



**NOTE: WE ARE ACCEPTING PROPOSALS HOWEVER
FUNDING AWARDS WILL BE MADE CONTINGENT UPON
PASSAGE OF THE STATE BUDGET AND FUNDING IN THE
CPLE LINE**

Research Funding Guidelines and Policy

October 17,
2025

Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence

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Center for Poultry & Livestock Excellence Overview:

The Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence (CPLE) was established by the Governor under the PA Farm Bill as part of the June 2019 Budget. The intent of CPLE is to focus on poultry, swine, lamb, sheep and goat needs across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Key areas of focus during the Center's sixth year include: Biosecurity; Animal Agriculture Infrastructure; Applied Research; Food Security.

Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence Priority Areas:

The Board looks favorably upon projects where:

- There are partnerships as well as funding co-sponsors,
- Projects with a valid prospective approach to research rooted in a solid basis of sound practices and the impact on Pennsylvania agriculture,
- Multiple species (poultry, swine, lamb, sheep and goats) benefit from the research

At this time, the Board is anticipating having \$550,000 available to award in areas related to poultry, swine, sheep, and goat production in the Commonwealth.

In addition, the Board accepts proposals for **sponsorship** of events and activities that attract a statewide (PA) audience. There is a separate application for sponsorship dollars. Contact Jennifer at jrharry@pennag.com for details.

Biosecurity: \$400,000

Biosecurity and proper preparedness continue to be of utmost concern to CPLE. The emphasis remains on lamb, sheep, goat, swine, and poultry producers across the Commonwealth. As we assess the threat of diseases (foreign and domestic), the value of biosecurity planning and planning for mass casualty will be a tremendous value to the agriculture community, food supply, and the continuity of business.

- Cost share/funding for development, implementation, and maintenance of biosecurity plans and secure food supply planning and premise identification outreach.
- Mitigation of highly contagious disease spread and disposal of waste products.
- Designated programs for PA Swine to ensure their readiness if a disease would impact their operation (this includes but is not limited to: table top exercises, response planning, US SHIP and similar program work to ensure continuity of business)
- Educational outreach to underserved communities.

Animal Agriculture Infrastructure: \$200,000

Agriculture is the #1 business in Pennsylvania. Diagnostics is one of the concerns, as well as the need for workforce development (apprenticeship, internships, the sincere need to build capacity in PA for our industry). At this time, we need to invest in tools and equipment within our university systems to ensure students are proficient in the use of modern technology. Additionally, expanding Pennsylvania's diagnostic tools in university labs will decrease the number of samples being outsourced.

Another constraint in the Commonwealth is the vastness of our state and the ability to

have veterinarians serve all the areas of need as it relates to lamb, sheep, goat, swine and poultry. The importance of remote access to veterinarians greatly increased and we view this as an emerging area to meet the needs of underserved areas.

- Identify and train Subject Matter Experts in mass depopulation, disposal, disinfection, and composting of domestic livestock providing educational opportunities in the form of demonstration sites, training sessions and table top exercises.
- Increase awareness and availability of diagnostic tools and uses within universities and PADLS system to support food animal production, which includes but is not limited to: training in sample collection.
- Develop necessary infrastructure to support necessary diagnostics in the event of introduction of a food animal foreign animal disease into PA for species of CPLE interest.
- Telemedicine and Augmented Reality: Development, Training, and Opportunities as well as limitations for food animal veterinarians' utilization across the Commonwealth.
- Food Animal Internship Opportunities for college students – a partnership between students and producers/industry with a vision to foster a valued learning experience and showcase the vast meaningful career opportunities awaiting the field of agriculture.
- Food Animal Training Opportunities for college students and veterinarians – partnering with industry to provide 'real life/hands on' training, job shadowing and networking.
- Offer a student loan repayment opportunity targeted to food animal veterinarian school graduates who have accepted a position/practicing in PA.

Applied Research: \$200,000

There continues to be a need to conduct specific research for new and emerging issues facing livestock producers of lamb, sheep, goat, swine and poultry.

- Solicitation of industry input on specific diseases (infectious and noninfectious diseases) to identify and estimate the economic impact the disease would have on PA food animal operations
- Establish practices and protocols to mediate/prevent/eliminate/eradicate infectious and non-infectious diseases and infestations.
- Explore regenerative practices in animal production such as heirloom breeds.
- Projects related to feeds and feedings, such as mycotoxins in feed and so forth.
- Research and knowledge sharing with producers and stakeholders related to small ruminant nutrition.
- Expand knowledge base of PA Swine Producers on nutrition, testing protocols and standard operating procedures, emergency preparedness of foreign animal disease, consumer demands and animal care and well-being.

