AgSEED - Agricultural Research and Extension Leading to Economic Development in Indiana Agriculture and Rural Communities

Request for Proposals 2025

We are pleased to continue the AgSEED program for 2025. AgSEED has successfully funded high-quality research and Extension proposals that have strengthened collaborations across the University and leveraged $4 in external support for every $1 in AgSEED investment. Last year, 16 of the 58 submitted proposals were funded. Proposals from the Colleges of Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine and Health and Human Sciences have been funded through AgSEED. We have reported to the Indiana State Legislature the exciting research and Extension activities happening at Purdue University as a result of AgSEED. For a list of funded projects, please visit https://ag.purdue.edu/department/arge/grant-resources/agseed-projects/ag-seed-projects-2024.html

Purdue University's land grant mission thrives on discovery and engagement that is vital to growth in Indiana agriculture and rural communities. Thanks to line-item support from the State of Indiana, Purdue's College of Agriculture established AgSEED, an internal competitive grant program to foster Indiana's leadership in plant and animal agriculture and rural growth, especially through entrepreneurial initiatives. The program funds grants based on proposals in Applied Research/Extension and Basic Research. The Applied Research/Extension area is inclusive of translational research that directly informs and/or impacts Extension/engagement and/or teaching/learning stakeholders.

AgSeed investments are explicitly intended to "seed" efforts to collect initial data and further develop concepts proposed to improve competitiveness of proposals that build on the initial effort in securing extramural support. Therefore, completion of the "seed" phase of the project in a timely manner is critical in scaling the impact of the project.

Approximately 35% of the funding will be used to focus on opportunities that strengthen Extension and applied research conducted in the field or community. We encourage proposals strategically designed to address issues of importance to citizens of Indiana that utilize statewide resources, including Purdue Ag Centers, clinics, and Extension offices in the field., The remaining funds support grants involving basic discovery research to lay the foundation for successful future extramural funding support that ultimately benefits citizens of Indiana. Work can include efforts to better utilize Indiana agricultural products such as corn, soybean, wheat, melons, hemp, trees, swine, poultry, beef and dairy. This can include, for example, work directly on production or work on secondary products such as novel uses for ethanol, corn biproducts and soy oil and meal.

Additionally, we encourage proposals that redesign or redevelop existing Extension programs including field days in ways that enhance impact and modernize methods of delivery and content.

AgSEED funding continues to focus on the key strategic initiatives as described by our strategic plan: https://ag.purdue.edu/strategic_plan/Documents/2021StrategicPlan.pdf

All proposals must address one of these key strategic initiatives. As this is seed funding, we also recommend a consideration of how your application will lead to a proposal in, for example, one of the AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program's six priority areas: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities.
It is essential that proposals are responsive to the details of this RFP. Proposals that do not fit RFP strategic themes will not be funded. All proposals will be treated as new submissions.

Eligibility
The project leader must be faculty (research, clinical, tenured, tenure track), Extension campus staff, county Extension educator or PAC superintendent with at least an MS degree in the Colleges of Agriculture, Health and Human Sciences, or Veterinary Medicine. Teams led by field educators, Extension campus staff and/or PAC superintendents must submit proposals with a Purdue faculty member as part of the team. Early career/pre-tenured faculty are especially encouraged to apply.

Adjunct faculty must collaborate with an eligible project leader. Other personnel on the project can be from any College at Purdue University or from elsewhere within the state, including partnerships with farmers. An eligible individual can only be the project leader on one proposal. Graduate students and/or post-doctorates may not serve as project leaders.

Projects that are conducted on a PAC or clinic need to have a letter of support from the PAC or clinic. PAC operating costs should be covered in your budget. For information on Purdue Ag Centers see https://ag.purdue.edu/department/arge/PACs/index.html

All currently funded AgSEED proposals must have project reporting requirements up-to-date at the time of the new AgSEED proposal submission.

