

Data Collection of In-Field Agricultural Practices 2015 Request for Research Pre-proposals

In accordance with section 18 of Senate File 494 passed by the Iowa General Assembly and signed by Governor Terry E. Branstad, Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is seeking a three-year research proposal (up to \$250,000 per year) designated to:

- 1) Enhance this state's ability to track its progress in reducing the transport of nutrients to water from nonpoint sources within watersheds in accordance with the latest revision of the document entitled "Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy" initially presented in November 2012 by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State University.
- 2) Develop a database of in-field agricultural practices and analyze the impact of those practices in the aggregate. An agricultural practice includes but is not limited to soil and water conservation practices, structures, technologies, and agricultural inputs and outputs. The findings of the research project shall be used to develop a system to be implemented within a broad range of watersheds to measure existing agricultural practices and the impact of different nutrient management decisions.

Any information received, collected, or held by this project shall be confidential in the same manner as provided in section 466B.49, subsection 2 of the Code of Iowa.

Pre-proposal Content (Maximum: 3 pages)

- Name of organization
- Name of Principal Investigator (PI), PI's affiliation and contact information
- Project team members, affiliations and brief resumes
- Demonstrate organization's ability to work with farmers and agricultural retailers to collect and verify data on in-field practices at the field level
- Demonstrate organization's ability to provide data collection framework and training for individuals collecting and verifying data
- Demonstrate organization's ability to protect the confidentiality of data, farmer name, field location and other variables that may be used to identify an individual or business. Data must be stored on secure private server to assure protection of data
- Demonstrate organization's ability to provide Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences aggregated data compliant with mutually agreed-to variables and precision identified
- Demonstrate organization's ability to participate in audit of the process used for data collection, storage and aggregation
- Provide 1-page description of how data will be collected, verified, managed and stored, and a budget outline
- Separate from 3-page pre-proposal, attach a curriculum vitae (CV) of the PI

Submission, Deadline, Evaluation and Contact

Pre-proposals must be received by COB July 15, 2015. Submit pre-proposals electronically to Dean Wendy Wintersteen, Iowa State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at wwinters@iastate.edu.

Pre-proposals will be evaluated based on qualifications of the organization's demonstrated abilities to fulfill the projects requirements, qualifications of Principal Investigator and project personnel and appropriateness of timeline and proposed budget. An invitation for full proposals will be made by July 31, with full proposals due by August 15, 2015.

Final decisions for funding rests with Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This decision will be finalized by the end of August 2015.

Questions: Contact John Lawrence, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, (515) 294-7801 or (515) 509-3907, or jdlaw@iastate.edu.