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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Dairy Health, Efficiency & Resource Dynamics (HERD) Request for Applications** | | | | **Full Proposal Narrative Questions**  Required This document is intended to be used as an offline resource to draft answers to the narrative questions. It will not be accepted as a portion of the online application. All final answers must be entered into the online application form. | | | | **Key Dates** | | | |  | **Full Applications Open:** May 7, 2025 at 12 PM ET **Full Applications Due:** June 25, 2025 by 5 PM ET **Award Notification:** Fall 2025 **Anticipated Project Start Date:** Spring 2026 |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Key Objectives** | | | |  | The Dairy Health, Efficiency & Resource Dynamics (HERD) Initiative announces a request for applications (RFA) and invites applications for innovative research to enhance animal health, ensure the economic viability of the U.S. dairy industry and improve environmental outcomes.  The Dairy HERD Initiative is a partnership between FFAR, Dairy Management Inc. (DMI) and Zoetis to advance research that will enable U.S. Dairy and allied industry to better understand and use innovations to support improved animal health/management and welfare, economic viability and environmental outcomes. Recent reports suggest that improving the health of dairy cows in the U.S. could substantially improve the environmental outcomes associated with dairy production. Yet very little research has attempted to quantify the environmental impacts of improved animal health in dairy or to understand the tradeoffs and intersections with other aspects of livestock production, including the role of caretakers and economic aspects of herd management. The Dairy HERD Initiative aims to support research to advance our understanding of the interrelationships among dairy health/management and welfare, economics and the environment.  Dairy HERD will consider applications addressing one or more of the following objectives:   * Economics analyses related to potential reductions in the prevalence of animal health conditions in the context of the associated environmental outcomes; for example, performing cost-benefit analyses that consider the benefits of improved animal health and productivity, reduced costs of treatment and changes in replacement rate, in the context of financial incentive programs that could yield returns on investment. * Develop or improve decision-support tools and/or models through an enhanced understanding of feedback loops and trade-offs amongst animal health and herd management, economics and environmental outcomes; for example, by developing conceptual, statistical or predictive models that advance whole-farm models or decision-support tools to inform evidence-based decision-making to improve animal health and environmental outputs. Integration into tools/models that have the potential for large-scale implementation by the dairy industry are strongly encouraged. * Examine and quantify the impact of dairy cow and heifer health on environmental outcomes; for example, quantify, through empirical studies, the effects of prevalent health challenges such as lameness, mastitis and/or metritis, on environmental outcomes. Research results should be reported in widely accepted metrics such as total tons of emissions per cow per day or kg CO2-equivalents per kg fat and protein corrected milk (FPCM) using AR6 GWP100 metrics.   Dairy HERD will not consider applications addressing:   * Research that seeks to increase milk production or to reduce environmental impacts only by increasing milk production efficiency; * Research that requires the use of grant funds to install equipment on one or more farms; and * Research that is not relevant to U.S. dairy production systems.   All research must be conducted in accordance with standard research compliance requirements, such approval from the relevant Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or similar. If human subjects are involved, the research team should be trained in culturally appropriate methods to reach the target population and must have Institutional Review Board (IRB), or similar approval for the project. |  | |  | | | | **Helpful Tips** | | | |  | * Add mail@grantapplication.com to your address book or safe senders list to ensure you receive all system communications. * Before filling out the application, you may find it helpful to click the "Printer Friendly Version" button above. This will offer you a preview of all the questions on the application. * You may save and return to your application at a later time by clicking the **"Save & Finish Later"** button at the bottom of each screen. Log into your account at [My Account](https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_6242?SA=AM) (https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID\_6242?SA=AM) to access saved and submitted requests. * They system will time out after 30 minutes of inactivity, be sure to save your work often. * You may use a word-processing tool (i.e. Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.), then cut and paste your responses into the online application. * When clicking the **"Review & Submit"** button, you will be required to review the entire application one final time before clicking the**"Submit Application"** button at the bottom of the screen. * Additional help can be found on the FFAR’s website at [https://foundationfar.org/grants-funding](https://foundationfar.org/grants-funding/). