



Research
Funding
Guidelines
and Policy

December 15

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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 second year include: Biosecurity; Animal Agriculture Infrastructure; Applied Research; Food Security.

Center for Poultry & Livestock Excellence **Priority Areas:**

This is the 2nd RFP for FY 2021-2022 from CPLE. The Board looks favorably upon projects where there are partnerships as well as funding co-sponsors. The Board is looking for projects with a valid prospective approach to research rooted in a solid basis of sound practices.

At this time, the Board has \$700,000 available to award in areas related to poultry, swine, lamb, sheep and goat production in the Commonwealth.

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

Biosecurity:

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) as well as the value biosecurity planning and planning for mass casualty, there will be tremendous value to the agriculture community, the food supply and the continuity of business for all to have spent time on these issues to ensure proper prior planning.

- Cost share/funding for plan development of biosecurity plans as well as secure food supply planning.
- Highly contagious disease spread; potential threat and spread between open-pasture and so forth – what are the PA infrastructure needs and/or what is currently in-place to protect herds in all management systems and management practices to keep animal agriculture thriving in the Commonwealth.

- Innovative research for mass depopulation of domestic livestock in commercial confinement operations of large scale such as commercial swine and commercial layer facilities, with priority being placed on humane, safe, practical and efficient manners to euthanize large number of animals in a timely manner.
- Practical biosecurity implementation for commercial and backyard domestic operations recognizing the inherent risks of such operations may pose to each other and face from wildlife.
- Cost Share Reimbursement Program to Farmers to complete and submit plans to their veterinarian for review and concurrence. This would be a reimbursement program where farmers would pay the costs, complete an application with proof of payment and plan for reimbursement thru the center.

Animal Agriculture Infrastructure:

Agriculture is the #1 business in Pennsylvania. Diagnostics is one of the concerns, as well as the need for workforce development (bilingual training, apprenticeship, internships, the sincere need to build capacity in PA for our industry). At this time, we need to invest in tools, such as training programs, language classes, converting farm materials into other languages, and equipment within our university systems to ensure students are proficient the use of modern technology and well as expand our diagnostic tools in the University laboratories of to decrease the amount of diagnostic testing going out of state due to Pennsylvania’s lack of tools. In order to react quickly to ensure the safety of our animal food supply, an investment is needed in diagnostic tools. 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.

- Feasibility Study of a Spent Fowl Facility. This is forecasted to be one of the major issues to impact the poultry industry. At this time, there are 2 markets for spent fowl and one of those is a company in Canada. PA Poultry needs to properly prepare for this impending need.
- Increase diagnostic tools offered/available within universities for education purposes as well as the PADLS system to support food animal production, with focus on endemic production-oriented diseases and enhanced diagnostic testing modalities to detect, differentiate and manage such pathogens.
- Telemedicine: Development, Training & Opportunities for food animal veterinarians to explore inherent value of remote telemedicine to address challenges in rural PA to support livestock health and animal productivity in remote areas of Pennsylvania.

- Food Animal Internship Opportunities for college students – a partnership between students and farmers with a vision to foster a valued learning experience and showcase the vast meaningful career opportunities awaiting the field of agriculture.
- Offer a student loan repayment opportunity targeted to food animal veterinarian school graduates who have accepted a position/practicing in PA.
- Explore regenerative practices in animal production such as heirloom breeds.
- Projects related to feeds and feedings, such as mycotoxins in feed and so forth.

Applied Research:

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.

Food Security:

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 thru the entire food chain (from field and farm via transportation mechanisms to processing and putting food on the shelves you're your family to consume)
- 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 sanitation guidelines
- Better understand the various ethnic (cultural/faith) markets for better capture direct marketing of food animals custom harvested and traceability to ensure safe & wholesome food

Process Timeline and Payment Information

The Request for Research Proposals will conclude at **11 a.m. on Monday, February 21, 2022**. Any proposal received after the time/date will not be considered. There are no set criteria for the length of each request/proposal. 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 & Livestock Board will meet on or before March 4, 2022 to review and discuss each proposal. At that time, the Board will vote on which proposals to fund. The CPLE have established a rubric to follow to ensure consistency among the reviewers and the review process.

An email notification will be sent to all applicants by **March 7, 2022** regarding the status of your proposal. Proposals selected for funding will have a contract ready for signatures at that time. Once the contract is signed and returned to the Center for Poultry & Livestock office, a check for 40% of the approved funds, along with a copy of the signed contract, will be mailed.

The **mid-term report will be due at a date dependent on the project start date**. Upon receipt of the completed mid-term report, a check for 20% of the approved research funds will be paid.

The **final report will be due at a date dependent upon the project start date**. Upon receipt of the completed final report, the balance of 40% 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.

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 & Livestock by the stated due date; or
- 3) Contact the Center for Poultry & Livestock 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 & 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 or any portion thereof.

In addition, 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 & Livestock 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 & Livestock 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 & Livestock 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 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

CPLE **does not** fund indirect costs.

No Cost Extensions

Requests for no-cost extensions are permissible however must be submitted in writing to CPLE no less than 2 months 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.

Audit of Research Projects

The Center for Poultry & Livestock, 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 & Livestock agrees to the request, the following amendment will be generated.

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

Purpose:

The funding agreement between the Center for Poultry & Livestock and _____ (Research Entity) made on _____ (insert date of agreement), sets forth the agreement of the parties under which the Center for Poultry & Livestock 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 & Livestock and _____ (Research Entity) agree that this amendment shall become effective only upon approval of the amendment by both parties.

Approved:

Center for Poultry & Livestock

_____ **(Research Entity)**

Title: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____