



January 3, 2025

2025 Request for Research Proposals

The Midwest Food Products Association (MWFP), through its Raw Products Committee, is directly involved in the allocation of funding for research efforts of food processors and seed companies. Research proposals which were submitted and selected are funded by funds raised jointly by food processors and seed companies.

The Raw Products Committee invites University staff to submit research proposals for funding consideration that address:

- a) topics suggested by the Committee;
- b) currently funded research topics that expire this year and need to be renewed; and
- c) other topics important for the vegetable processing industry.

New research proposals must be submitted to MWFP no later than 5 pm on February 7th by email at nick.novak@mwfp.org or mail to 4600 American Parkway, Suite 210, Madison, WI 53718.

Continuing projects (those funded in the preceding year and advancing) must submit a "Project Progress Report" each year of an ongoing project. This year, the report deadline is also February 7th.

The research proposals which are submitted on time will be reviewed by the Raw Products Committee. Each research proposal should include the amount of funding needed, title of the project, duration of the project (e.g., first year of a three-year study), specific objectives of the project, and personnel responsible for carrying it out.

Research proposals should be no more than two pages, plus an Executive Summary Page (included below). A copy of the rules concerning research proposal submittal is also included in this packet.

Grants for research proposals are awarded to university staff under MWFP policy that no university overhead or other deductions are to be made from the distribution. The entire amount of any research proposal funded by MWFP is used to cover researcher costs needed to complete the project. Approval of funding is at the discretion of the MWFP Board of Directors. Researchers submitting proposals approved for funding will be notified in March.

Please call Nick Novak at (608) 255-9946 with questions.

Sincerely,

Nick Novak

MWFPA Suggested Research Topics 2025

The following is the summary of topics which processors and seed company representatives would like addressed by researchers:

A. SWEET CORN

None suggested

B. SNAP BEANS

None suggested

C. PEAS

1. **Pea Yield versus Tenderometer Study** - The processing industry is seeking to better align pea yields to tenderometer readings on processing contracts. Current data is likely outdated and should be updated. This would potentially help both the growers and processors to make pricing better match yields as tenderometer increases, helping prevent growers from being penalized if peas are harvested too young or too old and potentially reduce passed acres. Using multiple standard varieties of peas grown in the Midwest, harvest samples on a daily basis and record yields as tenderometer increases to see if there is a correlation between increased yield and rising tenderometer.

D. MIXED

1. **Bacterial Leaf Spot of Beets & Cucurbits** - Tie into research proposed as part of SCRI grant: "SEED-ACT: Systematics, Ecology, Evolution, and Diversity of Pseudomonads infecting chenopods and cucurbits resulting in ACTION for sustainable seed and fresh market production." via Dr. Goldman of the UW. Assist in some fashion (field surveys, for example) to help move the project forward with mitigation strategies both at the seed production level as well as the agricultural production level here in the Midwest.
2. **Assessment of Carrot Cultivar Resistance to Infection by Aster Yellows phytoplasma (AYp)** - Aster yellows phytoplasma is an annually occurring bacterial disease transmitted by aster leafhopper. Several recent cultivars have not been screened for their relative resistance to infection by AYp, and understanding how the Aster Yellows Index could be estimated from among new cultivars is lacking. Evaluate a number of carrot cultivars regarded as resistant, intermediate and susceptible to Aster yellows phytoplasma (AYp). Over this past season in Dr. Gevens' foliar-applied fungicide research trials, interesting responses were observed among the range of cultivars included to infection by this bacteria and how select cultivars develop symptoms. Screen several cultivars and their relative susceptibility to infection by AYp, and learn more about the symptom severity that emerges. Successful completion of these objectives could help to identify the need for insect control on new carrot cultivars where no level(s) of susceptibility have been established for infection to AYp.

Researchers may submit other proposals based on their observations of industry needs.