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Project Title** | | | | Required | Provide a short title that captures the essence and communicates the importance of the proposed project to a lay reader (up to 50 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Key Topics** | | | | Required | Key topics or areas of research to be covered in the nominee’s program (up to 50 words) |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Project Abstract** | | | | Required | Should the proposed project be selected for funding, this abstract would be used in the funding announcement, and it is intended for a general audience (do not include proprietary information in this section). Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall goals of the proposed project, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the food and agriculture sector.  Project abstracts must be included only in the online portion of the application and must not be included as a separate attachment. The Grant Management Site cannot support special characters, and any non-ASCII symbols will be converted to question marks (“?”) upon submission. The full term instead of the symbol must be used (up to 250 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Goals and Objectives** | | | | Required | Please provide the project's overall goals and objectives. Goals are specific aims that the project is trying to accomplish each year. Objectives are measurable actions that will be taken to achieve the corresponding Goal (up to 500 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Milestones** | | | |  | Please list milestones by year as they relate to the specific Goals and Objectives of the project in the boxes below. This project plan will also be used when submitting and evaluating progress reports and assessing project success. A bulleted list is preferred. |  | |  |  |  | | Required | Project Year 1 Milestones (up to 500 words) |  | |  |  |  | |  | Project Year 2 Milestones (up to 500 words) |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Project Description and Approach, Including Methodology and Methods** | | | | Required | The project description should provide a clear statement of the work to be undertaken. It must contain the following subheadings, address the stated prompts, and be limited to 2,500 words: 1) A summary of the knowledge that has laid the groundwork for this project, including any relevant preliminary work or data that has informed the development of the project. 2) A description of how the research addresses a challenge in an innovative way. 3) A detailed account of the methodology and methods to be used to achieve project goals and objectives. 4) How data will be analyzed or interpreted. |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Anticipated Outcomes or Outputs, Including Potential Impacts to U.S. Dairy** | | | | Required | Clearly describe how the project, if successful, will have a major impact on the food and agriculture sector, specifically the U.S. dairy sector. Summarize how the proposed research creates new paradigms or challenges existing ones. This section should communicate the potential impact of the project should the goals of the project be achieved, including any potential commercialization of results (up to 500 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Plans for Stakeholder Engagement** | | | | Required | Describe stakeholder groups to be served by the proposed project such as farmers/producers, policy makers, researchers, consumers, the public, industry, etc. (up to 500 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Project Data Management Plan** | | | | Required | FFAR requires that, where possible, project data and results be shared broadly. To facilitate data and results sharing, a proposal submitted to FFAR must include a Data and Results Management Plan which should include a communication plan to amplify outcomes to stakeholder audiences. Plans should include a description of what type of data are expected, how those data will be preserved and stored; and how data and results will be accessed and shared in a timely manner. Even in the unlikely case in which no data or informational results will be produced, a plan must be submitted which states, “No data are expected to be produced.” However, overarching results are still expected to be shared (up to 500 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Barriers to Adoption of the Research Outcome(s) and Proposed Mitigation** | | | | Required | FFAR strongly encourages applicants to address social and economic factors in the project design, evaluation processes, outcomes and mitigation strategies, where applicable (up to 500 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Project Suitability** | | | | Required | Please explain why the PI and research team are well suited to conduct the proposed research (up to 250 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Budget Narrative** | | | | Required | Provide a brief overview of the budget by task or objective, in parallel to the approach outlined in the project's description. Address costs related to personnel, equipment and facilities, and analytics (up to 500 words). |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Budget Justification** | | | | Required | Budget Justification by Year (up to 500 words) |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  | | |   Bottom of Form   |  | | --- | |  | |