Program Components
Applied Research/Extension Proposals:
>   *Required Components:*
>   - Clear potential for the use of AgSeed funding to improve competitiveness for proposals that build on this "seed" phase of the project
>   - Teams of campus and field-based personnel as collaborators or Co-PIs
>   - Address a contemporary problem
>   - Demonstration/outreach component
>   - Revised Extension programs or new activity
>   - Metrics to measure and report impact (e.g., economic, social, environmental, publications and bulletins, etc.)
>   - If a facility manager is not a proposal's PI, a letter of support must be included indicating their willingness to be involved in the project
>   - Leveraging the AgSEED funds with other funds or in-kind support
>
>   *Highly Encouraged Components:*
>   - Address issues using multidisciplinary approaches

- Partnerships that provide matching funds/in-kind contributions
- Entrepreneurial activity or potential
- Virtual delivery of materials in order to meet today's changing expectations for on-demand programming and information.

Basic Research Proposals:
Required Components:
- Teams of campus or other personnel as collaborators or Co-PIs
- Address contemporary problems
- Innovative/novel idea
- Linked to the strategic themes
- Should be a seed grant to obtain preliminary data to submit a competitive grant or to enhance/start entrepreneurial activities. (Should identify the most likely source(s) of extramural funding including a specific reference to a program name.)
- Metrics to measure and report outcome (e.g., proposed grant submissions, publications, potential economic impact, potential startup company, etc.)
- Leveraging the AgSEED funds with other funds or in-kind support including commodity program dollars

Highly Encouraged Components:
- Address issues using multidisciplinary approaches.
- Consideration of programs in AFRI including Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Proposal Guidelines
Include the following items:
1. **The cover page** should include: the project title, project leader contact information (department, campus address, email, telephone), key strategic initiative statement, and names and email addresses of other personnel. Also, check the box to indicate whether the proposal is Applied Research/Extension or Basic Research and select the Proposal Priority Area. The cover page can be found at
https://ag.purdue.edu/department/arge/grant-resources/agseed-projects/ag-seed-rfp.html

2. **Abstract** of up to 250 words

3. The **text of the proposal (i-iv)** should not exceed **three (3) pages (excluding the cover page and abstract) plus one additional page for addressing v**. Use either **Arial 11 or Times New Roman 12 font** with **one-inch margins**. The proposal can be single- or double-spaced.

   The three-page proposal should include:
   i. Problem Statement
   ii. Objectives and Rationale
   iii. Materials and Methods (including timeline with the most significant milestones)
   iv. Summary and Conclusion

   Additional one page:
   v. Metrics to Measure Success/Impact
      1. How an AgSEED award will be used to submit to competitive program(s) and which program(s) (where appropriate, include

comments from a previous proposal submission that was not selected for an award), or your plan to leverage funds (Applied Research/Extension), or the path to a patent and/or start-up company.

2. If you received an AgSEED within the last three years, clearly show for each award how you used the award to support writing a larger external proposal (include details on the previously submitted proposal(s), budget requested, if funded, and if not, what shortcomings were identified by the reviewers) or how funds were leveraged and what you accomplished improved economic, social, and/or environmental impacts (primarily for Applied Research/Extension).

4. **References** should be **one page or less**. Each reference must include the names of authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication; if there are more than 10 authors, include the first 5, then an ellipsis […] and the last author), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication.

5. **A two-page resume** should be provided by the project leader and key personnel.

   Include:
   Name and Email Address

   Education
   List your undergraduate and graduate education and postdoctoral training.

   Positions
   List academic/professional appointments in reverse chronological order, beginning with the current appointment.

   Products
   Include up to five publications, events or presentations (if field-based educator) you have created/conducted that most closely relate to the proposed project.