Food Security: \$100,000

Pennsylvania is uniquely located within an 8-hour drive of 80% of the population in the United States, which allows PA products to be freshest to market. Coupled with the diversity of animal agriculture in the Commonwealth, we need to enhance our network of

those working in this area to verify they have measures in place to ensure food safety while maintaining the needs of their customers.

- Cyber Attack – protecting food supply through the entire food chain.
- On-Farm Processing and Selling of Poultry, Swine, Lamb, Sheep, and Goats - audit system to lower risks related to food borne illness, including, but not limited to, on-farm safety, processing, and sanitation guidelines.
- Understand processing limitations and challenges for swine producers and develop methods to improve harvesting capacity.
- Better understand the various ethnic (cultural/faith) markets to increase traceability of direct marketed, custom-harvested food animals.
- Messaging on animal well-being and the various production practices associated with agriculture as a means to increase knowledge and awareness of food production to ensure consumer confidence and securing Pennsylvania Agriculture's role in the competitive market.

Process Timeline and Payment Information

The Request for Research Proposals will conclude at **11 A.M. Tuesday, December 22, 2025**. Any proposal received after the time/date will not be considered.

Important to note in regards to the proposal:

- The body of the written proposal **must not exceed 5 pages in length using size 12 font**, the budget and budget justification are excluded.
- **If the proposed research includes work with live animals, documentation of IACUC approval is required. If IACUC approval is pending at the time of submission, proof of approval is required before funds will be disbursed for approved projects.**
- A conflict-of-interest statement should be provided at the conclusion of the body proposal (example provided below).

Conflict of Interest Statement

The investigator(s) listed in this CPLE grant application certifies that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this grant proposal. If an individual, organization, or entity involved with this grant application has a financial or non-financial interest, please specify the nature of the conflict in this section.

- Reference materials to support the proposal must be shared if materials are not found in published journals.
- The submitter must share previous projects they have worked with CPLE on that relate to the application.
- **A short video (not to exceed 4 minutes in length) is required for all proposals.** The video should express how the proposal will benefit the industry. It is the duty of those seeking the funding to craft the request for funding in a clear, concise manner outlining the objectives and deliverables of the project to ensure it meets the needs of poultry, swine, lamb, sheep and goat farmers across the Commonwealth. The Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence does not fund business start-ups. The Center's goal is to positively impact Pennsylvania agriculture.

Please note that the board does review current and previous projects for timeliness and tangibles while reviewing applications

Video Submission Requirements:

All videos must be submitted to jrharry@pennag.com PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted or considered by the board.

All videos must:

- Be no longer than 4 minutes;
- Be of good audio and visual quality. Be understandable, easy to follow, and be explicit in expressing how the center's target industries will benefit from this proposal. Highlighting the impact in Pennsylvania agriculture;
- Be clear and easy to understand and in the English language without background noise. All proposals received by the stated due date, in the correct format and will be reviewed by the Board at their next meeting.
- All videos must include subtitles.
- Provide a quick summary of your current CPLE projects if they relate to your current application.
- Please be available the day of board review in case the board needs clarification

The Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence Board will meet within 10 business days to review and discuss each proposal. At that time, the Board will vote on which proposals to fund. Actual awarding of funds/generation of a contract will be contingent upon an approved/passed state budget and funding for CPLE. The CPLE has established a rubric to follow to ensure consistency among the reviewers and the review process.

An email notification will be sent to all applicants regarding the status of each proposal. Proposals selected for funding will have a contract ready for signatures at that time.

Upon receipt of the Cooperator invoice and signed contract, a check for 50% of the approved funds, along with a copy of initial documentation, will be mailed. The contract must be signed within 15 days of receipt.

The mid-term report will be due 6 months after the contract is signed/funds awarded. Upon receipt of the completed mid- term report and Cooperator invoice, a check for 40% of the approved research funds will be disbursed.

The final report will be due one year from the date of the contract. Upon receipt of the completed final report and Cooperator invoice, the balance of 10% of the approved research funds will be paid.

Deliverables:

Those receiving funding from the CPLE are expected to share their results, research, findings, and so forth, not only with the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence, but also locally, statewide, and nationally. Project results must have applicability across the industry and the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Final reports will be posted on the CPLE website with open public access.

