

Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund for Sustainable Agriculture Interdisciplinary Grant Program for On-Farm Research

2021 Request for Proposals

Introduction:

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Sustainable Agriculture Team and Agroecosystems Management Program (AMP) are offering interdisciplinary grants to promote on-farm research in sustainable agriculture. This program is made available through the Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund established specifically for on-farm research in sustainable agriculture related to crop (agronomic and horticultural) and animal production systems that are ultimately intended for human consumption.

Sustainable agriculture is characterized by a state of balance between:

- Practices and values that promote environmental stewardship and conservation of resources.
- Long-term economic viability of farms and rural communities.
- Preservation of the quality of life for farm families and support for rural communities.

Research is intended to identify and publicize sustainable agricultural practices and systems that are profitable, socially responsible, energy efficient and improve water quality and other environmental concerns relevant to Ohio farmers.

Grant Program Description

Eligible Recipients:

Proposals **must** come from OSU CFAES faculty and extension personnel as principal investigators. Interested farmers, graduate students, and members of agricultural or environmental organizations are **strongly encouraged** to contact OSU faculty and extension agents in their communities to suggest or initiate collaborative research projects. **A mandatory criterion is collaboration with farmers who are identified in the proposal.**

Farmers and others can receive help in connecting with an appropriate principal investigator, and OSU faculty can connect with producer organizations listed to find farmers with a specified area of interest through the following contacts:

OSU Extension Contacts:

Sustainable Agriculture Team	Mike Hogan	614-292-7670	hogan.1@osu.edu	https://fic.osu.edu/members/directory/h/hogan-mike.html
	Suzanna Mills-Wasniak	937-224-9654 ext. 123	mills-wasniak.1@osu.edu	https://montgomery.osu.edu/people/suzanne-mills-wasniak
Produce Safety	Melanie L. Lewis Ivey	330-263-3849	ivey.14@osu.edu	https://producesafety.osu.edu/team
	Sanja Illic	614-292-4076	ilic.2@osu.edu	https://producesafety.osu.edu/team
	Greg LaBarge	419-460-0600	labarge.1@osu.edu	https://agmr.osu.edu/people/greg-labarge

Agronomy	Harold Watters	937-604-2415	watters.35@osu.edu	https://agmr.osu.edu/people/harold-watters
Forage	Andy Michel	330-263-3730	michel.70@osu.edu	https://entomology.osu.edu/our-people/andrew-michel
	Maurice Eastridge	614-688-3059	eastridge.1@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/maurice-l-eastridge
	Mark Sulc	614-292-9084	sulc.2@osu.edu	https://hcs.osu.edu/our-people/dr-r-mark-sulc
Dairy	Steven Moeller	614-688-3686	moeller.29@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/steven-j-moeller
Swine	Steve Boyles	614-292-7669	boyles.4@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/stephen-boyles
Beef	Tony Parker	330-263-3938	parker.1203@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/tony-parker
	Gregg Fogle	330-262-4217	fogle.27@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/gregg-e-fogle
Sheep	Braden Campbell	740-434-3252	campbell.1279@osu.edu	https://ansci.osu.edu/our-people/braden-campbell
	Gary Gao	740-289-2071 ext. 123	gao.2@osu.edu	https://fic.osu.edu/members/directory/g/gao-gary.html
	Matt Kleinhenz	330-263-3810	kleinhenz.1@osu.edu	https://caps.osu.edu/people/kleinhenz.1
Fruit (IPM)	David Francis	330-263-3893	francis.77@osu.edu	https://hcs.osu.edu/our-people/dr-david-m-francis
	Brad Bergefurd	740-289-2071 ext. 136	bergefurd.1@osu.edu	https://southcenters.osu.edu/brad-bergefurd
	Melanie L. Lewis Ivey	330-263-3849	ivey.14@osu.edu	https://producesafety.osu.edu/team
Vegetables	Celeste Welty	614-292-2803	Welty.1@osu.edu	https://entomology.osu.edu/our-people/celeste-welty
	Sally Miller	30-263-3678	miller.769@osu.edu	https://plantpath.osu.edu/our-people/sally-miller
	Matt Kleinhenz	330-263-3810	kleinhenz.1@osu.edu	https://caps.osu.edu/people/kleinhenz.1

