



California Department of Food and Agriculture **FERTILIZER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT AWARD PROCESS**

2012 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 \$50,000 per year for up to three years is typical for projects, but projects 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 welcomed. Concept proposals may originate from outside California, but proposals must be relevant to California growing conditions.

WHO MAY APPLY

Any individual or group may submit a concept proposal.

HOW TO APPLY

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, if applicable).
- A simple and concise summary of the problem to be addressed.
- Description of the target audience.
- 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 3, 2012, NO EXCEPTIONS GRANTED.

Proposals that are incomplete, late, or exceed two pages will be returned and eliminated from consideration. While e-mailed concept proposals are preferred, mailed and faxed copies are acceptable. The FREP is not responsible for incomplete fax or e-mail transmissions.

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. 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 then forwards their decision to the Office of the Secretary for full transparency. Without further direction from the Secretary, CDFA staff then initiates the grant agreement for the project.

TIMELINE

Request for concept proposals announced	December 1, 2011
Concept proposals due	February 3, 2012
Advancement of concepts to full proposals announced	March 5, 2012
Full proposals due	May 4, 2012
Award notification	August 8, 2012
Project start date	January 2013

PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

- **Emerging Issues**
Supporting FREP's mission, such as water quality, air quality, tillage, crop rotation, economics of fertilizer use and cropping systems towards developing methodologies for minimizing fertilizer losses
- **Education and Outreach**
Developing and implementing educational activities that result in on-farm changes to more efficient fertilizer use and handling of fertilizer management, practices and technologies
- **Crop Nutrients**
Determining and updating crop nutrient requirements and uptake rates
- **Improving Efficiency**
Developing efficient fertilizing practices to ensure the right rate, right time, right source and product and the right place of application
- **Precision Crop Management**
Demonstrating and quantifying fertilizer applications for precision crop management and practice of best available technologies
- **Developing Tools**
Developing field and laboratory tests for crop nutrient response to aid in fertilizer recommendations
- **Pest Interactions**
Demonstrating and communicating timely information to growers on nutrient/pest interactions

SEND CONCEPT PROPOSALS TO

Edward J. Hard, Program Lead
Fertilizer Research and Education Program
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 "N" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5607
Tel: (916) 900-5022 • Fax: (916) 900-5349
E-mail: ehard@cdfa.ca.gov and frep@cdfa.ca.gov

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The 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.

Information about current FREP sponsored projects is available by contacting FREP staff to request proceedings from the 2011 CDFA/FREP conference. This solicitation and other information about FREP are available on the FREP website at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/fflders/frep.html>.