



## 2015 BEEF INITIATIVE GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Missouri Agricultural Foundation  
C/o Missouri Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 630  
1616 Missouri Boulevard  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

The Missouri Agricultural Foundation (MAF) is pleased to announce a competitive solicitation process to award 2015 Beef Initiative funds for grant proposals that include applied research and/or commercialization research related to Missouri's beef cattle industry. Full funding for any proposed project is subject to the availability of funds.

### TIMELINE

**Submission Deadline:** December 7, 2015

**Awards Announced:** January 20, 2016

### PROPOSAL FORMAT

**Page Limitation:** Proposals may not exceed five (5) pages excluding the Cover Page.

**Application Cover Sheet:** Must be completed in full (see Appendix A)

**Project Outline:** A project outline is a brief description of the project. The project outline should give an overview of what the project should accomplish. It should help both specialists and non-specialists to understand the project.

**Objectives:** A short introduction to the project that explains the background of the project and defines objectives to be pursued during the project. Defined objectives should address the project category identified on the proposal cover page. Objectives should be measurable and relate to how the project could positively impact Missouri's beef industry. This short introduction explains the background of your project.

**Implementation:** The project should address a successful resolution to the objectives listed. A project category may have several problems to address and thus the project description for implementation should address each problem and the steps or phases to be implemented for successful completion. A project is a time-limited activity which can consist of different phases, such as a starting phase, an implementation phase, an ending phase and a consolidation phase. A short list of the phases which are necessary for the development and the implementation of the project help to create a basic structure.

**Results:** Proposals will provide a summary what will have been accomplished at the end of the project. The most important results should be described briefly. Measurable results that are tied directly to the project objectives will be weighted during the proposal scoring process.

**Duration:** Proposals should define the timeline for project completion.

**Budget:** Proposals should include a detailed budget that covers all possible costs. Direct costs (e.g. staff costs, travel costs, subcontracting costs, costs related to conferences and seminars, experts' fees or investment measures) and indirect costs (administration and/or equipment costs) should be included.

# MISSOURI AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION 2015 BEEF INITIATIVE GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CATEGORIES

### 1. Covered Feeding Facilities

A proposal is requested from Missouri universities for covered beef feeding facilities (80 head capacity) to conduct research regarding the economic benefits of covered feeding. Proposed research must result in outcomes that compare beef production in covered feeding facilities to open feeding areas. Proposals must link research outcomes such that they can be applied to management practices in beef production.

**Total Available:** \$ 400,000

**Award Maximum:** \$ 75,000

### 2. Beef Research

A proposal is requested for research focused on an integrated approach to enhance beef production in Missouri. Research must demonstrate outcomes that can be applied within two years. Proposed research must involve an integrated program encompassing forage and animal research capability. The integrated program must include collaboration of research efforts identifying approaches to improve animal efficiency, improve post-weaning growth, improve health diagnostics, and improve forage production for the focused purpose of improving the profitability of beef production. Required infrastructure must exist to accomplish the proposed research.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the potential to impact beef production in Missouri. Specific target areas requested for research are the identification of fescue tolerance, increasing the selection of residual feed intake, development of nutritionally enhanced forage legumes, development of maternal nutrition programs that improve conception rates and post-weaning calf performance, and development of a chute-side diagnostic for respiratory health and nutritional programs for stocker cattle. Proposals must link these research areas such that they can be integrated and applied into practical management practices of beef production.

**Total Available:** \$ 400,000

**Award Maximum:** \$ 400,000

### 3. Fescue Tolerance

A proposal is requested to identify a method to determine whether breeding cattle are fescue tolerant. Proposals are required to use genetic markers to identify fescue tolerance. Funds will be used to subsidize test cost (\$10 per sample).

**Total Available:** \$ 200,000

**Award Maximum:** \$ 200,000

### 4. Innovative Solutions and Economic Impact Studies

A proposal is requested to identify innovative solutions for adding value to Missouri beef. Proposals will need to identify the costs and the economic impact of the proposed solutions for producers, processors, the State, and local communities.

**Total Available:** \$ 100,000

**Award Maximum:** \$ 100,000

### 5. Small/Medium Size Beef Processor Modernization

A proposal is requested for funds to modernize and increase the capacity of small/medium size beef processors within Missouri. Proposals must illustrate the need and demand for the proposed facility upgrades.

**Total Available:** \$ 100,000

**Award Maximum:** \$ 20,000

# MISSOURI AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION 2015 BEEF INITIATIVE GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

## SCORING CRITERIA FOR PROPOSAL CATEGORIES 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Credibility and Merit:** (30%)

Project objectives must be able to demonstrate adhere to the project category's description for which the application is being submitted for. The objectives should clearly define the scope of the project and provide for measurable outcomes. The objectives should define how outcomes can be implemented in Missouri Beef operations.

**Impact Potential:** (30%)

Projects must clearly demonstrate applicability to Missouri Beef production. Projects should identify the usefulness to the industry and how producers may implement proposed actions in a variety of production situations.

**Outcome Connections:** (20%)

Projects must demonstrate how outcomes are achieved and steps required. If the project has multiple phases, include a list of the phases which are necessary for the development and implementation of the project and how the project helps to create a baseline structure for the industry. Connections for each phase and potential outcomes can be adapted for producer implementation in existing or new operations should be defined.

**Timeliness:** (10%)

Projects must demonstrate a reasonable and feasible work plan and time for delivery. Projects will be graded on the potential impact and ability to implement results in the Missouri beef industry.

**Budget:** (10%)

A budget that shows all possible costs (direct and indirect).

## SCORING CRITERIA FOR PROPOSAL CATEGORY 5

**Credibility and Merit:** (20%)

Project objectives must be able to demonstrate adhere to the project category's description for which the application is being submitted for. The objectives should clearly define the scope of the project and provide for measurable outcomes. The objectives should define how outcomes will affect the ability of the processor to increase beef processing.

**Impact Potential:** (30%)

Projects must clearly demonstrate current need and the demand for the proposed facility upgrades. Projects should identify the usefulness to the industry and how proposed upgrades will affect Missouri beef producers that supply the facility.

**Outcome Connections:** (20%)

Projects must demonstrate how outcomes are achieved and steps required. If the project has multiple phases, include a list of the phases which are necessary for the development and implementation of the project and how the project helps to create a baseline structure for the industry. Connections for each phase and potential outcomes can be adapted for producer implementation in existing or new operations should be defined.

**Timeliness:** (10%)

Projects must demonstrate a reasonable and feasible work plan and time for delivery. Projects will be graded on the potential impact and ability to implement results in the Missouri beef industry.

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A budget that shows all possible costs (direct and indirect).