Current Projects to Continue – 2025

A. **SWEET CORN**

None

B. **SNAP BEANS**

None

C. **PEAS**

1. **P-1 “Processing Pea Variety and Advanced Germplasm Trial”, Rohwer - UMN (Continuing Project; year 4 of 4)**

D. **MIXED**

None

*****SEE NEXT PAGE FOR APPLICATION FORM AND RULES*****

Form RES-2

**MIDWEST FOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
2025 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS
(Two-Page Maximum, Not Including Progress Report)**

PROJECT TITLE:

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

EMAIL & PHONE NUMBER:

PROJECT STATUS		PROJECT DURATION	PROJECT INITIATION YEAR
NEW	CONTINUING	ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/>	
COMPLETELY NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	YEAR TWO <input type="checkbox"/>	TWO YEARS <input type="checkbox"/>	
PREVIOUSLY FUNDED <input type="checkbox"/>	YEAR THREE <input type="checkbox"/>	THREE YEARS <input type="checkbox"/>	

BUDGET			
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM MWFPA IN CURRENT YEAR:	\$	TOTAL BUDGETED TO REQUEST IN FUTURE YEARS:	\$
SALARY	\$		
SUPPLIES	\$		
TRAVEL	\$	YEAR TWO \$	
MISC. EXPENSE	\$	YEAR THREE \$	

AFFILIATION & COOPERATORS:

LOCATION OF PROJECT (Include Cooperators):

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RESEARCH:

Please utilize the requested information below for a Research Proposal (2 pages for a new project; 1-page progress report if for a continuing project):

Research objectives:

Justification:

Significance to industry:

Approach:

Budget:

Progress report, if a continuing project (please limit to 1 page)

MIDWEST FOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FUNDING PROCEDURES

I. Research Proposal Guidelines

- A. Research proposals should be submitted as a contending project in one of four crop categories (peas, snap beans, sweet corn, and mixed).
- B. Maximum funding allowed for any single research project is \$10,000 per year.
- C. Research proposals may be submitted for a maximum of three years' funding.
 - i. A Project Progress Report must be submitted to the Committee each year of ongoing projects with a similar deadline for new research projects.
 - ii. Funding for ongoing projects may be renewed following review and approval of the Project Process Report by the Committee.
 - iii. Following completion of any multi-year funding approved for ongoing project, the project must be resubmitted and approved as a new research proposal to be considered for additional funding.

II. Funding Approval Procedures

- A. Each member company and supporting seed company receives one vote and must designate a representative to be its voting member. One representative from each university shall be present in an advisory capacity.
- B. Each voting member may cast a vote only on proposals within a crop category in which they participate in funding. All voting members may vote for proposals listed in the "mixed" category. Only monies generated by member companies and supporting seed companies shall be used for that commodity.
- C. Each voting member shall rank submitted research proposals based upon the proposal's importance/value. The ranking shall be by individual crop. Proposals shall be ranked as #1 being the most important, etc. All submitted proposals must receive a ranking and this procedure will pertain to "new" research projects only. Prior to ranking New Mixed Project Proposals, the committee shall review each proposal for appropriateness. A motion shall be made, seconded, and voted on to remove any proposal considered inappropriate from ranking.
- D. The rankings are averaged from votes cast by eligible voting members within each category.
- E. A "group" ranking of the proposals is established by the averaging of cast votes (i.e. lowest average rank considered "most important" to the highest average rank considered "least important").

- F. A secondary vote is taken on each individual research proposal, stating simply “Yes” (approval of funding) or “No”.
- G. A final recommended funding list is then developed using the two ballots in addition to the review of multi-year projects. The recommended funding list is prioritized as follows:
 - 1. Multi-year research projects in good standing upon review.
 - 2. New research proposals that have received a majority approval. The priority of funding these projects is established by the “group” re-ranking of “yes” votes.
- H. The list of proposals recommended for funding by the Raw Products Committee is then forwarded to the MWFPA Board of Directors for final funding approval. The total number of research projects actually receiving funding is determined by the Board of Directors, dependent upon funds availability.

III. General Timetable (Annual)

- 1. October – The Raw Products Committee solicits potential research topic titles (Form RES-1) from processors and seed companies for funding during the following year.
- 2. Mid-December – Final date for submission of potential research topics to the Research Committee.
- 3. January – The list of potential research topics is established and the complete packet distributed to the three university representatives for distribution. Form RES-2 indicates the format for submission of research proposals to be used by researchers. The summary list of topics is distributed to processors and seed companies.
- 4. January – Request to Payers for seed amounts purchased or sold in the prior year.
- 5. Early February – Final date for submission of completed continuing project research proposals to MWFPA (new projects can be submitted until February 7th)
- 6. Mid/Late February – Raw Product Committee Voting members meet to finalize the “Recommended Funding List” for submission to MWFPA Board of Directors.
- 7. Early March – Final funding decision by MWFPA Board of Directors.
- 8. Mid-March – Researchers notified of grants awarded.
- 9. May – Invoices issued to Payers based on awarded funding and seed data calculations.
- 10. July – Checks issued to Universities for grants awarded.