



Special Research Initiative
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Calendar Year 2014

Recognizing the need to build capacity for success in peer-reviewed science in terms of refereed publications and external competitive grants, MAFES sponsors Special Research Initiative (SRI) grants for seed funds for new and innovative research areas. The MAFES Director's Office will accept proposals for projects to be funded for Calendar Year 2014. In 2014 MAFES will partner with The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) to sponsor 2 additional special research projects involving collaboration between MAFES and CVM scientists.

Priority Research Areas include:

- Enhancing crop production systems
- Enhancing animal production systems
- Agricultural science for climate variability and change
- Sustainable bioenergy
- Environmental services, stewardship and conservation
- Nutrition, food safety, food security
- Water Resource Conservation
- Animal health
- Translational medicine involving agricultural animals
- Epidemiology involving agricultural animals.

Multidisciplinary research is highly encouraged. A brief plan for leveraging of funds is required.

General Information:

- SRI proposals will be considered in 3 tracks:
 - Track I is designed to support new investigators (< 5 years at MSU) in acquiring preliminary data to support proposal development for nationally competitive RFPs,
 - Track II is designed to assist established investigators in pursuing new innovative research topics or bringing existing research to fruition resulting in peer-reviewed journal articles.
 - Track III is reserved for joint projects involving both a MAFES and CVM.

Proposals for all 3 tracks will only be considered if the PI and co-PIs are on a Multi-State Regional Project.
See attached instructions for joining a multi-state project.

- Funding period is 1 calendar year (Jan 1, 2014 – Dec. 31, 2014).
 - Because funding will be split across 2 fiscal years, we ask that you estimate the proportion of the total budget in each of two 6-month periods (Jan 1 – June 30, 2014 and July 1 – Dec 31, 2014.)
 - A one-time 6-month no cost extension may be approved upon request (Jan 1, 2015 – Jun 30, 2015.)

Track I: Special Research for New MAFES Faculty

- Track I SRI funding is restricted to pre-tenure (typically the first 5 years of MAFES appointment) MAFES faculty. All other MAFES faculty can serve as co-PI's and/or collaborators.

- A renewal for a second year of funding can be submitted for competitive review and funding, however funding for a second year is **not** guaranteed. It must be submitted in response to the RFP for the second year. **For those who received a 2013 award; your 2014 budget transfer for new funding will be released upon receipt of your 2013 annual progress report. See attached report form.**
- Projects will initiate January 1, 2014.
- An annual self-audit is required at the end of the project. A final report must be submitted by December 31, 2014 to the Associate Director of MAFES. Email to tgoodwin@cfr.msstate.edu. **See attached report form.**
- Leveraging is strongly encouraged.

Track II: Special Research Initiatives, “Hot Topic-- Immediate Need--New Direction Funding” or funding in support of Federal Granting.

- All MAFES faculty are eligible for Track II funding.
- SRI funding will be considered for projects that are responding to an immediate need critical to MAFES and the State of Mississippi.
- Funds are meant to allow faculty to respond to RFPs of critical need or situations that emerge that require immediate research or the charting of a new directions in research to respond to an area of need or opportunity (e.g., biofuels, herbicide resistance, crop damage, new pest identification, economic models, etc.)
- Funding for research necessary to springboard a new federally-funded proposal will be considered.
- A renewal for a second year of funding can be submitted for competitive review and funding, however funding for a second year is **not** guaranteed. It must be submitted in response to the RFP for the second year. **For those who received a 2013 award; your 2014 budget transfer for new funding will be released upon receipt of your 2013 annual progress report. See attached report form.**
- Post-doctoral funds are available for a maximum of 1 year.
- Projects will initiate January 1, 2014.
- An annual self-audit is required at the end of the project. A final report must be submitted by December 31, 2014 to the Associate Director of MAFES. Email to tgoodwin@cfr.msstate.edu. **See attached report form.**
- Leveraging is strongly encouraged.

Track III: MAFES-CVM Collaborative Projects.

- Track III projects are jointly funded by MAFES and CVM and to be considered proposals must involve at least one CVM and one MAFES faculty.
- Proposals will not be considered if the MAFES PI is not on a Multi-State Regional Project.
- All MAFES and CVM faculty are eligible for Track III funding but projects must involve at least 1 MAFES and 1 CVM faculty.
- SRI/CVM funding will be considered for projects that are responding to an immediate need critical to MAFES/CVM and the State of Mississippi. Funds are meant to allow faculty to respond to emerging issues and provide faculty with preliminary data that will enhance competitiveness for national competitive awards.
- Funding for research necessary to springboard a new federally-funded proposal will be considered.
- A renewal for a second year of funding can be submitted for competitive review and funding, however funding for a second year is **not** guaranteed. It must be submitted in response to the RFP for the second year. **For those who received a 2013 award; your 2014 budget transfer for new funding will be released upon receipt of your 2013 annual progress report. See attached report form.**
- Post-doctoral funds are available for a maximum of 1 year.
- Projects will initiate January 1, 2014.
- An annual self-audit is required at the end of the project. A final report for projects funded in the 2014 funding cycle must be submitted by December 31, 2014 to the Associate Director of MAFES. Email to tgoodwin@cfr.msstate.edu. **See attached report form.**
- Leveraging is strongly encouraged.

