

MIDWEST FORAGE ASSOCIATION

2026 Request for Proposals

Midwest Forage Association (MFA) announces the release of the Midwest Forage Research Program (MFRP) request for proposals. The MFRP was created to address research priorities of the forage industry in our member states and to improve the efficiency and sustainability of forage production through integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer.

1. Deadline/Where to send.

Proposals **must be received** by the MFA office no later than **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**. Send an electronic copy of your proposal to: mfa@midwestforage.org.

2. Project Funding.

MFA typically supports four to six research projects per year. Past grants have averaged ~\$2,900 and ranged from \$500 to \$5,000. Project funds will be disbursed for allowable costs no more than twice during the project period.

All costs that can be shown to be directly required by project activities will be considered eligible costs for funding. These can include the costs of salaries/fringe for technician, materials and supplies, and travel (monitored closely). Purchase of new equipment is generally not an allowable expense but may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please include a summary of in-kind contributions and other matching funds. **Indirect costs will not be covered.**

3. Proposal Content.

Proposals should not exceed 3 single-side pages and must include:

- A. Justification (*need for project and potential impact*)
- B. Objectives
- C. Research priority(ies) addressed
- D. Procedures
- E. Timeline (*including start and end dates*)
- F. Budget/Budget Narrative
- G. Contact information for PI and co-PIs
- H. Indicate whether this proposal is part of a larger project

4. Project Duration and Final Report.

Proposal must include specific start and end dates. Only single-year or single-season projects will be considered. Requests for continued funding will be considered as new submissions (progress/final report for the previous project must be included with the new submission – report is not counted in 3-page limit). **A final project report must be submitted to MFA prior to the end of the project period.**

5. Review Process.

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by the MFA board of directors or their designees. Criteria for determining which projects will be funded include, but are not limited to:

➤ Industry Need

- correlation to research priorities (**2026 Research Priorities attached – list is not in priority order.**);
- number of farms able to apply the techniques or technology proposed;
- scientific merit, implementation, and method for objectively measuring results;
- ability to accomplish project goals.

➤ Cost Effectiveness

- direct or indirect savings/benefit to the producers;
- profitability of the technique for the farm;
- feasibility of proposed budget and timeline.

➤ Partnership

- geographic representation;
- collaboration with an MFA local council(s).

6. Matching Opportunities

MFRP funds likely will be insufficient to support the entire cost of most research projects. We encourage applicants to seek funding from other sources.

Funded researchers are required to complete a final report and are required to present findings at an MFA meeting(s). Researchers are encouraged to disseminate their findings as widely as possible to relevant audiences (i.e., conferences, meetings, newsletters); MFA must be credited in all cases.

Please share this RFP with any other forage researchers or forage extension agronomists who may be interested in submitting a proposal. If you have questions, please contact the MFA office at (651) 484-3888 or mfa@midwestforage.org.