   Related Activities
   Include three examples that demonstrate broader impact. Examples could include:
   - Previous development of Extension materials and pedagogical methods
   - Contributions to the science of learning
   - Development and/or refinement of research tools
   - Computation methodologies and algorithms for problem-solving
   - Development of databases to support research and extension
   - Broadening the participation of underrepresented groups

6. **Budget form**
   You DO NOT need to submit a COEUS budget. Do not include any indirect costs (F&A).
   a. Include a **one-page or less description of major expenditures on the budget up to $50,000.** Project period is March 1, 2025-May 15, 2026.
   b. Include a description of leveraged dollars.
   See funding guidelines below.

Project Period & Timely Delivery of Outputs

AgSEED projects are funded with the *expectation* that the team will complete the project within the time period of March 1st 2025 to May 15th 2026. Given the goals of this program to seed future funded collaborations and propels, **AgSeed does not anticipate granting no-cost extensions.**

Explicit attention is being paid to (1) on-time completion (meaning without any extensions requested) of AgSeed projects, and (2) use of AgSeed projects to seek outside funding. Given these explicit interests, AgSeed Project Leaders who submit proposals outside of Purdue University for funding of greater than $100,000 within 6 months of the successful on-time completion of their AgSeed project are eligible to receive a single-time allocation of $3,000 in discretionary funds which they may use to support their programs. Discretionary funds must be spent within all guidelines governing spending in the College and University.

Submission Guidelines

Please note submissions WILL NOT go through Pre-Award. You will submit your proposal via email to agseed@purdue.edu.

1. Proposals, including abstracts, must be saved as PDFs using this name convention:

    Ag2025***Project leader last name*** followed by project category (Applied or Basic)

    Example: Ag2025TurcoAPPLIED.pdf

2. **The PDF must be submitted to agseed@purdue.edu no later than 4 p.m. EDT, Friday, September 27, 2024.**

3. **ALL MATERIALS MUST BE IN ONE PDF DOCUMENT!**

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Applied	Basic
Scientific soundness; appropriateness of methodology; feasibility of completion; investigator qualifications	20	25
Innovation/creativity	15	15
Leverage of external and other funding sources to accomplish proposed work within timeframe of project	10	5
Metrics and measurement of impact/likelihood of leveraging future external funding and resources	40	45
Diverse teams of campus or other personnel (including Extension Educators or PAC personnel for Applied proposals)	15	10
Total	**100**	**100**

Funding Guidelines

- **The funding period is March 1, 2025-May 15, 2026 and up to $50,000**. Funding will be awarded in March 2025.
- Funds may be used for:
  - Travel
  - Purdue Ag Center operating costs
  - Expenses for research materials and supplies
  - Workshops, webinars, and other extension products
  - Publication and website development
  - Graduate or undergraduate student support, technicians or post-docs
    (*Note:* There is no guarantee of support in subsequent years for graduate assistantships. Faculty should make arrangements for alternative funding for graduate students in subsequent years.)
  - For individuals on academic year appointments (and without recurring summer support), 10% of the grant can be allocated for summer salary for a single participant and 20% for proposals with multiple participants (e.g., a $50,000 grant with a single investigator can request up to $5,000 in summer salary). The salary of Extension Educators and 12-month faculty should not be budgeted.
- **A final report must be submitted within 60 days of the project's completion**. A reporting template will be provided to the project leader. Funding on subsequent projects will not be awarded if a final report has not been completed.

Timeline for Submission

- April 2024   Request for proposals
- **4 p.m. EDT, Sept. 27, 2024 Submit proposal to agseed@purdue.edu**
- March 2025   Notification of awards and projects begin
- May 15, 2026   Termination date for awarded projects
- July 15, 2026   Final report must be submitted

If you have questions, please direct them to Meredith Cobb:
mcobb2@purdue.edu
(765) 494-3951

For FAQs and a cover page template, please visit:
https://ag.purdue.edu/department/arge/grant-resources/agseed-projects/ag-seed-rfp.html

Acknowledgment

All publications, posters, websites, field day presentations, etc. that result from funding must include the following information:
"This activity was funded by Purdue University as part of AgSEED Crossroads funding to support Indiana's Agriculture and Rural Development."