Farm Organization Contacts:

Ohio Forage and Grassland Council (OFGC)	Gary Wilson	419-348-3500	osuagman@gmail.com	https://www.afgc.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3293&activateFull=true
Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association (OEFFA)	Renee Hunt	614-421-2022 ext. 205	renee@oeffa.org	http://www.oeffa.org/
	Carol Goland	614-421-2022 ext. 202	cgoland@oeffa.org	
Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)	Walter Horodyski	330-772-6992	wjrhorodyski@gmail.com	https://ocia.org/about-ocia/find-an-ocia-chapter/

Grants may be made only to applicants residing or located in the state. An applicant is eligible to receive only one grant at a time. **Grantees must have completed projects and submitted reports to be eligible for future awards.**

Eligible Activities:

The program objectives are to research the profitability, energy efficiency, social consequences and environmental soundness of sustainable agriculture practices and production systems. Also, the program aims to help farmers solve problems on their own farms, possibly applying those principles to other farms as well. Grants may include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- Enterprise diversification using traditional and non-traditional crops and livestock.
- Cover crops and crop rotations to improve nutrient efficiency and conservation.
- Conservation tillage and weed management, especially in the context of sustainable farming systems.
- Integrated pest management systems for insects, weeds, and diseases
- Livestock production and manure management systems
- Nutrient, pesticide, and sediment management systems that reserve water quality.
- Growing for and accessing greater marketing opportunities including season extension, direct marketing, adding value and on-farm storage handling of products

Project Funding:

Grant awards are available to maximum of \$5,000 to fund supplies, transport costs, services and labor. Recent awards have been in the \$2,000 - \$4,000 range. Funding is distributed through the OSU principal investigator and is transferred to the OSU investigator's chosen account as a reimbursement for documented project expenses. Grants are for a single year, with a final report expected by December 31, 2021. Eligibility for future funding is dependent upon submission of a final report for any previous grant. Proposals for ongoing research on the same topic will be considered with no special status over other proposals, and the team should clearly describe progress on previous work and how the new proposal is for a new and independent set of objectives. Warner Grants may provide seed funding for multiyear research proposals to state, federal or other programs, and assistance from AMP will be available for development of such proposals if they are built on Warner Grant projects and results.

Funding may not be used for capital expenditures (e.g., buildings) or livestock purchases. However, fuel, seed, production inputs, and normal maintenance costs may be covered with the awarded funds. Stipends for graduate students and labor costs for farmers or undergraduate students may also be funded. Funding for participation in professional association meetings or for travel to such meetings will not be provided. However, travel for research purposes will be supported.

Proposal Format

Please include the following sections (Description and Methods should be at least two and no more than five 8.5" x 11" pages).

1. Cover Page (template attached)

2. Description

Describe the problem or question your project will address. Please include background and the objectives of your project. Describe how this will help the collaborating farmer and other Ohio producers to farm more sustainably. Sustainable farming is ecologically sound (reduces reliance on non-renewable resources and impact on the environment), economically viable (improve profitability),

and socially responsible (supports family farms and rural communities). If this is a resubmission you should describe what modifications, you have made to improve your proposal. If you are requesting funding for the next phase of a project funded in a previous year, include a brief summary of your results.

Preference is given to proposals that:

- Enhance the sustainable agriculture practices of Ohio producers while being potentially profitable, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable.
- Describe what is not sustainable about current production practices related to the sustainable agriculture practices being researched in the proposal.
- Detail the interactions among farmers, researchers, extension, teaching faculty, departments, graduate students, and relevant non-profit organizations.
- Are sited on commercial farms, using regular farm resources.
- Involve producers in the analysis and interpretation of results.

