

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

**Request for Proposals
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Insect Vected Diseases Seed Grant Program (FY 24-25)**

The 88th Texas Legislature has again appropriated funds to Texas A&M AgriLife Research to support the Insect Vected Diseases Grant Program in the FY 24-25 biennium. Texas A&M AgriLife Research is seeking to develop innovative solutions to assist with disrupting, controlling, and monitoring the spread of insect- and tick-transmitted diseases that infect humans, livestock, or crops. Our primary mission with these funds from the State of Texas are to safeguard human health and expand agricultural profitability while conserving our natural resources and protecting the environment. The Agency is also supportive of any potential commercialization of your discoveries.

Please prepare a **full proposal** and corresponding budget following the format below and submit an electronic copy (PDF file) to rachel.tydlacka@ag.tamu.edu by 5pm, **August 30, 2023**.

****subject line of email should read INSECT VECTOR RFP****

****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 September 22nd. We will ensure no one 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 funding decisions made by AgriLife Research Leadership

Criteria for Selection:

- If previously funded during the FY22-23 cycle, the PI submitted a final report by the deadline
- 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;
- Development of innovative insect and/or pathogen mitigation strategies such as:
 - elimination or reduction of transmission;
 - development and/or manufacturing of vaccines;
 - biological, chemical, and/or cultural control practices;
 - development of detection/surveillance methodologies;
- Ability to leverage these new funds with other state, federal, corporate, and foundation sources (please specify); 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.

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. Leveraging funds as is appropriate will be considered. 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: Funding requests can be made **up to \$200,000** per year, for up to two years. Funding will be released on an annual basis, contingent upon availability of funds and based on project's successful progress exhibited through an annual progress report. To receive Year 2 funding, the team must also submit at least one extramural grant proposal (i.e., a peer-reviewed competitive grant program that is IDC generating and of greater value than your request through this program) based on (or related to) your funded project through this seed grant program.

Funding guidelines include:

- Non-faculty personnel salary such as research scientists, postdocs (minimum salary of \$50,000 per year), technicians, grad students (no tuition), and hourly wage workers are allowed
- Project related travel, supplies and other costs (sample analysis fees, greenhouse space, fuel, field costs, etc.) may be included;
- **Fringe benefits and 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.

Full Proposal
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Insect Vector Diseases Grant Program
FY 24-25

Title:

Principal Investigator:

Email:

Dept Head/Center Director:

Email:

Co-Principal Investigator(s):

Email(s):

Amount Requested: \$_____FY 24 \$_____FY 25

Proposal Requirements

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

- I. Introduction – A brief overview of the issue being addressed and how the proposed research will impact this major issue and provide new opportunities.
- II. Background – Pertinent literature review (published manuscripts, patents, etc.) and prior work by team members that help identify the issues to be addressed and the potential solutions being proposed.
- III. Plan and scope of work – A comprehensive description of the proposed R&D with associated timelines and corresponding responsibilities of tasks within the team.
- IV. Milestones and deliverables – Specific milestones that are anticipated and deliverable impacts and outcomes that may be accomplished. Bullet format is preferred.
- V. Plan for leveraging resources – Aspects of leveraging; your current and proposed resources to extend and leverage the impact of the proposed R&D, and what specific plans to generate additional funding opportunities. Specifically, proposals should describe any current or potential future collaborative efforts with corporate, state, federal or other entities that might contribute to or are necessary for the project.
- VI. Intellectual property and/or technology deployment– Potential of developing novel solutions that might generate intellectual property and/or lead to the deployment of these results in a timely manner.
- VII. ****If you have requested funding through this IVD seed grant program previously, explain how this project is different that those proposals.****
- VIII. Please submit 1 PDF containing the full proposal, CV's and the budget.
- IX. Proposal PDF 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.).

Budget – Fill out the attached excel spreadsheet budget. Provide a justification of major items, if necessary, in Word format. Convert both to PDF and add to end of proposal PDF file.

Quote: For those projects requesting funds for sequencing and/or bioinformatics work from the AgriLife Genomics and Bioinformatics Service, OR Transformation Services from the MultiCrop Transformation Lab, you are required to contact Dr. Charlie Johnson (charlie.johnson@ag.tamu.edu) or Marco Molina (marco.molinarisco@ag.tamu.edu), respectively and obtain a quote for service. Quote should be attached to proposal file. Funds for these services will be sent to these labs directly and will NOT be received by the PI.

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.

Questions regarding this opportunity: Contact Carl Muntean (979.321.5651)



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