Corn Marketing Program of Michigan

Request for Proposals

Released October 1, 2022

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) is announcing the call for research proposals for 2023. The CMPM has a strategic plan outlining the focus for increasing economic viability of corn production in Michigan through innovative research and market development.

Proposals are due Friday, November 18, 2022, 5 p.m. EST
MSU projects must go through MSU CGA

In the interest of moving the entire industry forward, the CMPM has worked with the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) to define the needs of the Michigan corn industry. By working together and leveraging the talents of the two boards, both organizations flourish.

The purpose of the CMPM is to enhance the economic position of Michigan corn growers by providing for the growth and expansion of the corn industry in Michigan through foreign and domestic market development, efficient production, promotion, and research that will stimulate the demand for corn.

STRATEGIC PLAN AREAS OF INTEREST and PROPOSAL FOCUS

The corn growers of Michigan are interested in funding research and demonstration initiatives that reflect the interests of the corn industry and will return significant value to corn farmers who fund those efforts. Regardless of whether projects reflect long-term research or near-term demonstration projects, scientific methods and appropriate data management should be planned and employed for the best results.

A one cent check-off is collected for every bushel of corn that is marketed in Michigan and that check-off goes to the Corn Marketing Program. The board of directors, made up of farmers from across the state, review, listen to oral presentations, and determine funding priorities.

Priority will be given to projects that include partners that create multi-disciplinary interactions. The projects' ability to leverage other funds is important to emphasize.

Only projects of high priority will be selected to make a formal presentation to the board of directors as research funds are limited.

Projects are sought that meet one or more of the following priorities:

- ❖ Enhance the value of the Michigan corn industry through new and expanded corn markets and value-added uses.
  - Innovative new uses for corn and corn by-products that are environmentally friendly and relevant to consumers or industry uses.
  - Enhance local, national, and international markets for corn, corn-based biofuel, and/or corn-based co-products.

- Strengthen the understanding of soil carbon stores as it relates to sustainable agriculture practices and enhances associated market opportunities.

❖ Ensure corn production systems that are environmentally sustainable, socially acceptable, and economically feasible.

- Enhance the efficiency of water management, drainage and/or irrigation practices.
- Investigate the fate of soil and applied crop nutrition and/or crop protection applications as it relates to water quality.
- Evaluate and refine tar spot management strategies to maximize yield.
- Innovative weed management solutions.
- Cost/benefit analysis of new pest management technologies and products including comparisons of effectiveness and impact on yield.
- Develop integrated systems for enhancement of soil health.

❖ Improve the financial future for farm families and businesses.

- Enhance the decision-making processes from precision generated data relative to input management, cost effectiveness and in-season testing across seasons.
- Cost effective production methods that may be high input or low cost, ultimately achieving profitable corn production.
- Baseline data to move the industry forward and/or have impact on future policies, regulations, and market opportunities.

Researchers should ensure their project is a new idea that has not been previously studied at another university or research organization and/or describe why additional research is necessary in Michigan.

Additionally, if previous work on the project has been funded by other sources, a clear distinction needs to be shown between previously funded work and that proposed to the CMPM. If research is currently being funded by other sources, or is being sought by other sources, these sources must be disclosed.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

The proposal should include the following information, in the order listed below, utilizing no more than eight pages, including the abstract, cover page and budget form (see separate attachments), (excluding support letters and references cited), using 12-point font. Proposals of more than eight pages may not be considered.

Please label all pages of the proposal submitted to the CMPM with your name, project title, date, and page number in the footer of the document. Be sure to include the following:

- **Cover Page** (attached) – The included form should be completed and saved as the front page of your proposal.
- **Abstract –** One page maximum. This should be a stand-alone summary of the entire project highlighting objectives, methods, outcomes, and collaborators.
- **Problem Statement** – What is the problem and opportunity and why is it important to the future of Michigan's corn farmers? Which CMPM priority area does this proposal fall under? How does it relate to the CMPM goals and mission? How does this fill gaps in current research?
- **Objectives and Hypothesis** – Succinctly state what the goals and objectives are for the project.
- **Methods and Procedures** – How will the hypotheses be tested? Please be specific.
- **Outcomes** – Indicate what this project will accomplish, how you will gauge success, and what it will mean to a Michigan corn farmer: agronomically, economically, socially, and/or environmentally.
- **Impact on the Michigan corn industry** – How does this impact the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan's goals and mission?
- **Timeline** – List milestones of the project. Indicate approximate time for interim report. Especially important if your project does not fit within the calendar of the granting period.
- **Budget Page** (attached) **–** Complete the attached budget sheet and include at the end of the proposal.
- **Budget Narrative** – Provide information on what the dollars will be spent on in each category and rational for these budgeted line items. Describe how the budget request relates to the success of the project by line item.
- **Team members** – List each pertinent team member, their contribution to the project, and their qualifications to achieve their role. Please also list any collaborators and their roles and responsibilities.
- **Letter of support** – Optional; two letters maximum. Not included in page limit.
- ***Where applicable* to your project, please comment on the following issues**:
    - Previous or pending funding from other sources and/or ability of this project to leverage additional funds.
    - Potential to expand markets.
    - A listing of pertinent publications and/or references should be included if appropriate; this does not count toward the page limit.
    - Will this project support a graduate student's project?
    - Matching funds are not required by CMPM, but please identify other sources of funding – both sources and amounts of non-CMPM funds. State whether funds are secured or pending.
    - Novelty of the invention – what due diligence has been done to ascertain this?
    - Whether any background Intellectual Property may be necessary to perform the proposed research. Will there be freedom to operate around current IP?
    - Do you expect new Intellectual Property to be developed?
    - Would you be willing and able to enter into a research agreement with licensing opportunities and/or royalty streams to CMPM if relevant to the project?

