
Re: FFAR LIMITED OPPORTUNITY - New Innovator in Food and Agriculture Research Award 2026

From: Amber Jensen <amber.jensen@wisc.edu>

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 1:08 PM

To: vcr-resadmin@g-groups.wisc.edu; vcr-research@g-groups.wisc.edu; ovcr-centerdirectors@g-groups.wisc.edu; RSP - Pre-Award <preaward@rsp.wisc.edu>; RSP-PostAward <rsp-postaward@office365.wisc.edu>; csresadmin@g-groups.wisc.edu; fundingopps@g-groups.wisc.edu

Cc: UW-Madison VCR Grants <grants@research.wisc.edu>

Subject: FFAR LIMITED OPPORTUNITY - New Innovator in Food and Agriculture Research Award 2026

To: Associate Deans for Research, Department Chairs and Administrators in the Biological, Physical, and Social Sciences, College/School Research Administrators

INTERNAL DEADLINE: Monday March 2nd

The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research has released the 2026 New Innovator Award RFA with a very short timeline for submission and limits the number of nominations to 1 per institution. Nominations are due to FFAR by March 18, 2026.

The New Innovator in Food & Agriculture Research Award provides early-career scientists the investment needed to propel them into successful research careers. FFAR established the New Innovator Awards to launch the careers of promising scientists whose research addresses significant food and agriculture challenges. These awards allow the grantees to focus exclusively on research without the pressure of securing additional funding. FFAR grants New Innovator Awards to faculty members in a tenure-track position no longer than three years and who are within eight years of receiving their Ph.D. The nominated faculty member must have been hired on or after August 1, 2022, for a tenure-track or equivalent position and may work in any discipline or any department within the institution. The award goes to individuals with the creative ideas, skills, knowledge and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research program. Eligible candidates must also conduct research that aligns with our [Priority Areas](#).

Please note: FFAR wishes to advise interested applicants that it has limited programmatic funds remaining and cannot make any awards selected through this Request for Applications (RFA) until additional funds are allocated to the Foundation. FFAR is proceeding with this RFA to ensure that the Foundation can quickly launch new projects should new funding be allocated. Any selections will be contingent on the availability of funds. FFAR strongly encourages potential applicants to consider FFAR's current funding situation when deciding whether to apply for the 2026 New Innovator Award.

We ask that interested PIs submit the following information for internal review:

1. Cover Page including: Name and academic title of PI, contact information, title of program project, FFAR Challenge Area, and Nominee's date of appointment to tenure-track or equivalent position (on or after August 1, 2022)
2. CV
3. 2-page description of how your program meets the goals of the solicitation

Please share this information among PIs in your unit who are working in relevant research areas. Interested PIs should submit a single PDF with the requested information to grants@research.wisc.edu by **Monday March 2**.

Questions?

Contact grants@research.wisc.edu.