

**MARYLAND SOYBEAN BOARD**

**Research Guidelines  
And  
Funding Policy**

**Updated September 19, 2024**

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**Timeline**

September	Pre-proposal request sent out
October 15	Pre-proposals due back from researchers
3 <sup>rd</sup> week of October	Pre-proposals to Research Committee
4 <sup>th</sup> week of October	Conference call with Research Committee to discuss pre-proposals and decide which projects to request full proposals for
1 <sup>st</sup> week of November	Letter to researchers to submit full proposals
December 15	Full proposals due back to office
January	Proposals to USB, Committee & Board
February	Report & Funding Meeting
March	Letter to researchers announcing whether funding was approved or not. If funded, Research Agreements are mailed with letter of funding.

**Pre-proposals**

The Maryland Soybean Board during mid-September sends out Request for Pre-Proposals. Applicants MUST use the Maryland Soybean Board’s project management platform, [projects.mdsoy.com](http://projects.mdsoy.com), to submit research ideas. No other method is accepted. Researchers can request access to the platform by contacting the Maryland Soybean Board’s Executive Director. Researchers are required to keep the description of their research idea to 2-3 sentences. This allows the Research Committee to review the research concepts and determine whether those concepts are areas that they could consider funding and eliminates the time for the researcher in preparing a full proposal. Please note that just because the Committee requests a full proposal does not guarantee that the project will be funded.

**Priority List**

Included in the pre-proposal request is a Priority List of research that the Board feels should be addressed. However, those submitting requests are not limited to this list and are encouraged to submit proposals which will have the greatest impact on soybean farming in Maryland.

**Grant Application**

**Grant Application** – Upon a decision by the Research Committee to request a full proposal, a letter stating such plus a Grant Application Form (Attachment A) is sent to the researcher. The Grant Application can also be found on our website – [mdsoy.com](http://mdsoy.com). All applications must be submitted again through the project management platform.

The Maryland Soybean requests that this form be used in submitting a full proposal so that all proposals are uniform. Proposals will be more effective if written in clear, crisp language that gives a complete description of what research is to be done. Number of pages is not restricted, but investigators should keep in mind that there is a limit to what most people will read.

GRANT APPLICATION TITLE PAGE:

1. Name and Address of organization (legal name) to which award should be made
2. Title of Proposal
3. List of Principal Investigators
4. Business Address of Principal Investigator
5. Phone number where Principal Investigator can be reached and email address
6. Proposed Project Dates – should also state here if project is multi-year and what year this project is in (Example – year 2 of a 3 year project)
7. Measurable objectives of the proposed research. Objectives need to show the project focus and not be ‘shotgun’ objectives. They should be achievable within the time frame proposed in the project.
8. Signatures of the investigators and authorized representatives are required on the Title Page. When time is an issue, proposals can be submitted without authorized signatures, BUT signed copies must follow before checks are issued.

TEXT WRITTEN BY THE INVESTIGATORS:

1. A clear, concise justification for the work showing the importance of the proposal to soybean profitability.
2. A brief review showing how the study compliments previous research in the area or showing that no previous research has been done in an area. Reference key research publications.
3. A detailed research approach with procedures to be used to accomplish the objectives.
4. Brief (1 page) information about the qualifications of the persons who will perform the work and what each is responsible for relative to the objectives and the approach.

**PROPOSAL BUDGET PAGE:**

A line item budget is required. Please see Attachment B for details of the Board's funding policy. Attach supporting data for all items exceeding \$15,000. Additional budget detail is always helpful if the line item does not exceed \$15,000. Authorized signatures on the budget page are required by the Principal Investigator and the Authorized Representative.

**CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT:**

This is self-explanatory. The information helps the Board determine the level of commitment to the research area and gives evidence of the size of the researcher's research programs.

**Grant Awards**

**NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS** – Following approval of funding recommendations from the Research Committee by the full Board (usually in March) a letter is sent to the researcher stating whether the research proposal is funded or not.

**GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT AND PAYMENT** – If a proposal is funded, 2 copies of the Maryland Soybean Board Research Agreement is included with the funding notification letter. Payments will be made as follows: 50% of project funding upon receipt of a fully executed Research Agreement, 30% upon receipt of a progress/interim report which is requested in August and 20% upon receipt of an annual report (received in February at the Research Report and Funding Meeting).

**Reporting Requirements**

**REPORTING** – A Progress Report is due on August 1. This report should be a one – two paragraph report detailing when the project was started, what the status of the project is at this time and any obstacles that the researcher has encountered in the first months of the research project. In February, the Research Committee holds their Annual Research Report and Funding Meeting. Researchers are requested to attend the first part of this meeting to give oral reports on their research. They also can prepare and hand out written reports. In order to receive the final payment on their research, the researcher is required to attend the Annual Research Meeting and submit a written report. All reports are to be submitted online using the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database located at [www.soybeanresearchdata.com](http://www.soybeanresearchdata.com).

ADJUSTMENT DURING THE YEAR IN BUDGET LINE ITEMS – Researchers can request to relocated funding amounts within their approved budgets by submitting a letter detailing what line items they wish to change. The same can be done if a researcher needs an extension on the project dates. Following approval from the Committee, an Amendment to the Funding Agreement (Attachment C) is executed. Upon receipt of all authorized signatures, a copy is mailed to the University Grant Office.

Please note that the Board can fund multi-year projects. However, multi-year projects will be reviewed every year for further funding. The current Board cannot obligate a future Board for any projects and/or amounts.

Administrative Use Only

# Soybean Checkoff Research Funding GRANT APPLICATION

 \_\_FF \_\_PF \_\_GA \_\_1CK  
 \_\_MYR \_\_2CK \_\_FR \_\_3CK

**INSTRUCTIONS:** You must print this form to submit it and to save a copy for your records. Please fill out applicable editable fields on all three pages, then click the "Print" button and hand-sign and date your proposal where indicated. Editable fields are shown as "sunken boxes" and the box may contain a color, depending on your operating system. Note that not all fields are editable.

 Name and  
 Address of  
 Organization to  
 which Award  
 will be Made

Title of Proposal

Principal Investigator

PI #1 Address

PI #2

PI #3

PI #1 Email

Project Dates

PI #1 Phone

 Research  
 Objectives  
 (List concise  
 statement of  
 objectives to be  
 accomplished by  
 research grants)

Signature of Principal Investigator(s)

Date

Signature of Authorized Organizational Representative

Date

Address of Authorized Representative

Phone/Email of AR

Organization  
Name and  
Address

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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS(S)/PROJECT DIRECTORS	Year 1 Funding Request	Year 2 Expected Funding Request	Institutional Investment
<b>A. Salaries and Wages</b>			
1. Co-Principal Investigator(s)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. Senior Associates	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. Research Associates - post doctoral	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. Other Professionals	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5. Graduate Students	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6. Prebaccalaureate Students	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7. Secretarial-Clerical	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
8. Technical, Shop and Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>B. Fringe Benefits</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>C. Non-expendable Equipment</b> <i>(Attach supporting data. List items and dollar amounts for each item.)</i>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>D. Materials and Supplies</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>E. Travel</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>F. Publication Costs</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>G. Computer Costs</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>H. All Other Direct Costs</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>I. TOTAL AMOUNT OF THIS REQUEST</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Name and Title <i>(type or print)</i>	Signature	Date
Principal Investigator/Project Director <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		
Authorized Organizational Representative <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		

# Soybean Checkoff Research Funding CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Record information for active and pending projects. (Concurrent submission of a proposal to other organizations will not prejudice its review.)
2. All current research to which principal investigator(s) and other senior personnel have committed a portion of their time must be listed, whether or not salary for the person involved is included in the budgets of the various projects.
3. Provide analogous information for all proposed research which is being considered by, or which will be submitted in the near future to, other possible sponsors.

