



1255 SW Prairie Trail Parkway * Ankeny, IA 50023

North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) Request for Research Proposals for 2025/2026 (FY26) Funding

Please note time-sensitive material. Distribute to appropriate Faculty and Staff as soon as possible. Important Dates:

- NCSRP RFP sent to Universities: March 21, 2025.
- Proposals due: By end of business on May 23, 2025.
- NCSRP Board Proposal Review and Funding Decisions: August 6, 2025.
- FY 2026 funding cycle: October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

The North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) combines soybean check-off funds from its 13- member states to sponsor basic and applied research, student and postdoctoral training, Extension and outreach, and communications to increase soybean profitability and enhance and protect yield, while maintaining and improving soybean quality and composition, through genetic improvement, agronomics, and biotic/abiotic stress mitigation for soybean maturity groups 00 – IV.

The NCSRP is seeking collaborative multi-state and multi-disciplinary soybean research project renewal requests and new proposals for funding to begin on October 1, 2025. The NCSRP Board will fund research projects that address their goals to increase soybean grower productivity and profitability while improving environmental stewardship. The NCSRP will fund both applied and basic research, and the communication of research results, to provide short- and long-term practical benefit to Midwestern soybean producers. Projects must logically fit into one of these key research areas:

- Soybean breeding for genetic gain and improved quality/composition through classical and molecular breeding to increase genetic yield potential (genetic gain) and yield stability via gene discovery and germplasm development, while maintaining or improving soybean quality and composition, for the North Central Region.
- Basic and applied research directed at soybean disease, nematode, insect pest and abiotic stress biology, management, and yield loss mitigation, including new and emerging threats, of consistent or potentially significant economic impact across the North Central Region.
- Management of weeds and weed resistance to herbicides for species of common occurrence and threat across the North Central Region.
- Soybean agronomic production practices, cropping systems, crop management and conservation through on-farm research and similar for increased yields, quality, composition, and profitability in an environmentally sustainable manner. This may include basic and applied research that addresses soybean production, inputs, precision ag, response to water, nutrients and water quality, climate, soil, and environmental conditions specific to the North Central Region.
- New innovations in any of the research areas described above. For example, new research and discovery or research and development of novel traits, technologies, and tools spanning genetics, pathology, entomology, agronomy, computational sciences, engineering, and agricultural economics.

Researchers are asked to review the attached NCSRP research portfolio background comments and guidance for FY26.

Research proposals are expected to be concise (not more than 7 pages) and contain the following (see attached proposal template):

- **Cover Sheet** (provided): proposal overview and budget (budget must represent all possible funding years)
- **Contact Information:** Name, address, phone number, email address and affiliation of principal investigator and collaborators as well as Sponsored Programs & Contracts office for PI's university.



- **Project Title**
- **Brief Project Justification and Rationale:** Identified research need, brief review of similar academic and industry research and how proposed research is necessary, novel and how it will benefit soybean growers' short- and long-term profitability.
- **Brief Description of Proposed Research:** Work/experiments to be done, purpose, expected outcome, contribution to project goal and clear statement of communication and outreach strategies, specifically noting that results and progress will be communicated through the Soybean Research & Information Network (SRIN) website and entered into the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database.
- **Other Similar Work and Funding:** Proposed research may complement and extend but must not duplicate already funded research. Where applicable, a concise listing of related checkoff and non-checkoff research and funding sources for the PI and collaborators, and a brief description of how this checkoff funded research will be used to attract or complement additional funding support (public and private: e.g. USB, QSSB, USDA, company) to extend knowledge or expand research breadth and depth, especially in cases where basic research funding is requested.
- Clear and concise set of **Project Metrics and Performance Measures, Milestones and Deliverables, and Economic Impact** including:
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) or performance metrics and how those will be measured
 - An analysis of program/project economic impact and significance to soybean farmers
 - Timelines and milestones for extending the state-of-the-art of basic and applied research and how the proposed research will benefit soybean farmers.
- Clear description of a **Cost-Efficient Budget**, sub-budgeted to projects within programs. A budget for years 2 and 3 is **required** on multi-year concept projects.
- Projects and progress reports will be entered into the **National Soybean Checkoff Research Database** and PIs and their teams are expected to help in providing information and entering updates into the database.
- NCSRP-funded research results will be communicated via the Soybean Research & Information Network website at www.soybeanresearchinfo.com

It is important for researchers to develop collaborative regional projects, to identify how the deliverables will positively and tangibly impact Midwest soybean producers in the short- or long-term, and how deliverables will be communicated to growers and to the NCSRP. Researchers should emphasize first year progress when requesting renewals and multi-year projects, as continued funding will be determined by the demonstration and communication of real and meaningful first-year and/or second-year results.

Researchers are strongly encouraged to demonstrate interdisciplinary and interuniversity approaches and collaborations. Researchers should consider submitting multi-state program proposals with clearly described and sub-budgeted projects within the program proposal. While smaller collaborative projects will be considered, program proposals should demonstrate coordinated, non-redundant and potentially higher impact research and communication efforts to advance soybean farmer and industry priorities. Any researcher may apply for NCSRP funding as a PI. However, priority will be given to NCSRP member state PIs. Many opportunities exist for non-NCSRP member state researchers to serve on NCSRP-funded programs and projects as Co-PIs or collaborators.

Researchers interested in submitting a proposal should **provide an electronic copy of the cover sheet and budget summary in PDF format as provided and the proposal in Microsoft Word or PDF format** to David Kurth at dkurth@iasoybeans.com by May 23, 2025. Questions can be addressed to Dr. Ed Anderson, telephone (515) 250-2657 or email at anderson@ncsrp.com.

Funds granted through this program are checkoff funds contributed to Qualified State Soybean Boards pursuant to the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, 7 U.S.C. 6304 (1) (4). Work performed under this Agreement will be performed in accordance with the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act and the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, 7 CFR Part 1220.