Special Notes:

The CPLE board may, at its sole discretion, void the contract and eliminate all scheduled contract payments if the researcher fails to:

- 1) Return a signed copy of the research contract by the established due date; or
- 2) Provide interim and/or final report to the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence by the stated due date; or
- 3) Contact the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence prior to the due date in order to request a change in budget and/or an extension for approved reason(s) when interim and/or final report(s) cannot be completed by contract due dates; or
- 4) Demonstrate the research funds are being used in accordance with the proposal;
- 5) Complete the project because he/she leaves the University.

Budget Information

The Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence is funded from the Pennsylvania State Budget.

Salaries and Wages:

Principal investigator – The Board does not pay the principal investigator or co-principal investigator salary/benefits if said PI/ co-PI receive funds from the State Budget to cover their salary/benefits.

The Board will not fund foreign collaborators or overseas costs.

The Board can pay salaries for the following:

1. Extension Educators
2. Research associates
3. Graduate students (multiple year projects are acceptable)
4. Pre-baccalaureate students
5. Technical, shop and other – (A description of the position must be attached to the research proposal.)
6. Other professionals – (A list of those other professionals is required with the title and position on the research proposal.)

Please note: The researcher must be able to verify that the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence are funding the appropriate percentage of the salary as it pertains to the individual project. The researcher must provide hourly rate charges as it applies to their research.

Fringe Benefits

Please provide detailed information in the proposal of the exact amount of funds that will be earmarked for fringe benefits. Please itemize those fringe benefits as health insurance, social security, taxes, retirement, tuition, etc.

Non-Expendable Equipment

List items and dollar amount for each. The Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence will fund up to 25% of the cost of equipment unless 100% of the Board Members (quorum of said meeting where this is discussed) vote to fund at a higher rate. With that, the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence relinquishes all ownership of said equipment to the research entity.

Materials and Supplies

Researcher is required to provide a detailed list of the materials and supplies they are seeking funding for in the proposal

Travel

The researcher must provide an explanation of what travel is involved and to where. The CPLE will not fund any travel outside the United States.

Upon request of the Board, the researcher must provide proper documentation of the mileage and destination. Mileage will be reimbursed at the IRS rate for the project year of the research.

Publication Costs

CPLE requires detail of what is being published and how it is being utilized. CPLE also requires information on how many copies are being made and detailed receipts of actual publication costs. In addition, CPLE requires proper attributes be given to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The Governor's Office, The Legislature, The Department of Agriculture, The Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence and those affiliated the funded project for funding provided.

All Other Direct Costs

CPLE requires that supporting documentation listing items and dollar amounts be provided.

Indirect Costs

Are permissible to be include in the proposal. CPLE will fund up to 10% of the direct costs.

No Cost Extensions

Requests for no-cost extensions are permissible however must be submitted in writing on official university letterhead, signed by a university official to CPLE no less than 1 month before the scheduled completion of the project and must clearly state a length of time for the extension and completion of the project. A maximum extension of 10 months will be considered. Only one (1) no cost extension will be granted per funded project unless extenuating circumstances can be demonstrated as to why a longer extension should be considered and potentially granted by CPLE.

Audit of Research Projects

The Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence, The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and contracted staff will conduct random audits of research projects and financials. Your full cooperation is expected for this audit.

Amendment to Research Contract

If the researcher would like to amend the contract for any reason, an “Amendment to the Research Contract” must be requested.

The researcher must submit in writing (letter or email) the reasons for the request. In addition, the researcher must request approval prior to the action requested in the amendment request. If the Center for Poultry and Livestock agrees to the request, the following amendment will be generated.

Amendment to the Research Funding Agreement Between Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence and _____(Research Entity)

Purpose:

The funding agreement between the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence and _____(Research Entity) made on _____(insert date of agreement), sets forth the agreement of the parties under which the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence have agreed to provide funding to the research project titled:

_____. The purpose of this amendment is to amend certain provisions of that agreement.

Amendment to the Agreement:

The provisions of the agreement shall remain in force during the term of the agreement, with the following modifications:

1. _____ (State reason for amendment)

Approval:

The Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence and _____ (Research Entity) agree that this amendment shall become effective only upon approval of the amendment by both parties.

Approved:

Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence _____ **(Research Entity)**

Title: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____