

This request is being sent on behalf of the Director's Office

**Request for Proposal
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Animal Health and Disease Research Capacity Funding (FY 24-25)**

Texas A&M AgriLife Research has funding available in the USDA NIFA Animal Health and Disease Research Capacity (NARETPA section 1433(c)) Program to award (via a competitive RFP process) eligible faculty to support/promote research that relates to animal health and disease.

****NEW**Review Process:**

- To be eligible for these funds, each PI that submits a proposal will be required to review some subset of the proposals (3-5) and provide reviews back to leadership by the determined deadline (September 22, 2023). We will ensure no PI or Co-PI reviews any proposal that they are collaborating on. Each proposal will be reviewed by 3 of your peers and final scores will be evaluated and selected for submission by AgriLife Research Leadership to USDA.
- Selected proposals must be submitted by the PI to USDA NIFA for approval by November 1, 2023. Proposals approved by USDA NIFA can anticipate funds to be available by January 2024.

****subject line of email should read ANIMAL HEALTH FUNDING RFP****

Criteria for Selection:

- An interdisciplinary team of scientists
- Successfully meet both the submission deadline AND the reviewer feedback deadlines.
- Qualifications of Principal Investigator and team members.
- Strength and clarity of proposed research, development, deployment, and/or commercialization opportunities;
- Ability to generate impactful peer reviewed articles, intellectual property towards commercialization and/or the deployment of these R&D findings in a timely manner;
- A detailed budget with justification for use of funds (see budget guidelines)

Principal Investigators: Faculty holding appointments with AgriLife Research (including joint appointments with a minimum of a 25% AgriLife Research appointment) are eligible to serve as PIs or Co-PIs on the proposals. COALS and VMBS faculty whose extramural awards are administered through AgriLife Research are also eligible to serve as PIs or Co-PIs, while AgriLife faculty without any AgriLife Research appointment (e.g., Extension, TVMDL, TFS) may serve as Co-PIs on the proposals.

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Limited Submissions: PI's may only lead one proposal, but can be Co-PI, or collaborator on more than one proposal.

Collaborators: Involvement of collaborators from other agencies and/or universities that enhance the competitiveness of a proposal is allowable, but no formal transfer of funds will occur outside of AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension, COALS or VMBS unless justified and approved by AgriLife Research Director's Office in advance.

Budget Guidelines: A detailed budget and justification on the attached template is required. No formal transfer of funds will occur outside of AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension, COALS or VMBS unless justified and approved by AgriLife Research Director's Office in advance. Matching funds from other agencies or universities to advance these proposed studies will be considered favorably.

Funding guidelines include:

- Non-faculty personnel salary such as research scientists, postdocs (minimum salary of \$50,000 per year), technicians, grad students, and hourly wage workers are allowed.
- Project related travel, supplies, fringe benefits, and other costs (sample analysis fees, fuel, field costs, etc.) may be included;
- **IDC should not be included in the budget calculations, since they are accounted for in the funds provided by the State of Texas and AgriLife Research;**
- Tuition and international travel are not allowable.
- Project funds can **NOT** be carried forward from one fiscal year to the next.

Eligibility

- Faculty holding appointments with AgriLife Research (including joint appointments with a minimum of a 25% AgriLife Research appointment) are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators (PIs) or Co-PIs on the proposals. COALS and VMBS faculty whose extramural awards are administered through AgriLife Research are also eligible to serve as PIs or Co-PIs.
- The PIs of selected proposals must initiate and maintain a USDA NIFA Animal Health Project for the duration of the funded project.

Scope

The scope of the research which may be conducted with the Federal Animal Health and Disease Formula funds includes research to promote the general welfare through improved health and productivity of domestic livestock, poultry, aquatic animals, and other income-producing animals; basic and applied research on infectious and noninfectious agents which impair the normal state of the animal body/vital organs; and research to minimize transportation and handling losses or to protect public health through control of animal diseases transmissible to humans. Animal Health Research must relate directly to the health of a target livestock, poultry or aquatic animal species and may include laboratory studies, research on animal care as it relates to livestock health and well-being, and investigations of metabolic and

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reproductive diseases. More information on USDA NIFA Animal Health and Disease Research Capacity Program is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/animal-health-and-disease-research-program>

Award

- Proposals will be accepted from eligible faculty. Requests for funding may not exceed \$50,000 per year for two years (\$100,000 total). Each proposal must have one clearly identified principal investigator (PI). No individual may submit more than one proposal as PI. Principal investigators of funded projects will be expected to submit annual progress reports. Based on the budget, we anticipate funding up to 6 high priority proposals.
- Funding will be released on an annual basis, contingent upon USDA approved Animal Health and Disease Research project, availability of funds and based on project's successful progress exhibited through an annual progress report.

Full Proposal
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Animal Health and Disease Research Capacity Funding
FY 24-25

Title:

Principal Investigator:

Email:

Dept Head/Center Director:

Email:

Co-Principal Investigator(s):

Email:

Amount Requested: \$_____FY24 \$_____FY25

Proposal Requirements

Maximum FOUR pages including cover page with the above information. CV for each team member and budget pages are not part of the six-page limit. Proposals are single-spaced, 12-point font with 1-inch margins on all pages.

- I. Please prepare a brief proposal and submit an electronic copy (PDF file by 5:00 PM on August 30, 2023. Each proposal must include the following elements:
- II. Research plan and scope of work – A brief description of the proposed research with associated timelines. Highlight relevance to the scope of the Animal Health and Disease Research Capacity Program.
- III. Milestones and deliverables – Specific milestones and deliverables that are anticipated and expected outcomes.
- IV. Budget and justification (not included in the 3-page limit):
 - a. Research personnel salary (excluding faculty salary), travel, supplies, and other costs may be included.
 - i. IDC should not be included in the budget calculations.
 - ii. International travel is not allowable.
- V. Maximum 2-page biosketch each for PI and Co-PIs. Please include a list of pertinent references (papers, patent applications, etc.).
- VI. Proposals should be submitted to Rachel Tydlacka (rachel.tydlacka@ag.tamu.edu)

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Equipment- Because of other opportunities currently available to faculty in AgriLife related to equipment funding, and with matching opportunities for those with federal capacity funding, please plan to submit those equipment requests through those appropriate Equipment RFP's. Should you need Equipment to complete this proposed work, please note this requirement clearly in a final paragraph of the narrative for this proposal.

Team CVs – Maximum 2-page resume each for PI and Co-PIs. Please include a list of pertinent references (papers, patent applications, etc.).

Key Dates

- August 30, 2023 – Proposals due to AgriLife Research (rachel.tydlacka@ag.tamu.edu)
- September 22, 2023 – Peer Review due to AgriLife
- October 2, 2023 – Eligible/high priority proposals selected, and PIs informed.
- November 1, 2023 – PI must submit selected proposals to USDA NIFA.
- January 1, 2024 – Funds available upon approval by USDA NIFA.

Questions regarding this opportunity: Contact Debbie Cummings (979-845-4783)



G. Cliff Lamb, Ph.D.
Director
AgriLife Research