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Request for Proposals for FY28 Funding Year

Issued September 8, 2026

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

To: Interested Organizations, Institutions, and Individuals

From: Miki Miheguli, Director of Agronomy & Research, North Dakota Soybean Council

Purpose: The North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) is seeking soybean production and breeding research project renewal requests and new proposals for funding for FY 2028 (July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2028). The NDSC board funds research projects that support the NDSC's mission and vision, and address NDSC's soybean production and breeding research priorities.

If other individuals in your organization are interested in submitting a funding request, please pass this information on to them.

For questions regarding NDSC's research RFP process, please contact Miki Miheguli at 701-566-9300 or 701-566-3619. You can also email Miki at mmiheguli@ndsoybean.org.

Overview of the North Dakota Soybean Council

The NDSC was established in 1985. Since 1991, as a Qualified State Soybean Board (QSSB) under the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, each farmer contributes ½ of 1% of the price of each bushel at the first point of sale towards the soy checkoff. The NDSC has overseen the investment of 50 percent of North Dakota's soybean-checkoff dollars (The other 50 percent goes to the United Soybean Board).

Headquartered in Fargo, North Dakota, NDSC's primary goal is to invest soybean checkoff funds in research, market development, promotion, and educational programs designed to improve soybean profitability.

Vision: Growing a legacy of successful farmers.

Mission: Innovating to expand partnerships, markets, and opportunities for the success of North Dakota soybean growers.

Important Dates:

- NDSC Request for Proposal (RFP) sent to Universities – Sep 8, 2026
- Proposals due – By **4:00 PM on Thursday, November 12, 2026**
- **Proposals received after the due date will not be accepted**
- Award notifications are made by Dec 31, 2026
- FY 2028 funding cycle – July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028
- December 1, 2027 - Progress report due to the NDSC
- June 30, 2028 – Technical Report due to the NDSC
- June 30, 2028 – Executive Summary due to the NDSC
- August 15, 2028 – Final Financial Report due to NDSC

Process for Submitting Research Funding Requests

Researchers who plan to submit a proposal to the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) must do so through **Switch Box**, NDSC's project management tool. **Email submissions will not be accepted.**

1. Log in to **Switch Box** using the credentials provided in June 2025.
Most researchers have already been registered and added to Switch Box. If you have not received access or need assistance, please contact **Miki Miheguli** at mmiheguli@ndsoybean.org.
2. Complete all required sections, including the **NDSC Research Project Proposal Form**.
3. Upload your completed proposal in **PDF format**.
4. Submit your proposal through **Switch Box** before the deadline.

New Switch Box users: You must be added as a user before submitting a proposal.

If you have not received your login information or instructions, please contact **Miki Miheguli** at mmiheguli@ndsoybean.org or call 701-566-9300 prior to submitting your proposal.

How Proposals will be Evaluated

The NDSC's research proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully address North Dakota Soybean Production Challenges. The NDSC board will consider research projects that support the NDSC's mission, vision, and address NDSC's soybean production and breeding research priorities outlined in this document. The NDSC will use the following as evaluation criteria:

- Brief project justification and rationale; no duplication of previous research efforts
- Impact on soybean yield, quality, and profitability
- Brief description of proposed research – goals, specific objectives, proposed work
- Measures of success, milestones, and a list of project deliverables to the NDSC
- Clear statement of communication and outreach strategies
- Other related funding – to demonstrate the ability to leverage NDSC funding with other sources of funding.
- Clear statement and description of a cost-efficient budget

The NDSC's FY28 Research Priorities

The NDSC research committee will utilize NDSC's FY28 Research Priorities for funding requests. The FY28 Research Priorities will be distributed via email and made available on Switch Box and the NDSC website in September 2026.

Guidelines & Information for Research Funding Requests Submitted to NDSC

- a. Funding requests should provide clear and measurable goals and milestones that will enable the NDSC to determine project progress.
- b. A multi-year project may be considered but the NDSC can only approve funding for one fiscal year at a time. The applicant must come back to the NDSC for approval for annual funding. NDSC reserves the right to fund or not fund.
- c. NDSC does not allow the purchase of depreciable capital equipment.
- d. Researchers may include domestic travel expenses, not to exceed \$1000 per research project, to attend and present the NDSC funded research results at a regional and national conference. A copy of the presentations and agenda must be provided to NDSC before reimbursement.
- e. Budget and budget justification must be stated and coincide with the NDSC's FY 28 fiscal year - July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028.

NDSC Requirements for Approved Projects

- a. Payments are reimbursed on an expense-incurred basis (Proof of Payment – receipts are required)
- b. A written progress report is required on or before December 1, 2027. No reimbursement of expenses will be paid after December 1, 2027, without the progress report.
- c. Two (2) final reports are due by or before June 30, 2028:
- d. Technical Report within the range of 750 – 1250 words with a maximum of four figures, tables. (8 pages Maximum).
- e. Executive Summary of up to 250 words (maximum) results report written in non-technical terms for the public and publication. Two – three pictures and/or graphs are needed and must be provided separately in jpeg format.
- f. August 15, 2028, a final financial report is due. This report is to include all costs incurred up to June 30, 2028.
- g. Adjustments to the budget are permitted with prior approval from the NDSC but no additional funding is permitted. Please try to plan carefully so adjustments are not necessary.
- h. Research must be completed within the approved funding year. Six (6)-month no-cost extensions will not be granted. The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for promptly notifying NDSC of any significant changes to the

project, including delays, changes in the PI or key personnel, or other circumstances that may affect the project's scope, timeline, or ability to meet the approved objectives.

- i. Domestic travel exceeding the allocated travel budget is not permitted.

Other Information

- a. All proposals submitted to the NDSC in response to this RFP will become the sole property of the NDSC. Acceptance of any proposal (or portion thereof) by the NDSC shall not impose any obligations on the NDSC or entitle the requestor to any financial compensation or reimbursement for the costs of producing, assembling, or providing the proposal to the NDSC.
- b. The NDSC reserves the right to interview, at no cost to the NDSC, all qualified persons requesting grant funding.
- c. The NDSC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, if in its sole judgment, the proposals have been insufficiently responsive to the NDSC's objectives or do not comply with the stated guidelines.