



Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board

118 Dundee Ave, Chester, MD 21619
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443-262-8491

October 1, 2024

Dear Partner,

The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPUB) is seeking proposals from universities, organizations and individuals to help fulfil its mission to increase the profitability of Maryland grain production and to improve the public understanding of agriculture. MGPUB will be using checkoff investments to support these education, promotion and research projects. Proposals should be related to a grain for which MGPUB receives checkoff income including corn, wheat, barley, sorghum, and rapeseed/canola. Projects are generally funded proportionately to checkoff income received (top crops are corn, wheat, then barley).

For 2025 funding, MGPUB is interested in proposals to:

- Develop, improve and maintain overseas and domestic markets for U.S. grain.
- Educate youth and consumers on grain production.
- Increase availability of higher blends of ethanol to consumers in Maryland and educate stakeholders on the benefits of ethanol for agriculture and the environment.
- Develop high yielding, disease resistant wheat and barley varieties specific to Maryland conditions, including public varieties.
- Evaluate the need for tissue sampling for micronutrients to achieve optimal yield and determine best practices for timing and application. (Boron, Zinc and, Sulfur)
- Conduct research necessary to update the nutrient application recommendations (nitrogen and phosphorus) for wheat.
- Investigate efficacy of biological technologies that claim to allow crops to fix nitrogen.
- Validate farmers can achieve the same yield with a reduction in P205 and application of RhizoSorb as compared to standard grower application of MAP at 100% P205.
- Determine nutrient use efficiency differences between application placement practices (eg. in-furrow, broadcast, strip-till).
- Evaluate the efficacy of deer deterrent products in reducing deer damage when applied to corn.
- Increase availability of processing and donation for venison on and off the hoof.
- Determine the best systems approach to managing diseases in wheat including Fusarium Head Blight, SCAB, glume blotch, etc. in wheat including variety, planting/harvest date, fungicide products and application timing.
- Evaluate corn and wheat varieties for yield and quality as well as attractiveness to deer and wildlife.
- Evaluate efficacy of targeted applications of molluscicides for controlling slugs.
- Conduct a meta-analysis of existing peer reviewed and applied scientific data on slug control methods.

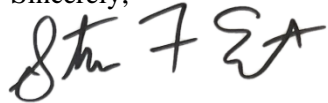
Proposals will be accepted until November 15, 2024, at which time they will be distributed to our Funding Committee for review. They will be evaluated and determinations for funding made at the MGPUB funding meeting in early January 2025. Applicants **may** be asked to present their projects in person or virtually at these meetings so please keep these dates in mind. This will be the only time that funding requests for 2025 will be considered.

Please review the enclosed MGPUB - Research Proposal Guidelines for more specific information. **Twenty (20) copies** of the proposals (and 2024 reports if applicable) **two-sided and 3-hole punched**, (no folders or binding please) and mailed or dropped off to: **MGPUB, 118 Dundee Ave, Chester, MD 21619**. Proposals must be postmarked no later than **November 15, 2024**.

In addition to the hard copies, an electronic submission of your proposal, summary and report are also required. Please use this online [form](#) to submit your reports and proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Thompson at 443-262-8491, lindsay.mdag@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Ernst". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Steven Ernst
President



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Research Proposal Guidelines

October 1, 2024

The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPUB) was formed in 1991 to administer Maryland's Grain Checkoff Program. Checkoff funds can be used to promote greater utilization of grain through expanded promotion, research, education, information and other similar activities. For 2025 funding, MGPUB will continue to support projects to help grain farmers remain profitable through production research and market development.

Funds are generally spent in the same proportion on each crop as they are received (corn, wheat, etc). Applications should be postmarked no later than November 15, 2024. Annual (or progress if extension requested) and final reports of previously funded grants should also be submitted by November 15, 2024 to enable MGPUB to review the results prior to the January funding meeting. Final and interim reports should include one copy of the final invoice and one copy of the summary.

Each board member receives copies of the reports and proposals in preparation for the funding meeting. Funding requests to MGPUB require **Twenty (20) copies** of the proposals and **Twenty (20) copies** of any 2024 final or progress reports. All materials should be **3-hole punched, two sided, no folders or binding**. Additionally, please fill out the following form and upload copies of your report, summary and proposal [here](#).

- 1) 2025 Research Proposal (including cover sheet)
- 2) 2024 final or progress report (required if a 2024 grantee)
- 3) 2024 summary: 100-200 words for posting to MGPUB website and inclusion in annual *Grain Store* Newsletter (required if a 2024 grantee)

Full proposals, which must be no longer than 10 pages, should contain the following information:

1. Cover sheet (found on our website, www.marylandgrain.org) including:
 - a. Title.
 - b. Name of organization to which grant should be made.
 - c. Amount requested.
 - d. Principal investigators - names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, websites and affiliations.
 - e. Brief summary (in third person format).
 - f. Previous years and other sources of funding.
4. An Abstract (limited to one page).
5. Statement of need to justify the project, which RFP topic it satisfies.
6. Value of proposed project to Maryland and/or national grain producers. Explain how project will impact education, research, marketing and promotion to improve grain utilization or improve the image of agriculture.
7. Goals and measurable objectives.
8. Procedure to achieve these objectives.
9. Evaluation.
10. Schedule for proposed project.
11. Overview of other research/projects being undertaken in this area.

12. Itemized budget, showing each years' expenditure (if longer than one year), other funding sources and amounts (including institution investment), breakdown into salaries, fringe benefits, equipment use, travel, materials and methods, etc. **MGPUB grants cannot be used to pay indirect costs or purchase farm machinery/equipment.**
13. Qualifications of principal investigator.

Proposals that do not provide the information requested in 1-13 or meet one of the priorities will not be considered. After the full proposal has been reviewed, an applicant may be asked to supply more information and/or attend (virtually or in-person) the review meeting to discuss the project.

Multi-year projects should be shown as such, but the Board will approve expenditures annually. Any amendment to the length of a project must be noted and justified. The work outlined in the initial proposals must be completed before additional funding will be provided; MGPUB does not permit stacking of grant funds from one year to another.

Recipients of grants will be required to:

1. List MGPUB as a sponsor and display signs provided by MGPUB, during field days, demonstrations, producer meetings, etc. and when results are published.
2. All projects will require a final evaluation report showing how the objectives were met.
3. Multi-year projects will require an annual progress report and a final evaluation report.
4. Reports are due on the 3rd Thursday in November unless written permission is granted for an extension.
5. Recipients will be required to attend a meeting to report their progress and findings to the Board of Directors of MGPUB (or a sub-committee of the Board).
6. Provide a 100-200 word summary article about the project's findings to be published in local ag publications, MGPUB's newsletter and on the MGPUB website.
7. If possible, add a link to MGPUB's website (www.marylandgrain.org) to provide additional information on the projects that are funded.
8. If available, attend the Maryland Commodity Classic meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2025 to showcase their project.
9. Slides, overheads and PowerPoint presentations used to present data summaries to groups should list MGPUB as a sponsor.
10. MGPUB directors, or a research committee, may arrange to visit projects to discuss the project with the grant recipient.
11. Research grants recipients may be required to input their results into the MEDIUS platform in lieu of a final report.
12. Additional requirements may be requested.

Twenty copies of the proposals, 3-hole punched, two sided, no folders or binding, must be submitted by mail or in person (no faxes) and postmarked or dropped off no later than November 15, 2024 to:

**MGPUB
118 Dundee Ave
Chester, MD 21619**