3. Methods

Describe in detail how you would use this grant to address the problem or questions. Include in the methods:

- A description of the farming operation (include acreage, number of head of livestock, crops raised etc.) where research will be conducted.
- Experimental design, variables you will measure (if applicable), how you will measure them, statistical analysis.
- Timetable of research activities
- Production and financial information you will document (e.g., soil tests; crop yields; animal weight gains; equipment, feed and building expenses; sales; profits).
- Any outreach or extension activities that are proposed.

4. Budget (template attached)

The budget should include two columns: “Grant funds requested” and “Matching Support”. Matching support is not required but will strengthen the proposal’s potential for funding. Include the categories:

- Labor
- Supplies and equipment.
- Lease of land
- Outreach
- Travel and services

5. Appendices

Other details as required (e.g., letters of support, maps, diagrams etc.)

Proposal Application Deadline, Submission Requirements and Review Procedures:

Proposals are due Monday, March 1, 2021

The entire proposal must be saved as a **single PDF file** and be *emailed* to Suranga Basnagala, AMP Research Associate, basnagala.1@osu.edu. An electronic signature will be accepted, or the signed cover page can be faxed to 330-263-3686.

Proposals will be reviewed by a six-member selection committee consisting of:

- Three representatives from CFAES (College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences) faculty
- A representative from the OSU Sustainable Agriculture Team
- Two Ohio Farmers

(Investigators submitting proposals for the current year are ineligible for Selection Committee participation.)

The target date for notification of awards is **Friday, April 2, 2021**.

For more information or questions, please contact either:

Suranga Basnagala
Research Associate
Agroecosystems Management Program
Wooster, OH 44691
330-201-6544 (mobile)
basnagala.1@osu.edu

Casey Hoy
Kellogg Endowed Chair in Agricultural Ecosystems
Management
1465 Campus Drive
201 Thorne Hall
OARDC
Wooster, OH 44691
330-263-3611 (office)
hoy.1@osu.edu

Dissemination of Results:

A report of project findings that includes in *non-technical* terms:

- A general description of the project.
- Description of activities: what, where, when, how activities were completed and conclusions.
- Production information (yield, pounds, head, number produced or saved etc.)
- Financial information (expenses and returns)

Final reports will be due **Friday, December 31, 2021**. The report must be saved as a **single PDF file** and *emailed* to Casey Hoy, hoy.1@osu.edu and Suranga, basnagala@osu.edu. CFAES and other organizations involved in sustainable agriculture will publish research findings annually through various bulletins, publications and websites including, but not limited to, the Agroecosystems Management Program website, Sustainable Agriculture Team website, *Ohioline*, the CFAES Alumni newspaper, IFO and OEFFA websites and the C.O.R.N. Newsletter (Crop Observation and Recommendation Network). Investigators are also encouraged to present posters at meetings and conferences of farm organizations, such as those listed on the preceding page.

**Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund for Sustainable Agriculture
Interdisciplinary Grant Program for On-Farm Research**

2021 Cover Page

Project Title:

Project Leader(s):

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Producer(s) and Location of Farm(s):

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Agreement to Grant Terms:

If funded, I agree to provide a project report summary that includes items described in this request for proposals by December 31, 2021.

I have not received funds from this program for which an annual report is overdue.

I will conduct the research on an Ohio farm.

I will return any unused funds by *Monday, January 3, 2022* or *at the conclusion of the project period* as required.

I agree to the above stated terms.

Signature of Applicant

Date

**Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund for Sustainable Agriculture
Interdisciplinary Grant Program for On-Farm Research**

2021 Budget Template

Budget Item (include a brief description)	Requested Funds	Matching Support
A. Labor		
B. Supplies and Equipment		
C. Lease of Land		
D. Outreach		
E. Travel		
F. Other Services		
Total		

Not to exceed
\$5,000