



## **California Department of Food and Agriculture FERTILIZER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM**

### **2013 REQUEST FOR CONCEPT PROPOSALS**

The Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Division of Inspection Services are currently accepting concept proposals. Proposals may focus on research and/or education projects (see priority research areas listed below) to provide growers and industry with cost-effective practices to improve the efficient use of fertilizer and minimize environmental impacts. FREP does not support proprietary product development projects. Grant funding of \$75,000 per year for up to three years is typical for projects, but projects over \$75,000 and over three years will be considered on a case by case basis. Multiple concept proposals will be accepted. Concept proposals leveraging other sources of funding are strongly encouraged and are welcomed. Concept proposals may originate from outside California, but proposals must be relevant to California growing conditions.

#### **WHO MAY APPLY**

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Any individual or group may submit a concept proposal.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

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Applicants first submit a concept proposal to FREP. Concept proposals may not exceed two pages. Please include the following information:

- Project title, project location, project duration, and project leader(s) information (name, title, affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address).
- A simple and concise summary of the problem to be addressed.
- Description of the target audience.
- Region or County location where concept work would be performed.
- Objectives of the proposed project, and a description of the general approach to be used.

*(Note: A budget is not required for concept proposals.)*

**Concept proposals are due by 5:00 p.m., February 15, 2013, NO EXCEPTIONS GRANTED.**

Proposals that are incomplete, late, or exceed two pages will be returned and eliminated from consideration. Concept proposals must be submitted via e-mail; mailed and faxed copies will not be accepted.

The FREP has a Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC), which consists of growers, representatives of institutions of higher education, the fertilizer industry, CDFA, U.S. Department of Agriculture and other governmental agencies. The TASC reviews the submitted concept proposals to determine whether they are aligned with the program's priority research areas. The TASC selects concept proposals to be developed into full proposals based on project concept, impact, methodology, and feasibility. FREP staff notifies applicants of the TASC decision and provides a deadline for submission of full proposals. Full proposals go through a peer review process and are then evaluated by the TASC. The TASC then sends their recommendations to the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB).

The FIAB deliberates and discusses the TASC recommendations and decides in an up/down vote whether to accept the TASC recommendations of full proposals. The FIAB recommendations are forwarded to the Secretary for approval and award of FREP grant. FREP staff initiates the grant agreement for the project.

## TIMELINE

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Request for concept proposals announced .....	December 3, 2012
Concept proposals due .....	February 15, 2013
Advancement of concepts to full proposals announced .....	March 15, 2013
Full proposals due .....	May 1, 2013
Award notification .....	August 1, 2013
Project start date .....	January 1, 2014

## PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

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- **Demonstrating Agronomically Sound Uses of Fertilizing Materials at the Field Scale**  
Demonstrate results from basic experimental research trials (prior FREP research, etc.) with organic and conventional fertilizers at the field scale.
- **Managing Agricultural Nitrogen**  
Research the agronomically sound use of nitrogen fertilizing materials, including:
  - Minimizing nitrate movement below the root zone
  - Minimizing nitrous oxide emissions related to fertilizer use
  - Evaluating strategies to increase crop N use efficiency
- **Developing Best Management Practices (BMPs)**  
Development of nutrient BMPs and educational materials for agriculture and urban landscapes.
- **Education and Outreach**  
Development of educational materials to increase awareness of agronomically sound use of fertilizing materials. Extension efforts to implement best management practices.

## SEND CONCEPT PROPOSALS TO

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**Submit an electronic version of your proposal to: [FREP@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:FREP@cdfa.ca.gov)**

Proposals that are incomplete, late, or exceed two pages will be returned and eliminated from consideration. Concept proposals must be submitted via e-mail; mailed and faxed copies will not be accepted. FREP staff will reply with a confirmation e-mail when concept proposals are received; contact FREP staff by calling (916) 900-5022 if you have not received a confirmation e-mail within two business days of your submission. FREP is not responsible for incomplete e-mail transmissions.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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FREP funds and coordinates research to advance the environmentally safe and agronomically sound use and handling of fertilizer materials. FREP serves growers, agricultural supply and service professionals, extension personnel, public agencies, consultants, and other interested parties.

This solicitation as well as other information about FREP activities and sponsored projects is available by contacting FREP staff at [FREP@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:FREP@cdfa.ca.gov) or (916) 900-5022, and by visiting the FREP website at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep.html>.