

Request for Proposals North Central Region Canola Research, FY '14

The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station announces the RFP for canola research proposals. **This announcement is being sent in advance of receiving the actual grant guidelines from NIFA. Modifications to proposals may need to be made to satisfy federal guidelines. Multi-state proposals are highly encouraged. Please note the requirements have changed significantly, read the instructions carefully.**

A joint research advisory committee between the Northern Canola Growers Association, the Minnesota Canola Council, and university representatives from the North Central states involved will evaluate and select individual proposals that will be combined into one proposal to be submitted by NDSU. **Funds awarded for fiscal year 2014 will most likely be awarded as amendments/increases to existing grants/subawards for all recipients.**

High priority will be given to research that identifies and addresses the major impediments to expansion of canola acreage and production. Specific research priorities considered for funding may include, but are not limited to (not listed in order of importance):

1. Production practices that optimize yield, quality, and profit
2. Disease management with emphasis on blackleg. Note: sclerotinia research proposals should be submitted to the Sclerotinia Initiative.
3. Insect management, identification and control
4. Straight-harvest canola research, including the use of desiccants
5. Rotation studies that determine optimal broadleaf crops to precede or follow canola
6. Reduction of pod shattering, including identification of varieties resistant to shattering
7. Increasing oil yield per acre in canola
8. Nitrogen/sulfur/micronutrient fertility management, including use efficiency studies
9. Other traditional or non-traditional research that has potential to increase canola acres and production
10. Evaluating and improving canola production on marginal lands (e.g., saline soils).

When to Submit: Proposals are due by January 31, 2014 and will need to be sent as an email attachment to Ona.Vig@ndsu.edu.

What to Submit: Proposal application materials are available at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/sample.html>. Since the official RFP is not yet available at Grants.gov, you can use the "NIFA Sample Application Package". The forms that will need to be completed are:

- **SF 424 (R&R).** This form will serve as your Cover Page.
- **Project/Performance Site Location(s)** This form should be completed for research locations outside of North Dakota.
- **Research & Related Other Project Information form.** Please attach Word files. Details on the Project Narrative are given below.
- **Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded).** Please attach a Word file for the Biographical Sketch. Current and Pending Support form is not required.

- **Research and Related Budget.** Complete a budget for each year. Attach the budget narrative as indicated on the third page of the budget form in a Word file. Federal funds may not be used to pay for secretarial support and office supplies. **Facilities and Administrative/Indirect Costs are allowed at 28.205% of total direct costs. For NDSU faculty, if funds will be divided with another department/REC, please provide an itemized budget for each department/REC receiving funds.**

These individual forms will not be submitted to NIFA, but will assist NDSU in preparing the overall grant application. Any proposal that does not use these forms will not be reviewed. Proposal narratives will be limited to 10 pages, with up to 3 additional pages for figures and tables for a maximum of 13 pages. If a project is multi-year, the complete project proposal should be submitted.

The **Proposal Narrative** must contain the following components:

Introduction. A clear statement of the long-term goal(s) and supporting objectives or research questions of the proposed project should be included. Summarize the body of knowledge or other past activities that substantiate the need for the proposed project. Describe ongoing or recently completed significant activities related to the proposed project including the work of the key project personnel. Preliminary data/information pertinent to the proposed research should be included in this section.

Objectives. Clear, concise, complete, and logically arranged statement(s) of the specific aims of the proposed effort must be included.

Rationale and Significance. Concisely present the rationale behind the proposed research. Document priority-setting process and stakeholder involvement and any national coordination of research. Describe how the application's goals and priorities relate to potential long-range improvement and sustainability of U.S. agriculture. Novel ideas or contributions that the proposed project offers should also be discussed in this section.

Approach. The activities proposed or problems being addressed must be clearly stated and the approaches being applied clearly described. Specifically, this section must include:

- * A description of the activities proposed and the sequence in which the activities are to be performed;
- * Methods to be used in carrying out the proposed project, including the feasibility of the methods;
- * Expected outcomes
- * Means by which results will be analyzed, assessed or interpreted
- * Uses for results or products.
- * Timeline for multi-year projects

Outreach/Extension Activities. Clearly describe how the research results will be disseminated to growers, scientific audiences, consumers, or other interested parties.

Faculty who received funding in 2013 should submit a progress report to Brian Jenks brian.jenks@ndsu.edu. If additional funding for an existing project is being requested, a progress report will need to be submitted. **FY '14 funding will not be available to anyone who does not complete a progress report.**