NAME (List PI#1 first)	SUPPORTING AGENCY AND PROJECT NUMBER	TOTAL AMOUNT	EFFECTIVE AND EXPIRATION DATES	% OF TIME COMMITTED	TITLE OF PROJECT
		<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>			
		<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>			
		<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>			
		<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>			
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		<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>			
		<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>			

**NOTES:**

Please use this space to provide comments about current and pending support shown above.





## MARYLAND SOYBEAN BOARD RESEARCH PROPOSAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED:

1. Brief Overview/Key Audience (limit 100 words/1,200 characters)  
*A clear, concise justification for the work showing the importance of the proposal to soybean profitability in layman's terms.*
2. Project Summary (limit 11,000 characters)  
*Including review of how the study compliments previous research in the area or showing that no previous research has been done in an area (reference key research publications) and a detailed research approach with procedures to be used to accomplish the objectives.*
3. Project Deliverables (limit 14,000 characters)  
*List Key Performance Indicators that are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-Bound.*
4. Benefit to Soybean Farmers (limit 5,000 characters)  
*Explain why this proposal matter to [Delaware/Maryland] soybean farmers and the soybean industry.*
5. Budget Justification  
*Please include the following as applicable: description of services for any requested salaries and/or wages, a detailed list of how funding will be used for equipment, materials and/or supplies; describe what travel is involved and where; and explain any publication, computer, and/or other direct costs. Supporting data is required for all line items over \$15,000.*
6. Researcher Qualifications (limit 11,000 characters)  
*Information about the qualifications of the persons who will perform the work and what each is responsible for relative to the objectives and the approach.*

## **Attachment B**

### **Proposal Budget Requirements**

#### **SALARIES AND WAGES**

The Board can fund Salary/Wages/Benefits for the following:

1. Principal Investigator – if no other funding is provided. This funding is done on a case-by-case basis.
2. Co-Principal Investigator Salary
3. Senior Associates
4. Research Associates
5. Other Professionals – A list of those Other Professionals is required along with the title of their position.
6. Graduate Students
7. Pre-baccalaureate Students
8. Secretarial / Clerical
9. Technical, Shop and Other – A description of the position should be attached to the Research Proposal.

PLEASE NOTE: The researcher must be able to verify that the Maryland Soybean Board is funding the appropriate percentage of the salary as it pertains to the individual project.

#### **FRINGE BENEFITS**

The Board will pay up to 30% of the fringe benefits.

The Board must be sure that the amount charged under Fringe Benefits is in direct proportion to the amount of time spent on soy research.

#### **NON-EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT**

Attach supporting data. The Board will fund non-expendable equipment up to \$2,000. List items and dollar amounts for each item.

#### **MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES**

The researcher is required to attach a detailed list of the material and supplies that they request funding for.

## **TRAVEL**

The researcher must provide an explanation of what travel is involved and to where. 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**

The Board requires detail of what is being published and how it is being utilized. The Board also requires how many copies are being made and detailed receipts of actual publication costs. Publication costs must be spent within the timeframe of the agreement for the specified project. The Board does not pay for open-access publication costs.

## **ALL OTHER DIRECT COSTS**

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

## **INDIRECT COSTS**

The Board does NOT fund indirect costs.

## **OVERHEAD**

The Board does NOT fund overhead charges.

## **TUITION**

The Board does NOT fund tuition charges.

**Attachment C**

Amendment to the Research Funding Agreement Between Maryland Soybean Board  
And *ORGANIZATION*

**I. Purpose**

The Funding Agreement between the Maryland Soybean Board and the *ORGANIZATION*, executed on the *DATE*, sets forth the Agreement of the parties under which the Maryland Soybean Board has agreed to provide funding to the research project,

*PROJECT TITLE & NUMBER*

The purpose of this Amendment is to amend certain provisions of that Agreement.

**II. Amendment to the Agreement**

The provisions of the Agreement shall remain in force during the term of the Agreement, with the following modification.

1.

**III. Approval**

The Maryland Soybean Board and the *ORGANIZATION* agree that this Amendment shall become effective only upon approval of the Amendment by both parties.

**Approved:**

*ORGANIZATION*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Maryland Soybean Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date