

# Contributor Guidelines

The [Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research \(FFAR\)](#), a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, builds unique partnerships to support innovative and actionable science addressing today's food and agriculture challenges.

FFAR, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, complements and furthers the important work of the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#). Leveraging public and private resources FFAR ...

- Increases the scientific and technological research, innovation and partnerships critical to enhancing sustainable production of nutritious food for a growing global population.
- Brings together leading experts and key stakeholders to identify and investigate the researchable questions whose answers have the potential to enhance the economic and environmental resilience of our food supply.
- Supports and spotlights leaders breaking new ground in food and agriculture, thus inspiring the next generation of scientists to pursue careers that put food on every table.
- Fosters progress by asking the right questions, convening the best and brightest minds to answer those questions, and seeing research through to successful implementation.
- Funds cutting-edge research and development through grants and innovation challenges.
- Maximizes impact by complementing and not duplicating existing research endeavors.

**Learn more:** [www.foundationfar.org](http://www.foundationfar.org) | [bit.ly/FFARNews](http://bit.ly/FFARNews). **Connect:** [@FoundationFAR](#) | [@RockTalking](#).

## Aligning Support with FFAR Goals

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FFAR seeks contributions (restricted and unrestricted) from organizations and individuals to support FFAR's mission and key strategic events, programs, grants and other activities.

- FFAR will accept contributions to support project specific programs and activities in addition to general support and in kind donations. All FFAR initiatives align with FFAR's Mission.
- Over the course of the year, FFAR may identify additional programs and activities and seek contributions for these activities if they align with FFAR's Mission and as approved by the Board of Directors.
- FFAR defines contributors as individual or organizational donors, sponsors or partners who provide cash or in kind funds to support FFAR program and activities.

## Acceptance of Funds

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### General Principles

1. Funds are accepted by FFAR only for programs and activities that are consistent with FFAR's Mission and that have been approved by the Board of Directors. FFAR will not engage with contributors from organizations or with individuals whose principles, policies or conduct obviously conflict with FFAR's values of transparency, objectivity, independence and evidence based science.
2. Contributor relationships with FFAR must preserve trust in FFAR and the credibility and objectivity of its information, priorities, programs and decisions.

## Contributor Guidelines

1. FFAR must maintain its objectivity and independence with respect to any programs and activities that are developed, sponsored, partnered or supported with contributor funds. FFAR does not permit influence by contributors beyond the usual input FFAR seeks from stakeholders.
2. FFAR may accept funds to support the development, enhancement or implementation of FFAR program and activities.
3. Funding for FFAR program development activity includes the following conditions:
  - a. FFAR seeks funding for specific programs and activities from multiple sources whenever possible.
  - b. Acceptance of funding for program and activity development is with the understanding that FFAR must maintain its objectivity and commitment to a quality result.
  - c. Under some circumstances and with FFAR's approval contributors may attend FFAR groups organized to gather stakeholder input and perspective on new programs and activities being developed. All contributors attending must comply with FFAR policies on confidentiality, disclosure and conflicts of interest.
4. FFAR may consider the results of research studies, test results or other information from contributors as well as external experts that may help inform FFAR on issues to be addressed in the program and activity development process.
5. FFAR may accept a contributor's provision of in-kind expertise or in-kind support to assist with specific programs and activities provided that all such in-kind expertise and support:
  - a. Complies with FFAR policies on confidentiality, disclosure and conflicts of interest.
  - b. Directly applies to a defined project specific program or activity line item budget need.
  - c. Has a defined Fair Market Value (FMV).
6. Acceptance of contributor funds does not imply FFAR endorsement of an organization's products, services, programs or activities.
7. FFAR will recognize contributors in its annual report and website.
8. FFAR must approve in advance the use of FFAR's name, logo and language when used by a contributor in relationship to the program or activity.
9. FFAR's independence and control over all programs, projects or products bearing the FFAR name, logo or trademarks, and over the use of FFAR intellectual property must be maintained.
10. Contributors may receive benefits from FFAR specific to the program or activity supported as well as cumulative contributor benefits as defined in the Cumulative Contributor Benefits.
11. FFAR asks contributors to consult with legal and financial counsel as appropriate when giving cash, in kind, or any other type of contribution especially if part of an estate or planned giving bequest.

## Contributor Guideline Updates

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FFAR reserves the right to review, update and change the Contributor Guidelines as needed after consultation with the Development Committee and Board of Directors.