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals submitted by Michigan State University or MSU Extension persons:

Proposals must be sent through the MSU eTransmittal system by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.

If you have questions, contact:

Jackie Garcia, Research Project Manager, MSU AgBioResearch
446 W. Circle Dr, Room 109, Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517-884-3862, jdesande@msu.edu
(Jackie Garcia will forward all MSU projects to the Corn Office)

Non-Michigan State University & MSU Extension proposals:
All proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. Please submit a Word or PDF document via email to Kristin Poley at kpoley@micorn.org. You will receive an email notification that your proposal was received. If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours, it is your responsibility to follow-up by calling Kristin Poley at 517-706-6827.

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

November 18, 2022

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. EST.

December 9, 2022

Team leaders of proposals selected for further consideration will receive notification of being selected to make a presentation to the CMPM board on or before this date.

January 19, 2023 ***(this date is subject to change)***

Requests for new projects will be scheduled for a specific timeslot on this day. We will make arrangements for a virtual presentation if necessary. The team leader will be given 15 minutes to present full proposals to both the CMPM and MCGA Boards at the CMPM office located at 13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Lansing, MI. Five additional minutes will be allotted for questions. There will be a timer and the schedule will be strictly adhered to. After reviewing all proposals, the boards of directors will determine which proposals to fund and the funding level.

February 3, 2023

Decisions on grant awards will be released to the project team leader on or before this date.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
The following criteria will be used to judge the merit of the proposals.

	Maximum points
Relationship to Michigan Corn mission and priorities	20
Scientific soundness, novelty & appropriateness of methodology	20
Potential impact on corn producers and the Michigan corn industry	20
Mechanism to deliver information to Michigan corn farmers and users	10
Potential to leverage other funds	10
Extent of partnering with others	20
Total	100

CONDITIONS OF FUNDING ACCEPTANCE

- The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan will fund all approved projects in the following manner:
  - 25% of the total annual funding will be provided upon notification of project approval and signed Memorandum of Understanding and Intellectual Property Agreement (if applicable to project).
  - 50% of the total annual funding will be released upon submission and acceptance of an interim report to the Board by **August 18, 2023. NOTE:** This is a firm deadline for all projects. Interim reports can be short, considering if plot work is involved the only data may be treatments and locations. Indicate any changes or barriers to the project.
  - The final 25% of the allocated annual funds will be released after a final budget breakdown is submitted, a satisfactory final written report is submitted including graphs or pictures, a project synopsis and a presentation is made to the Board by **December 29, 2023**; **Note**: this is a firm deadline. If it is impossible to have all data at this date, submit all available data and indicate what testing or data is still to be developed and by what date. Specific instructions for the format and content of the final report will be sent after receipt of the midterm report.

- An annual written report and oral presentation are due to the Board of Directors each year. A comprehensive final report will be due in December during the final year of research. A non-proprietary report/synopsis will be placed on the Michigan Corn website and will be used to communicate with Michigan corn farmers and the general public.
- Failure to submit timely and quality progress reports or insufficient progress will result in premature termination of project, cessation of funding, and a request for return of unspent funds.
- Michigan Corn expects team leaders and/or their representative to reasonably participate in CMPM public events and radio programs that highlight research activities when requested. Failure to participate may result in the premature termination of the project.
- Multi-year projects are funded one year at a time and are subject to annual evaluations. Funding for additional years is not guaranteed but please include your intentions when appropriate for your project.
- The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan is a farmer-funded organization. One cent for every bushel of corn grown in Michigan and sold is sent to the organization. It is imperative that the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan be recognized as a funding source whenever possible. Public presentations of research should note that funding was obtained from the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Poley, kpoley@micorn.org or 517-706-6827.