Proposal specifics

- Project Narrative is limited to 5 pages (excluding, figures/tables, literature cited and budget pages) and must follow the format included in this RFP.
 - **Proposals must be submitted online at <http://www.mafes.msstate.edu/sri/> by 5:00 PM, October 15, 2013.**
 - The proposal submission portal will request that you enter the following information in a web form:
 - PI contact information
 - Departmental affiliation
 - Rank
 - Proposal title
 - Abstract/Executive summary
 - Total Proposal Budget
 - The budget justification should be completed on the total budget for all categories.
 - After these elements are entered in the web form, you will be taken to a second page to upload a copy of the full proposal in PDF format. Additionally, an Internal Approval Sheet signed by the Scientist and Department Head should be included as the first page in the full proposal PDF.
 - After successful upload of proposal pdf you will receive a confirmation screen.
 - A confirmation email will be sent to the PI and Ms. Goodwin when the proposal has been submitted, should you not receive a confirmation please notify Ms. Goodwin as soon as possible.

Budget specifics

- On the budget page provide an estimate of the fund distribution needed in 6-month increments (Jan 1 – Jun 30, 2014 in column 1 and Jul 1 – Dec31, 2014 in column 2).
- If funds are to be distributed to more than one PI, complete a separate budget page for each PI, in addition to the total project budget. Only the total project budget will be entered in the webforms, but the pdf of the full project proposal should include the total project budget and PI-specific budgets.
- Each budget must indicate the proper multistate project number. The PI must have been approved as a participant of the multistate project at the time of proposal submission. For projects selected for funding, the PI must create a CRIS project in the REEport system under the approved Multistate Project. This CRIS project number (or Activity Code) must be active at the start of the SRI project period. Funds will not be transferred until an active CRIS Activity Code has been created under an approved multistate project. If the multistate project ends during the period of performance for this grant (Jan 1, 2014 – Dec 31, 2014) the PI must have an active alternative multistate or Hatch project on to which expenditures can be moved.
- Salaries are limited to post-doctoral associates, soft-funded research associates, soft-funded faculty, graduate research assistants, undergraduate students and temporary employees only. Partial funding for post-doctoral associates, soft-funded research associates, and soft-funded faculty will be considered in proportion to their time and effort allocation to the SRI project and require a justification.
- MAFES/CVM Administration will cover fringe benefits and tuition costs and these should not be included in your budgets.
- Budget Limitations
 - Track I – Limit of \$50,000 per proposal.
 - Track II -- Limit \$50,000 per proposal. PIs may be involved in multiple SRI projects but no PI can receive more than \$50,000 total.
 - Track III – Limit of \$50,000 per proposal.
 - No more than 2 Track III proposals will be funded in a given cycle.
 - **NO** equipment
 - **NO** foreign travel
 - **NO** indirect costs

Special Research Initiative PROJECT NARRATIVE
Calendar 2014 Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

(Name, Dept, Rank, Phone, Email)

CO-INVESTIGATORS

(Name, Dept, Rank, Phone, Email)

TITLE:

MULTI-STATE NUMBER:

MULTI-STATE TERMINATION DATE:

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED:

DURATION:

PROPOSAL FORMAT:

Abstract/executive summary which includes brief introduction and objectives (1-page - cut and paste into webform)

Relevant Background

Approach

Anticipated Outcome

Leveraging plan for SRI funds to peer-reviewed federal or foundation funding.

Potential Impact

Literature Cited

Budgets & Justification

FORMATTING GUIDELINES:

- Please limit your project narrative to a maximum of five pages (excluding, figures/tables, literature cited and budget pages).
- Do not include resumes.
- Proposals should be single-spaced, no less than 12-point type.
- Budgets submitted without completing the required fields will not be considered for funding.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

Proposals will be screened for compliance with stated eligibility criteria, stated budget criteria and adherence to topic area. Non-compliant applications will be returned without review.

Merit review guidelines are as follows:

1. Are the goals clearly stated and achievable within the timeline and budget?
2. Does the proposal address MAFES/CVM priorities as stated above?
3. Are the approaches clearly described?
4. Is the experimental design robust and likely to produce reliable knowledge?
5. Is there a clear path to peer-review, competitive funding and peer-reviewed publications?
6. What is the potential impact of the proposed project?
7. If the project is a continuation or if it builds on previously collected data, is sufficient information/data presented to judge the merit of the proposal?
8. Does the form and format of the application match the level of presentation expected at the federal level?
9. Other merit guidelines may be considered.

Special Research Initiative

BUDGET FORM

Calendar Year 2014 Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

PI NAME: (REQUIRED)

SRI PROJECT TITLE: (REQUIRED)

MULTISTATE PROJECT NUMBER _____ (REQUIRED)

CRIS PROJECT NUMBER _____

DEPARTMENT ORG (REQUIRED) _____

SALARIES and Wages (Position and Title **Required**** for each, if the position number will be a new number enter 9999.)**

Position Number Title \$

Position Number Title \$

Position Number Title \$

NOTE: Budgets submitted without completing the required fields will not be considered for funding

	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2014	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 2014	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	
Total Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
(Do not include Fringe Benefits)				
Travel (Domestic Only)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Contractual	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Commodities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total Project Request for Calendar Year 2014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-

Budget Justification

If child accounts are required, include a budget form for each proposed account in your proposal narrative.