AgSEED Applied Research / Extension Evaluation Form

Grant Title:_____

PI / Co-PIs:_____

- Scientific soundness; appropriateness of methodology; feasibility of completion; investigator qualifications (20 points)

- Innovation/creativity (15 points)

- Leverage of external and other funding sources to accomplish proposed work within timeframe of project (10 points)

- Metrics and measurement of impact/Likelihood of leveraging future external funding and resources (40 points)

- Diverse teams of campus or other personnel (including Extension Educators or PAC personnel for Applied proposals) (15 points)

Does the Proposal Fit the RFP?   **Yes**   **No**

Total Score:

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Feasibility of Completion in One Year _____**High** _____**Low** _____**Moderate**

Recommendation:

_____**Fund** _____**Discuss** _____**Do Not Fund**

Reviewer Name:_____

AgSEED Basic Research Evaluation Form

Grant Title:_____

PI / Co-PIs:_____

- Scientific soundness; appropriateness of methodology; feasibility of completion; investigator qualifications (25 points)

- Innovation/creativity (15 points)

- Leverage of external and other funding sources to accomplish proposed work within timeframe of project (5 points)

- Metrics and measurement of impact/likelihood of leveraging future external and funding resources (45 points)

- Diverse teams of campus or other personnel (10 points)

Does the Proposal Fit the RFP?   Yes   No

Total Score:

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Feasibility of Completion in One Year   _____High _____Low _____Moderate

Recommendation:

_____Fund _____Discuss _____Do Not Fund

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Please use this cover page when submitting a proposal.

Project Title:

Project leader:

Project leader department:

Campus Address:

Email:

Telephone Number:

Other Personnel (name, department and contact info):

Please provide a short statement on the key strategic initiative addressed in this proposal:

Proposal Type:
☐ Applied Research/Extension   ☐ Basic Research

Proposal priority area:
☐ Plant Health and Production and Plant Products
☐ Animal Health and Production and Animal Products
☐ Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
☐ Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment
☐ Agriculture Systems and Technology

AgSEED FAQs

1. **Will I receive confirmation that my proposal was received?**
   Yes, you will receive an email confirmation.

2. **Can I use pre-award services in putting together my proposal?**
   You do not need to provide a formal COEUS budget at the time of submission.

3. **Do all personnel on the project have to be located in Indiana?**
   Yes.

4. **Do all personnel on the project submit a CV / bio sketch? What is meant by "key personnel"?**
   All individuals essential for accomplishing the work need to submit the requested CV/bio sketch.

5. **I am not faculty member but would like to be a project leader on a project involving animal or human subjects; is that allowed?**
   If animals or human subjects will be used in research, then faculty oversight is required. If animals or human subjects are used as part of Extension programming, a non-faculty person can continue to serve as the project lead. The project lead will have to follow Extension policies for human and animal subjects in Extension programming.

6. **My project uses human or animal subjects in research. Do I have to get IRB or PACUC approval before I receive funding?**
   Yes.

7. **I have been asked to be a part of more than one AgSEED project proposal. Is that OK?**
   Yes, you may be on more than one project; however, you may only serve as project leader or co-leader on one project.

8. **If project funding is pending from another source, can I submit my proposal to AgSEED?**
   Yes. However, if both projects are funded, your award will be reduced in areas where the projects overlap.

9. **Do I need to submit information on awarded and pending grants?**
   This information will be requested if your proposal is selected for funding consideration.

10. **Should I include letters of support?**
    Yes, please include letters of support if you have them. They do not count against the three-page (3-page) limit.

11. **Should I include fee remissions for graduate students?**
    Yes.

12. **Is leveraging of funding essential?**
    Yes, Applied/Extension and Basic proposals should clearly indicate potential future external funding support.

13. **Can two-year projects be submitted?**
    No, two-year projects are no longer an option for AgSEED.