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

**Request for Proposal
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Invasive Ant Research and Management Project FY24 & FY25**

Texas A&M AgriLife Research has funding available to support Invasive Ant Research and Management research in the FY24-25 biennium. Below are the guidelines that should assist you in developing a successful proposal.

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 Invasive Ant RFP****

Research priorities for the next biennium include the following:

- Development of invasive ant management products that are likely to emerge from research in this RFP.
- Continuation of projects or novel projects from research teams that have shown strong return on investment in leveraging extramural funding from prior research conducted in this program and will likely do so with funding in this RFP.
- Continuation of projects or novel projects from research teams that have produced high-impact publications from prior research conducted in this program and will likely do so with funding in this 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 the determined deadline Sept. 22, 2023. We will ensure no one reviews any proposal that they are collaborating on. Each proposal will be reviewed by 3 of your peers. Final scores will be evaluated and funding decisions made by AgriLife Research Leadership.

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; impact of this work for Texans.
- Development of invasive ant mitigation strategies such as:
 - elimination or reduction.
 - development of products or procedures/protocols.

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- novel or enhancement of current biological, chemical, and/or cultural control practices.
- development of detection/surveillance methodologies.
- Proposal is clearly focused on problem invasive ants impacting the citizens of Texas.
- Preference will be given to proposals that:
 - involve the training of graduate students.
 - demonstrate how data collected under this RFP have led to submission of grants to other federal, state, or private companies or foundations for additional funding.
 - demonstrate potential to develop new intellectual property.
- 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 the AgriLife Research Director's Office in advance.

Budget Guidelines: A detailed budget and justification using this [link](#) 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: Funding requests **up to \$50,000** 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.

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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 Invasive Ant Research and Management Seed Grant Program
FY2024-FY2025

Title:

Principal Investigator:

Email:

Co-Principal Investigator(s):

Email:

Collaborator(s):

Amount Requested: \$ _____ FY24 _____ FY25

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 Texas Invasive Ant Research and Management Seed Grant Program previously, explain how this project is different than 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)

****subject line of email should read INVASIVE ANT RFP****

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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 linked 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 Dr. Leland Pierson (leland.pierson@ag.tamu.edu)

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