication of research results, to provide short- and long-term practical benefit to U.S. soybean producers. Projects must logically fit into one of these key research areas (all are equal in priority):

- Tools & Technology for Soybean Improvement
- Extreme Weather Resiliency
- Agritechnology Decision Making Tools

Research projects that span multiple regions are encouraged, as well as projects specific to a single region. Approximate funding limits for projects spanning multiple regions is \$450,000; and single regions is \$70,000.

Researchers from all land grant universities (1860, 1890, 1994), private institutions, retired university or industry professionals, as well as seed/industry professionals are eligible to apply.

Research proposals are expected to be concise (not more than 7 pages) and contain the following (see attached proposal template):

- Cover Sheet (provided): proposal overview and budget
- Project Title
- Contact Information: Name, address, phone number, email address and affiliation of principal investigator and collaborators as well as Sponsored Programs & Contracts office for PI's university.
- Brief Project Justification and Rationale: Identified research need, brief review of similar academic and industry research and how proposed research is necessary, novel and how it will benefit soybean growers' overall profitability.
- Brief Description of Proposed Research: Work/experiments to be done, purpose, expected outcome, contribution to project goal and clear statement of communication and outreach strategies, specifically noting that results and progress will be communicated through the Soybean Research & Information Network (SRIN) website and the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database.

- Clear and concise set of Project Metrics and Performance Measures, Milestones and Deliverables, and Economic Impact including:
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) or performance metrics and how those will be measured
 - An analysis of program/project economic impact and significance to soybean farmers
 - Timelines and milestones for extending the state-of-the-art of basic and applied research and how the proposed research will benefit soybean farmers.
- Clear description of a Cost-Efficient Budget, sub-budgeted to projects within programs.
- Other Similar Work and Funding: Proposed research may complement and extend but must not duplicate already funded research. Where applicable, a concise listing of related research and funding sources for the PI and collaborators, and a brief description of how this checkoff funded research will be used to attract or complement additional funding support (public and private: e.g. USB, QSSB, USDA, company) to extend knowledge or expand research breadth and depth, especially in cases where basic research funding is requested.

Projects and progress reports will be entered into the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database and PIs and their teams are expected to help in providing information and entering information into the database. Funded research results will be communicated via the Soybean Research & Information Network website at www.soybeanresearchinfo.com

It is critically important for researchers to develop collaborative national or regional projects, to identify how the deliverables will positively and tangibly impact U.S. soybean producers in the short- or long-term, and how deliverables will be communicated to growers. Researchers are strongly encouraged to demonstrate interdisciplinary and interuniversity approaches and collaborations. If appropriate, researchers should consider submitting larger program proposals with clearly described and sub-budgeted projects within the program proposal. While smaller collaborative projects will be considered, program proposals should demonstrate coordinated, non-redundant and potentially higher impact research and communication efforts to advance soybean farmer and industry priorities.

Researchers interested in submitting a proposal should provide an electronic copy of the cover sheet/proposal in Microsoft Word format or PDF format to Danielle Farace at danielle.rrconsulting@gmail.com by October 20, 2023. Questions can be addressed to Danielle Farace, telephone (443) 812-4526 or email at danielle.rrconsulting@gmail.com.

Funds granted through this program are checkoff funds contributed to Qualified State Soybean Boards pursuant to the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, 7 U.S.C. 6304 (1) (4). Work performed under this Agreement will be performed in accordance with the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act and the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, 7 CFR Part 1220.