

American Dairy Goat Association Research Foundation 2018 Request for Proposals (RFP)

The American Dairy Goat Association Research Foundation is pleased to announce a call for research proposals focused on the health, management, nutrition, production, welfare, and manufacturing of dairy goat products in the United States. The Foundation is particularly interested in funding projects that have an immediate and measurable impact on the dairy goat industry. The primary mission of the ADGARF is to promote the dairy goat through the financial support of scientific research focused on improving goat health, management, nutrition, production, welfare, and manufacturing of dairy goat products.

DUE DATE: Complete proposals in single PDF document should be submitted to the ADGA Research Foundation administrative staff by 5 PM EST on Friday March 9, 2018. All proposals will be acknowledged within one business day of receipt. Applicants will be notified in early June regarding the outcome of the review process.

ALLOWABLE BUDGET: The Foundation anticipates awarding approximately \$20,000 of funding through this RFA. This amount may be allocated to one or multiple projects.

ELIGIBILITY: This call for proposals is open to any academic institution in the United States. Private farms, corporate entities or researchers outside of the United States that wish to submit proposals are encouraged to identify a US academic collaborator to act as the prime contract with subcontracts to the foreign entities. All projects will be evaluated for scientific validity, rigor and data collection, therefore proposals submitted by individual producers for “on-farm” studies may benefit from partnership with local extension or academic professionals. Additionally, if live animals are used as part of the research the Foundation will require animal care and use assurances by an official Animal Care and Use Committee.

Proposal Format:

Non-technical Summary: This section should not be longer than 250 words and should be written at a level understandable by the average dairy goat producer. It should emphasize why the project is important to the dairy goat industry and should include a list of expected outcomes that will be derived from the specific research proposed. If funded this summary will be disseminated to the stakeholders of the ADGA Research Foundation.

Technical summary/Abstract: This section should be no longer than 250 words and should provide a scientific summary of the *goals* of the study, the scientific *hypothesis* to be tested, proposed *specific aims* and the measurable *outcomes* associated with the successful completion of the proposed work.

Body of Proposal: The body of the proposal is limited to 5 typed, single spaced pages using no smaller than size 12 pt font and 1 inch margins on all sides. Included in the proposal should be specific discussion of each of the following items:

- Background and Preliminary Data – Why is the study important to the dairy goat industry and specifically the goals of the ADGA Research Foundation? What preliminary data is available to support the proposed hypothesis and to support the ability of the investigators to complete the proposed work?
- Hypothesis – The scientific hypothesis to be tested should be clearly defined and articulated. The hypothesis should be testable and the proposed study design should completely test the hypothesis.
- Specific aims and study design – These sections allow for details of how the proposed research will be conducted and interpreted. Sufficient technical detail should be included to allow a reviewer with moderate familiarity with the proposed project field to evaluate the methods and plan of study. If appropriate sample size calculations and plans for statistical analysis should be included.
- Potential pitfalls and alternate methods: All projects have potential pitfalls that will result in problems with completion of the proposed work. It is important for investigators to think in advance about the most likely pitfalls and briefly describe alternate plans of study should the pitfall occur.
- Measurables and their impact of the dairy goat industry – as a research foundation it is important for us to identify and fund research that will directly impact and benefit our stakeholders. This section allows the PI to detail the expected outcomes of the proposed work and how those outcomes will benefit the dairy goat industry. Future funding may be influenced by successful fulfillment of the expected outcomes.
- Dissemination of information – How will the results of this study be disseminated to the scientific community and dairy goat producers? Is there a plan for publication of the proposed research? Is there a plan for presentation of the data at producer or veterinary meetings? Are there plans for extension materials or research reports that could be disseminated by ADGA or the Research Foundation?

References Cited – Not counted in the 5 page limit for the study design

Budget and budget justification– The detailed budget should be provided for the study. When cost-match is being utilized and is necessary (i.e. budget component requested of the ADGA Research Foundation is not sufficient to complete proposed work and is being supplemented with other funds) for completion of the project, that should also be detailed. The ADGA Research Foundation does not pay facilities and administrative cost on any of their

projects and these should not be included in the budget. Other non-permissible costs include faculty salary or benefits, office supplies, computer or software supplies (except where necessary for completion of the project and specifically outlined in the budget justification), and data or telephone charges.

Facilities and Animals – This section should provide details regarding the space and equipment availability necessary to complete the proposed work. When necessary it should also detail how animals will be obtained, where they will be housed (i.e. in research facility or “on-farm”) and how they will be managed.

Current curriculum vitae (CV) and current/pending funding are required for each of the key personnel in the study.

Appendices: When appropriate additional letters or support, letters of collaboration or previously published manuscripts related to the proposed work can be attached as appendices. It is not appropriate to utilize this space for unpublished preliminary data (should all be contained in the 5 page study design) or a continuation of the study design.

Proposal Review Criteria: Each proposal will be reviewed by the 5 person panel of ADGA Research Foundation trustees. The Foundation also reserves the right to enlist external reviewers as appropriate for fields outside the area of expertise of the trustees. Each proposal will be evaluated in the following areas:

- Scientific validity and rigor – Does the proposed plan of work test the stated hypothesis? Are the methods used appropriate and sensitive enough to achieve the desired outcomes? Are appropriate sample size calculations provided and the statistical methods used appropriate for the study design? Is there preliminary data available to provide reasonable assurance of success?
- Impact of industry – Is the focus of the proposed work important to the dairy goat industry? Does successful completion of this work provide measurable outcomes that have direct impact on dairy goat production, health or welfare? Are these impacts easily disseminated and able to be applied in the short term future of the industry? Do the outcomes lay a foundation for longer term industry benefits?
- Qualifications of research team – Does the proposed team have the expertise and experience to complete the proposed work? Does the team have demonstrated access to the animals and facilities necessary to complete the proposed work?

- Innovativeness – Does the project present a novel approach to studying the problem? Does successful completion of the project have the potential to be “paradigm shifting”?
- Success of previous funding from Foundation – when applicable the achievement of stated outcomes of previous work funded by the ADGA Research Foundation will be considered. Was the previous research effectively disseminated to the research and producer communities?

The ADGA Research Foundation reserves the right to not fund any projects through this RFA if the submitted proposals fail to achieve the goals and purposes of the Foundation. Applicants will be notified in the summer of 2018 with the disposition of their proposal. Funding for successful applications will not be dispersed until an official agreement has been signed by the awardee (or Office of Sponsored Programs Administration in the case of academic entities) and appropriate animal care and use assurances have been provided. When appropriate, dissemination of the research through peer reviewed publications is expected. A full report of activities and budget spending will be required to be submitted to the Foundation within 60 days of the completion of the 1-year term of the project (start date determined by date of signature on contracts). This report should outline what was achieved, how the anticipated outcomes have been realized and what will change in the dairy goat industry as a result of this research.